



Town of Newmarket Council Information Package

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Date: December 1, 2023

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Municipality of South Bruce

MUNICIPAL OFFICE

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September 25, 2023

Via Email

Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
pm@pm.gc.ca

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park 17th Flr, 777 Bay St,
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural
Affairs (OMAFRA)
1 Stone Road West
Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2
minister.omafra@ontario.ca

Lisa Thompson, Huron-Bruce MPP
408 Queen Street, Box 426
Blyth, ON N0M 1H0
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Minister of the Environment, Conservation
and Parks
P.O. Box 8097, Station T CSC
Ottawa, ON K1G 3H6
minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Benn Lobb, Huron-Bruce MP
30 Victoria Stret North
Goderich, ON N7A 2R6
ben.lobb@parl.gc.ca

AMO
resolutions@amo.on.ca

Dear Sir and Madams,

Re: Ontario Association of Sewage Industry Services (OASIS)

Please be advised that the Municipality of South Bruce Council met at their regular session of Council on September 12, 2023, at which time it heard from the Ontario Association of Sewage Industry Services (OASIS) as a delegate.

In response to the delegation, the following motion was passed:

Motion M23-570

Moved by: Ron Schnurr

Seconded by: Mike McDonagh

THAT Council instructs staff to forward a copy of this presentation along with the formal letter submitted by OASIS to be sent to all levels of Municipal Governments across the Province including but not limited to the various Provincial Ministries, including the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks and The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and all other relevant parties;

AND FURTHER THAT OASIS be involved in discussions and communications pertaining to the discussed issue to help provide recommendations and solutions to help mitigate the issues surrounding approved disposal sites;

AND FURTHER THAT Council encourage other Municipalities to communicate directly with OASIS to allow for an open, transparent and collaborative dialogue with other stakeholders.

Carried

Should you have any questions in regards to the above resolution please contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vivian Kennedy', written in a cursive style.

Vivian Kennedy
Deputy Clerk
Municipality of South Bruce

Summary of Content

Summary of Concerns: Lack of Proper Hauled Sewage Disposal locations, privately owned or Municipal Wastewater Plants

- 2.1 Definition of Municipal Waste as per Ontario Regulation 347 of the Environmental Protection Act
- 2.2 Zoning Issues and Concerns
- 2.3 Challenges Faced by Homeowners in Municipalities during Plant Upgrades and Maintenance
- 2.4 OASIS's Efforts to Promote Awareness and Proper Waste Disposal
- 2.5 Establishing an Open and Transparent Dialogue on the Issue
- 2.6 Providing Solutions and Recommendations to Municipalities
- 2.7 About Us

Summary of Concerns: Lack of Proper Hauled Sewage Disposal locations, privately owned or Municipal Wastewater Plants

The primary focus of our letter should not solely revolve around the lack of disposal capacity at wastewater treatment facilities. It is important to exercise caution in order to avoid potentially upsetting individuals. It should be noted that wastewater treatment facilities are not the exclusive or definitive method of approved disposal at present. We have members who have made substantial investments in their own lagoons, field sites, and alternative technologies. Additionally, many of our members have fostered positive relationships with their respective municipalities and have access to disposal options at wastewater plants. In order to provide a comprehensive perspective, we may consider including examples of other approved options for proper disposal, such as MECP licensed lagoon and field spreading sites. However, due to varying perceptions, a lack of understanding, and differences in requirements among municipalities, obtaining the necessary approvals can be challenging at times. It is important to emphasize that we are not suggesting wastewater treatment as the sole solution. We must explore and support all available options at this juncture.

We should acknowledge that certain municipalities have historically accepted hauled sewage from outside their boundaries for disposal at wastewater facilities or at lagoons and field spreading sites operated by licensed haulers. Haulers were able to enter into agreements with municipal wastewater facilities and paid a fee for the privilege of disposing at those sites. The operation and management of lagoon and field sites are the responsibility of the haulers, with an annual reporting requirement to the MECP. With the anticipated significant increase in residential construction, wastewater facilities will undoubtedly face capacity constraints, potentially limiting their ability to accept waste generated from outside their municipalities. Once again, it is crucial to avoid causing any discontent among municipalities or haulers.

The call to escalate residential construction has raised significant concerns, particularly regarding waste management. It is impossible to intensify home construction without considering how the resulting waste will be effectively handled. This includes not only domestic garbage waste, which may be directed to landfills, but also septic waste, whether through sewers or hauled sewage. The

interplay between residential growth and waste management must be addressed comprehensively to ensure sustainable and efficient practices.

In Ontario, the lack of proper disposal of sewage and septic waste to approved municipal wastewater plants poses significant challenges and concerns. This issue encompasses a range of environmental, public health, and regulatory factors that need to be addressed for the well-being of communities across the province.

Proper disposal of sewage and septic waste is essential to ensure public health and protect the environment. When sewage is not disposed of correctly, it can contaminate water sources, posing risks to human health and ecosystems. Approved municipal wastewater plants play a crucial role in treating and managing sewage to mitigate these risks. However, the failure to adhere to proper disposal guidelines leads to a variety of challenges.

One of the primary challenges arising from the lack of proper disposal is the contamination of water sources. Improperly disposed sewage and septic waste can seep into groundwater, lakes, rivers, and other water bodies, polluting them with harmful bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens. This contamination not only endangers the health of those who rely on these water sources for drinking, swimming, or recreational purposes but also harms aquatic life and ecosystems.

Furthermore, the inadequate disposal of sewage and septic waste can lead to ecological damage. The excess nutrients present in wastewater, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, can cause eutrophication in bodies of water. This excessive nutrient enrichment leads to the growth of harmful algal blooms, which deplete oxygen levels in water, harming fish and other aquatic organisms. The resulting imbalance in ecosystems can have far-reaching consequences for biodiversity and the overall health of ecosystems.

From a regulatory perspective, the improper disposal of sewage and septic waste violates Ontario's environmental protection laws and regulations. Ontario Regulation 347 of the Environmental Protection Act defines municipal waste, including sewage and septic waste, and outlines the proper procedures for its disposal. Non-compliance with these regulations not only undermines environmental protection efforts but can also lead to legal consequences for individuals or organizations responsible for the improper disposal.

Moreover, the lack of proper disposal infrastructure and facilities poses challenges for municipalities and homeowners. When municipalities decide to upgrade or perform maintenance on their wastewater treatment plants, the limited availability of approved disposal sites can hinder proper waste management. This limitation creates logistical difficulties for homeowners who need to find alternative disposal options. Homeowners may face delays and disruptions in their sewage management systems, which can be both inconvenient and costly.

Addressing the issues surrounding the lack of proper disposal of sewage and septic waste requires a multi-faceted approach. Collaboration among stakeholders, including municipalities, regulatory bodies, industry professionals, and homeowners, is crucial. It is essential to raise awareness among homeowners about the importance of proper waste disposal and educate them about available options. Additionally, expanding the capacity of approved disposal sites, promoting advanced treatment technologies, and establishing transparent dialogue between stakeholders can help overcome these challenges.

In conclusion, the lack of proper disposal of sewage and septic waste to approved municipal wastewater plants in Ontario poses significant challenges for public health, the environment, and regulatory compliance. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach that involves

raising awareness, expanding disposal infrastructure, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders. By prioritizing responsible sewage management, Ontario can protect its water resources, preserve ecosystems, and ensure the well-being of its communities.

2.1 Definition of Municipal Waste as per Ontario Regulation 347 of the Environmental Protection Act:

According to Ontario Regulation 347 of the Environmental Protection Act, municipal waste refers to waste generated by households, commercial establishments, and institutions within a municipality. It includes both solid and liquid waste, such as sewage, septic waste, and other forms of non-hazardous waste.

To put into perspective – OASIS Members service a wide range of areas and manage a total estimated volume of over 210 million gallons on a yearly basis servicing only Ontario residents.

Based on location septic haulers manage the following estimated amounts:

Northern Ontario: 25-45 million gallons
 Central Ontario: 45-75 million gallons
 Eastern Ontario: 35-55 million gallons
 Western Ontario: 30-35 million gallons

2.2 Zoning Issues and Concerns:

It is imperative for municipalities to understand that operators within their townships who have acquired or already possess property do not always require rezoning. A key example of this lies in agriculturally zoned properties that can be effectively utilized for spreading purposes. Rezoning such properties to a "Commercial/Industrial" zoning category not only diminishes the value of the land but also proves to be unnecessary. This message carries significant importance as we aim to convey it to municipalities across various regions.

First and foremost, the practice that agriculturally zoned properties can be utilized for spreading purposes is crucial. These properties, which have been designated for agricultural use, often possess characteristics that make them suitable for activities such as manure spreading, composting, or other forms of land treatment. Such practices can contribute to soil fertility, promote sustainability, and ensure the efficient utilization of resources. By recognizing the inherent compatibility between agricultural zoning and spreading activities, municipalities can support operators in making the most of their land without resorting to rezoning.

Moreover, it is important to highlight refraining from unnecessary rezoning, municipalities can contribute to the preservation of the property's value and economic viability.

Furthermore, existing agricultural zoning designation already takes into account the specific characteristics and requirements of farming activities. These designations are typically established based on extensive research, land suitability assessments, and community development plans. Agricultural land also requires and uses many of the much needed nutrients provided by the septage being spread. MECP monitors these sites very closely with quarterly and annual reports from the operators of these sites. By recognizing the multifunctionality of agriculturally zoned land and its ability to accommodate spreading activities, municipalities can ensure that land-use regulations align with the intended purposes while minimizing the need for rezoning.

In conclusion, municipalities must comprehend the fact that operators within their townships who possess or acquire property do not always require rezoning. Agriculturally zoned properties can serve as effective spaces for spreading activities, enhancing soil fertility and resource utilization. By conveying this crucial message, we can encourage municipalities to support operators in making the most of their agriculturally zoned land while preserving its economic viability and minimizing unnecessary rezoning.

2.3 Challenges Faced by Homeowners in Municipalities during Plant Upgrades and Maintenance:

When municipalities decide to upgrade or perform maintenance on their wastewater treatment plants, the limited availability of disposal sites poses significant challenges for homeowners. Proper disposal becomes even more critical during these periods, as the capacity of approved facilities may be temporarily reduced. Homeowners and Haulers may face difficulties finding suitable disposal options, resulting in added costs, potential delays and disruptions in their sewage management systems.

2.4 OASIS's Efforts to Promote Awareness and Proper Waste Disposal:

As a proactive organization, OASIS is committed to creating awareness and encouraging proper waste disposal practices. The association aims to foster an open and transparent dialogue among stakeholders, including homeowners, municipalities, regulatory bodies, and industry professionals, to address the challenges associated with sewage and septic waste disposal.

2.5 Establishing an Open and Transparent Dialogue on the Issue:

OASIS actively engages with municipalities, conducting workshops, seminars, and public awareness campaigns to educate policy makers about the importance of proper waste disposal. By fostering open communication channels, OASIS encourages dialogue between all stakeholders, facilitating the sharing of knowledge, best practices, and innovative solutions.

2.6 Providing Solutions and Recommendations to Municipalities:

To address the limitations in disposal sites and support municipalities in managing sewage and septic waste effectively, OASIS offers solutions and recommendations. These may include advocating for the development of additional approved disposal sites, promoting advanced treatment technologies, and collaborating with relevant authorities to streamline waste management processes. OASIS strives to provide municipalities with the necessary tools and guidance to ensure responsible sewage management within their jurisdictions.

2.7 About Us:

The Ontario Association of Sewage Industry Services (OASIS) plays a vital role in the promotion and advancement of sewage management practices in Ontario. With the objective of fostering responsible and sustainable approaches to sewage disposal, OASIS brings together industry professionals who are passionate about protecting public health, preserving the environment, and complying with regulatory requirements.

As a non-profit organization, OASIS operates as a collective voice for its members, representing their interests and advocating for environmentally friendly practices within the sewage industry. By collaborating with stakeholders from various sectors, including homeowners, municipalities, regulatory bodies, and experts in the field, OASIS strives to address challenges, share knowledge, and develop effective solutions that benefit the entire community.

OASIS recognizes the significance of proper waste disposal in safeguarding public health and minimizing the environmental impact of sewage management. The association actively engages in initiatives that raise awareness among homeowners and communities about the importance of responsible sewage practices. Through workshops, seminars, public awareness campaigns, and educational programs, OASIS aims to empower individuals and organizations with the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions regarding sewage disposal.

Moreover, OASIS fosters an open and transparent dialogue among stakeholders to address the issues and concerns associated with sewage management. By facilitating discussions, sharing best practices, and collaborating with regulatory bodies, OASIS works towards finding practical and innovative solutions for the industry. The association strives to create a supportive network where stakeholders can exchange ideas, seek guidance, and collaborate on initiatives that enhance sewage management practices across Ontario.

Recognizing the challenges faced by municipalities during plant upgrades and maintenance, OASIS actively supports the development of sustainable solutions. By providing recommendations, advocating for the expansion of approved disposal sites, and promoting the adoption of advanced treatment technologies, OASIS seeks to assist municipalities in managing sewage and septic waste effectively.

In summary, the Ontario Association of Sewage Industry Services (OASIS) serves as a leading advocate for responsible sewage management in Ontario. Through its collective efforts, OASIS aims to promote awareness, foster dialogue, and provide recommendations to stakeholders, ensuring that sewage disposal practices prioritize public health, environmental preservation, and regulatory compliance.



November 16, 2023

The Honourable Doug Ford, M.P.P.
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Re: Motion regarding Provincial Consideration for Amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act

At their Regular Meeting of Council on November 15, 2023, the Council of the Town of Aylmer endorsed the following motion regarding Provincial Consideration for Amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act:

Whereas the Ontario government has acknowledged an affordable housing and housing supply crisis, communicating a targeted approach to build 1.5 million homes by 2031; and

Whereas nearly one-third of Ontario households rent, rather than own, according to the most recent 2021 Census of Population; and

Whereas the Ontario government has reported that Ontario broke ground on nearly 15,000 purpose-built rentals in 2022, a 7.5 percent increase from 2021 and the highest number on record, with continued growth into 2023; and

Whereas the Residential Tenancies Act, 2006, provides for the maximum a landlord can increase most tenants rent during a year without the approval of the Landlord and Tenant Board; and

Whereas the Ontario government recently strengthened protections for tenants with the intention of preserving affordability, by holding the rent increase guideline for 2024 to 2.5 percent, well below the average inflation rate of 5.9 percent; and

Whereas the rental increase guideline protection does not apply to rental units occupied for the first time after November 15, 2018, leaving an increasing number of tenants susceptible to disproportionate and unsustainable rental increases compared to those benefiting from legislated increase protection;



The Corporation of the Town of Aylmer
46 Talbot Street West, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 1J7
Office: 519-773-3164 Fax: 519-765-1446
www.aylmer.ca

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Council of the Town of Aylmer requests provincial consideration for amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act, 2006, to ensure that all tenants benefit from protections intended to preserve affordability;

That a copy of this Resolution be sent to:

- Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Honourable Rob Flack, Associate Minister of Housing
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- And all Ontario Municipalities.

Thank you,

Owen Jaggard

Deputy Clerk / Manager of Information Services | Town of Aylmer

46 Talbot Street West, Aylmer, ON N5H 1J7

519-773-3164 Ext. 4913 | Fax 519-765-1446

ojaggard@town.aylmer.on.ca | www.aylmer.ca

CC:

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing paul.calandra@pc.ola.org

Associate Minister of Housing rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Association of Municipalities of Ontario resolutions@amo.on.ca



King Township
2585 King Road
King City, Ontario
Canada L7B 1A1

Phone: 905.833.5321
Fax: 905.833.2300
Website: www.king.ca
Email: clerks@king.ca

November 21, 2023

Hon. Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Honourable Calandra,

**RE: Township of King
Resolution – Green Building Standard Amendments to the Ontario Building
Code (OBC)**

At its Council meeting of November 13, 2023, Council of the Township of King received and supported the following Resolution:

“WHEREAS the Province of Ontario adopted greenhouse gas reduction targets of 30% by 2030, and emissions from buildings represented 22% of the Province’s 2017 emissions; and

WHEREAS buildings with better energy performance provide owners and occupants with lower energy bills, improved building comfort, and resilience from power disruptions that are expected to be more common in a changing climate, tackling both inequality and energy poverty; and

WHEREAS ensuring that all new buildings in the Province of Ontario are built to the highest energy efficiency means that they will not need expensive retrofits in the future and the cost of heating and cooling these buildings will be reduced from the moment they are first occupied; and

WHEREAS the Township of King has endeavored to reduce greenhouse emissions of new private developments in the municipality by creating green development standards to be applied through the site plan approval process to encourage new buildings to have higher standards than current Ontario Building Code mandatory requirements; and

WHEREAS the Township of King is updating its ‘Thinking Green: Sustainable Development Program’ which has the Built Environment as one of its principles which encourages a sustainable built form for a wide diverse range of land uses; and

WHEREAS the Township of King has demonstrated commitment to reducing our carbon footprint by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from built structures by building its own facilities to a higher standard including its Municipal Centre opened in 2018 with geothermal and its new Township Wide Recreation Centre with a pool and two (2) hockey rinks to be opened in 2024 as a near zero carbon facility; and

WHEREAS future development within the Township of King would benefit from mandatory energy performance and greenhouse emission standards that can be economically incorporated into future residential construction and not add substantial costs to projects as to hinder the addition of housing units within the Township; and

WHEREAS the Province stated in February 2022 that it planned to transition certain green building standards related to building construction (which are currently being implemented through the site plan process) into the Ontario Building Code by the summer of 2023; and

WHEREAS the Province has consulted on advancing harmonization of energy efficiency requirements in buildings by aligning Ontario's Building Code with selected National Code tiers as minimum energy efficiency requirements in the next edition of the Code in 2024; and

WHEREAS that aspects of green standards that are not brought into Ontario's Building Code because they do not involve building construction (including green infrastructure, cool paving, biodiversity, tree plantings, etc.) will continue to be optional standards that can be required through municipal by-law and implemented through site plan control; and

WHEREAS during the transition period, until the green standards are authorized in the Ontario Building Code the Province anticipates that municipalities will continue to use site plan control to address green standards to the extent possible; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Building Code has not yet been amended to authorize these green standards;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Province of Ontario expedite energy performance green building standard amendments to the Ontario Building Code to provide meaningful energy efficient improvements and reductions in greenhouse emissions in a cost-effective manner, for all future buildings; and
2. That the Township Clerk send a copy of this resolution to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local area MPPs, and to the Regional Municipality of York and its local municipalities, for consideration and endorsement."

Motion Carried.

Yours truly,



Denny Timm
Township Clerk

- cc. Stephen Lecce, MPP, King – Vaughan Stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org
 Caroline Mulroney, MPP, York – Simcoe caroline.mulroney@pc.ola.org
 Chris Raynor, Regional Clerk, Regional Municipality of York regional.clerk@york.ca
clerks@aurora.ca
llyons@newmarket.ca
rdillabough@georgina.ca
tlajevardi@eastwillimbury.ca
clerks@richmondhill.ca
todd.coles@vaughan.ca
clerks@townofws.ca
KKitteringham@markham.ca
 Councillor Debbie Schaefer, King dschaefer@king.ca
 Councillor Mary Asselstine, King masselstine@king.ca

**Resolution
Regular Council Meeting**



Agenda Number: 9.4.
Resolution Number 23-371
Title: 23-R-49 Letter of Support - Conservation Officer Reclassification
Date: Monday, November 20, 2023

Seconded by: M. Lubbock

Moved by: S. Cote

WHEREAS Ontario has 196 field Conservation Officers including 6 canine handlers who provide protection to Municipalities Natural Resources and uphold public safety by enforcing hunting and firearm laws and investigate gruesome injuries and even deaths that result from hunting-related accidents; in addition, Conservation Officers are often First Responders and ensure public safety by facilitating evacuations and enforcing Emergency Area orders during forest fires during record breaking wildfires such as we witnessed this past summer; and

WHEREAS Conservation Officers perform comparable work to Police Officers and other Enforcement Officers within the province and are professional, armed Peace Officers trained to police standards and undergo the same training; and

WHEREAS Ontario Municipalities are required that their constituents are informed, and their interests are safeguarded and ensure they have access to outreach and natural resources compliance services; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Coleman does here by support the Ontario Conservation Officer's Association (OCA) in their efforts to have Conservation Officers in the Province of Ontario reclassified as Enforcement Officers and be compensated fairly; and

FURTHER request the support of all Ontario Municipalities; and

FURTHERMORE, THAT this resolution with a letter of support be forwarded to Ontario Premiere Doug Ford, the Minister of Natural Resources Graydon Smith, the Local Provincial Member of Parliament (MPP) John Vanthof, Temiskaming Municipal Association and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

YES: 4

NO: 0

ABSENT: 0

S. Cote

M. Lubbock

P. Rieux

L. Perry

Certified True Copy

Christopher W. Oslund
 CAO/Clerk - Treasurer



The Corporation of The Town of Amherstburg

November 21, 2023

SENT VIA EMAIL

Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queens Park
Toronto, ON, M7A 1A4
VIA EMAIL: premier@ontario.ca

Attn: The Honourable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario

Re: Cigarette Producer Responsibility

Dear Premier Ford,

At its meeting on November 13, 2023 the Town of Amherstburg Council considered a resolution passed by the Council of the Corporation of The Township of The Archipelago in support of amending legislation to ensure cigarette manufacturers are responsible for the collection, recycling, and proper disposal of cigarette waste and passed the following resolution:

Resolution # 20231113-009

Moved By Councillor Allaire
Seconded By Councillor Pouget

That a letter of support for item 16.1 - Township of The Archipelago | Resolution 2023-178 Cigarette Producer Responsibility **BE SENT** to all municipalities and the appropriate Minister.

Sincerely,

Michael Prue, Mayor
Town of Amherstburg



1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, L7G 5G2
905-873-2600 | 1-877-712-2205
haltonhills.ca

November 23, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
Via Email

Re: Support for Town of Grimsby resolution on Guaranteed Livable Income

Please be advised that Council of the Town of Halton Hills at its meeting of Monday, November 20, 2023, adopted Resolution No. 2023-0222 regarding Support for Town of Grimsby resolution on Guaranteed Livable Income.

Attached for your information is a copy of Resolution No. 2023-0222.

Respectfully,

Melissa Lawr, AMP
Deputy Clerk – Legislation

cc. Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Hon. Michael Chong, MP – Wellington – Halton Hills
Hon. Ted Arnott, MPP – Wellington – Halton Hills
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Halton Region
All Ontario Municipalities



THE CORPORATION
OF
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Resolution No.: 2023-0222

Title: Support for Town of Grimsby resolution on Guaranteed Livable Income

Date: November 20, 2023

Moved by: Councillor A. Hilson

Seconded by: Councillor C. Garneau

Item No. 13.1

WHEREAS the Canadian livable wage for the Greater Toronto Area for 2023 was determined to be \$25.05. This was \$16,511.25 above the annual income of a minimum wage employee;

AND WHEREAS Town of Halton Hills residents on programs such as Ontario Works receive targeted fixed monthly incomes of up to \$733, and ODSP recipients receive up to \$1308;

AND WHEREAS at the current Ontario minimum wage rate, a person working 37.5 hours per week will earn approximately \$2,679.03 monthly (before tax);

AND WHEREAS the median rent (MMR) for a one bedroom apartment in the Town of Halton Hills as of 2022 was \$1100.00 a month, and average market rent (AMR) for the same was \$1215.00;

AND WHEREAS rent is considered affordable when it is less than 30% of income. In the Town of Halton Hills, rent is approximately 150% of Ontario Works, 84% of Ontario Disability Support Services, 41% of minimum wage full-time (before tax), and 82% of minimum wage part time;

AND WHEREAS an annual 2.5% allowable rent increase can be combined with an additional 3% capital investment increase, raising the cost of rental housing another minimum of \$60.50 monthly;

AND WHEREAS the recent 2022 State of Housing Report from the Region of Halton determined that the Region of Halton has serious shortfalls in both affordable and attainable housing supply;

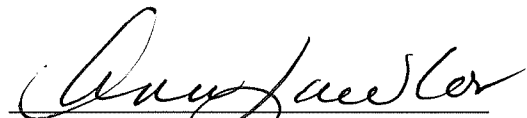
AND WHEREAS this resolution is in support of the September 5th resolution passed by the Town of Grimsby on Guaranteed Livable Income.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Halton Hills circulates correspondence to all Ontario municipalities encouraging them not only to collect data of their housing and poverty statistics, but also to examine their pending economic vulnerability as a result;

AND FURTHER THAT the Town of Halton Hills encourage these same municipalities to join the Town of Halton Hills in advocating on behalf of our communities with this data,

AND FURTHER THAT other levels of government continue to promote affordability and work to align government support programs, such as Ontario Works and ODSP, with the cost of living and average market rent (AMR), including looking into a Guaranteed Livable Income Program;

AND FURTHER THAT this Resolution be forwarded to the Region of Halton, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), MPP Ted Arnott, MP Michael Chong, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services Michael Parsa, Premier Doug Ford and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.



Mayor Ann Lawlor

Municipality of Tweed Council Meeting
Council Meeting



Resolution No.

665

Title:

Councillor J. Flieler

Date:

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Moved by

J. Flieler

Seconded by

P. Valiquette

WHEREAS Municipalities are facing ever increasing demands for services along with demands for repairs, maintenance, and replacement of existing infrastructure to the detriment of the tax paying public they serve as the cost of living continues to rise throughout the country;
AND WHEREAS the Federal and Provincial governments in the past contributed through partnerships to fund projects that have been out of the financial reach of small municipalities;
AND WHEREAS these 1/3 funding agreements have been instrumental in allowing municipalities to adequately plan and execute projects to protect the aging infrastructure already in place;
AND WHEREAS the Municipality of Tweed has successfully completed more than 19 capital projects using these funding scenarios over the years;
AND WHEREAS it is incumbent upon our Federal and Provincial governments to assist municipalities with limited access to funding except through municipal taxes to re-establish this very important funding stream;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council lobby the relevant Federal and Provincial representatives to bring these concerns to the forefront;
AND FURTHER, that Council consider making a Delegation at the 2024 ROMA Conference;
AND FURTHER, that copies be sent to MP Kramp-Neuman, MPP Bresee, the Hastings County Warden, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried

From: [Sudak, Ashley](#)
Subject: New YRT On-Request mobile app launching November 27
Date: November 27, 2023 1:41:39 PM
Attachments: [YRT On-Request App bus stop notice.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Town of Newmarket. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trusted content.

Good afternoon,

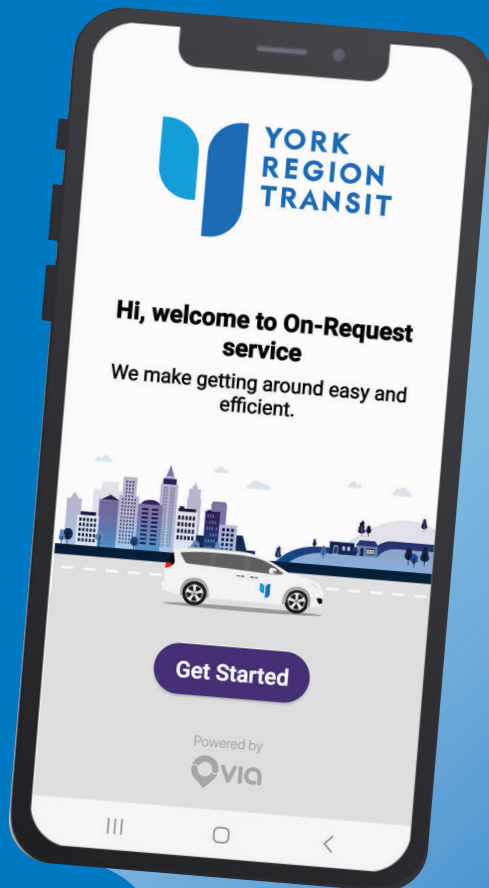
York Region Transit (YRT) launching a new mobile app for booking On-Request trips on November 27.

- Travellers can book a round trip between their home or any address and a preselected location in their service area using the new YRT On-Request App, available starting Monday, November 27, 2023
- With a few taps, book an On-Request ride in the app and our technology will secure the trip and YRT vehicle
- Customers can book a ride on the app for the following five On-Request services: Aurora GO, King (new service), Maple-Rutherford GO, Mount Albert and Sutton-Pefferlaw
- Customers can book, track and manage their trips on the new YRT On-Request App, available for free on the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#)
- Customers may continue to use the existing Mobility On-Request App to book trips in the remaining On-Request service areas. These service areas will be integrated into the new app in 2024
- In addition, a new On-Request service is being introduced in the Township of King to connect the communities of Schomberg, Nobleton, Pottageville and King City to Seneca College and King City GO Station; customers can book a trip on the new YRT On-Request App or by calling 1-844-667-5327
- For more information, visit yrt.ca/OnRequestApp

Travellers will be informed of this update through notices posted at bus stops (attached), email notification to existing customers, the YRT On-Request Contact Centre, yrt.ca and social media.

For general inquiries, please contact the YRT On-Request Contact Centre at 1-844-667-5327 or via email at mobilityonrequest@york.ca

It may be appropriate for your office to forward this notice to your elected officials and staff as required.



New app for booking YRT On-Request trips

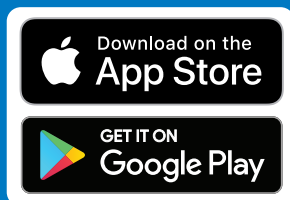
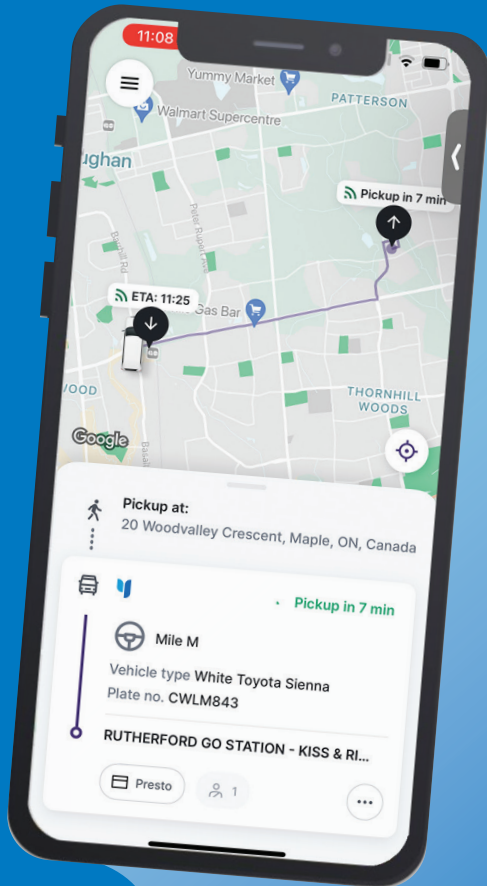
Starting Monday, November 27, 2023, YRT is launching a new mobile app, YRT On-Request, for the following five On-Request services:

- > Aurora GO
- > King (new service)
- > Maple-Rutherford GO
- > Mount Albert
- > Sutton-Pefferlaw

Book, track and manage your trips on the new YRT On-Request App. Available for free on the App Store and Google Play, starting November 27. Visit yrt.ca/OnRequestApp for more information.

For trip planning assistance, call the YRT On-Request Contact Centre at 1-844-667-5327.

11-23



New app for booking YRT On-Request trips

Starting Monday, November 27, 2023, YRT is launching a new mobile app, YRT On-Request, for the following five On-Request services:

- > Aurora GO
- > King (new service)
- > Maple-Rutherford GO
- > Mount Albert
- > Sutton-Pefferlaw

Book, track and manage your trips on the new YRT On-Request App. Available for free on the App Store and Google Play, starting November 27. Visit yrt.ca/OnRequestApp for more information.

For trip planning assistance, call the YRT On-Request Contact Centre at 1-844-667-5327.

11-23



November 27, 2023

Re: Item for Discussion – Request for Amendment to Legislation Act, 2006

At its meeting of November 15, 2023, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge ratified motion #23-GC-229, regarding the Request for Amendment to Legislation Act, 2006, as follows:

“WHEREAS Metroland Media Group sought bankruptcy protection and ceased the print publication of more than seventy (70) of its weekly community newspapers across Ontario;

AND WHEREAS Metroland Media Group will offer a digital-only format for its customers in place of the more than seventy (70) weekly community newspapers;

AND WHEREAS the Legislation Act, 2006 provides a definition of “newspaper” that is applicable to every Provincial Act and Regulation, as a document that, (a) is printed in sheet form, published at regular intervals of a week or less and circulated to the general public, and (b) consists primarily of news of current events of general interest;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Municipalities are required to follow publication and notice requirements for Provincial Acts and Regulations;

AND WHEREAS communities such as the Town of Bracebridge cannot comply with publication requirements in Provincial Acts and Regulations as the Bracebridge Examiner news publication is no longer being printed in sheet form and there are no other local news publications fitting the definition of “newspaper”;

AND WHEREAS Bill 73, Supporting Ontario’s Community, Rural and Agricultural Newspapers Act, 2023, is an Act to amend various Acts with respect to the publication of notices in newspapers, however, it does not address the needs of communities that have no local news publications fitting the definition of “newspaper” being “(a) is printed in sheet form, published at regular intervals of a month or less and circulated to the general public, and (b) consists primarily of news of current events of general interest.”;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge does hereby request the Provincial government to make an amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006 to include digital publications as an acceptable means of publication and notice requirements for Provincial Acts and Regulations;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP, Graydon Smith; the Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO); the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO); and, all Ontario Municipalities.”

1000 Taylor Court
Bracebridge, ON
P1L 1R6 Canada

In accordance with Council's direction, I am forwarding you a copy of the resolution for you reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional clarification in this regard.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori McDonald
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk



Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building,
Queen's Park, Toronto,
ON M7A 1A1
VIA EMAIL:
doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

November 27, 2023

RE 6.7 Town of Cobourg - Illegal Land Use Enforcement

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on November 8, 2023 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2023-358:

Moved by Councillor Hurst and
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the Consent Agenda items 6.6, 6.7, and 6.8 listed for NOVEMBER 8, 2023 Council meeting be received; and

Whereas Council has previously passed a resolution regarding illegal land use enforcement;

That Council direct staff to connect with the Town of Cobourg and other municipalities with similar concerns on the possibility of a joint delegation to AMO lead by the Town of Cobourg and report back to Council.

CARRIED

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.



Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston,
Municipal Clerk

Cc: The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,
The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health and MPP Dufferin-Caledon,
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario,
Association of Municipalities of Ontario,
Rural Ontario Municipal Association,
Ontario Municipalities



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building,
Queen's Park, Toronto,
ON M7A 1A1
VIA EMAIL:
doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Town of Cobourg
55 King Street West,
Cobourg, ON, K9A 2M2
clerk@cobourg.ca

October 11, 2023

RE: Correspondence from the Township of Puslinch regarding Illegal Land Use Enforcement

Please be advised that the Town of Cobourg Council, at its meeting held on October 2, 2023, passed the following resolution:

Moved by Councillor Miriam Mutton
Seconded by Councillor Brian Darling

Resolution No: 314-2023
October 2, 2023

THAT Council receive the correspondence from the Township of Puslinch regarding Illegal Land Use Enforcement for information purposes; and

FURTHER THAT Council endorse and support the resolution from the Township of Puslinch and Council direct staff to send a duplicate resolution to associated ministries and Ontario Municipalities.

The resolution reads as follows:

That the Illegal Land Use Enforcement Taskforce's mandate be expanded to include other types of illegal land uses and not solely on illegal trucking land uses; and

That the Province be requested to strengthen municipal enforcement powers by:

- Amending the Municipal Act to enable municipalities to physically bar entry to properties where illegal land uses that have significant detrimental impacts on adjacent residential properties, the environment or create unsafe situations;
- Increasing the maximum penalty amounts in the Planning Act to \$50,000 for an individual upon conviction and on a subsequent conviction, not more than \$25,000 for each day in which the contravention has continued after the day in which the person was initially convicted; and



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

- Including provisions to ensure a corporation is liable to fines of not more than \$100,000 upon first conviction and not more than \$50,000 for each day in which the contravention has continued after the day in which the corporation was initially convicted.

That a copy of this report be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP, Dufferin-Caledon; the Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario; and

That a copy of this report be provided to the municipalities within the Greater Golden Horseshoe area seeking support in the request for strengthened enforcement powers to combat significant illegal land uses negatively impacting communities across Ontario and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA).

Sincerely,



Kristina Lepik
Deputy Clerk/Manager, Legislative Services

Cc: The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,
The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health and MPP Dufferin-Caledon,
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario,
Association of Municipalities of Ontario,
Rural Ontario Municipal Association,
Ontario Municipalities



Hon. Doug Downey
Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Bldg 11th
Flr, 720 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9
VIA EMAIL:
doug.downey@ontario.ca

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

November 22, 2023

RE 6.10 Call for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on November 8, 2023 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2023-246:

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and
Seconded by Councillor Goyda

That the Consent Agenda items 6.9, 6.10, and 6.11 listed for NOVEMBER 8, 2023 Council meeting be received; and

Whereas Council supports the resolutions from Township of Plympton-Wyoming and the Township of McKeller regarding an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006 to permit digital notice;

That Council direct staff to send a support resolution accordingly.

CARRIED

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.



Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston,
Municipal Clerk

Cc: Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka
The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO)
Neil Oliver, CEO & President, Metroland Media Group
All Ontario Municipalities



Hon. Doug Downey
Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Bldg 11th Flr, 720 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

October 26th 2023

Sent via e-mail: doug.downey@ontario.ca

Re: Call for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006

Dear Mr. Downey,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on October 25th 2023, the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council passed the following motion, supporting the attached resolution from the Township of McKellar regarding a Call for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006.

Motion 10

Moved by Councillor Kristen Rodrigues


Seconded by Councillor John van Klaveren

That Council support item 'L' of correspondence from the Township of McKellar regarding a Call for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca.

Sincerely,


Erin Kwarciak
Clerk
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

cc: Sent via e-mail
Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Bob Bailey, MPP Sarnia-Lambton
The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO)
Neil Oliver, CEO & President, Metroland Media Group
All Ontario Municipalities



Township of McKellar

701 Hwy #124, P.O. Box 69, McKellar, Ontario POG 1C0
 Phone: (705) 389-2842
 Fax: (705) 389-1244

October 19, 2023

Hon. Doug Downey
 Attorney General
 McMurtry-Scott Bldg 11th Flr, 720 Bay St.
 Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Sent via email: Douq.Downey@ontario.ca

RE: Call for an Amendment to the *Legislation Act, 2006*

Dear Mr. Downey,

At the Regular Meeting of Council held on October 17, 2023, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McKellar carried the following resolution:

Resolution No. 23-671

Moved by: Councillor Kekkonen

Seconded by: Councillor Zulak

WHEREAS Metroland Media Group has sought bankruptcy protection and will cease the print publication of its weekly community newspapers across Ontario, moving to an online-only model; and

WHEREAS Neil Oliver, Chief Executive Officer and President of Metroland Media Group, said the 71 Metroland community publications will be digital only going forward; and

WHEREAS the *Legislation Act, 2006* provides a definition of “newspaper” which applies to every Ontario Act and Regulation, as in a provision requiring publication, means a document that, (a) **is printed in sheet form**, published at regular intervals of a week or less and circulated to the general public, and (b) consists primarily of news of current events of general interest; (“journal”); and

WHEREAS Ontario Municipalities are required to follow publication and notice requirements for Provincial Acts and Regulations; and

WHEREAS communities such as the West Parry Sound Area cannot comply with publication requirements in Provincial Acts and Regulations as the Parry Sound North Star news publication is no longer being printed in sheet form and there are no other local news publications fitting the definition of “newspaper”; and

WHEREAS some small, rural, Ontario Municipalities may not have the means to bring an application to the Court to ask for directions and approval of an alternate manner of providing notice;


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McKellar does hereby request the Provincial government to make an amendment to the *Legislation Act, 2006* to include digital publications as an acceptable means of publication and notice requirements for Provincial Acts and Regulations; and

FURTHER request the support of all Ontario Municipalities; and

FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP, Graydon Smith; The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO); CEO and President of Metroland Media Group, Neil Oliver and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried

Regards,


Karlee Britton
Deputy Clerk
Township of McKellar
deputyclerk@mckellar.ca
(705) 389-2842 x5

cc:

Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka
The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO)
Neil Oliver, CEO & President, Metroland Media Group
All Ontario Municipalities



Katherine Fife
MPP, Waterloo
Constituency Office, 100
Regina St. S., Suite 220,
Waterloo, ON N2J 4P9
VIA EMAIL:
cfife-co@ndp.on.ca

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

November 28, 2023

RE 6.12 Town of East Hawkesbury Fixing the Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part)

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on November 8, 2023 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2023-360:

Moved by Councillor Bailey and
Seconded by Councillor Hurst

That the Consent Agenda items 6.12, and 6.13 listed for NOVEMBER 8, 2023 Council meeting be received; and

Whereas Council supports the resolutions from the Township of East Hawkesbury regarding Bill 21, Fixing the Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part); and

That Council direct staff to send a support resolution accordingly.

CARRIED

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.



Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston,
Municipal Clerk

Cc: Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP
All Ontario Municipalities

**Township of East Hawkesbury
Regular Meeting**



Agenda Number: 16.
Resolution # 2023-50
Title: Correspondence
Date: October 10, 2023

Moved by: Monique Desjardins
Seconded by: Stéphanie Sabourin

Be it resolved that Council support Bill 21 amends the Residents' Bill of Rights set out in section 3 of Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 by adding the right of residents not to be separated from their spouse upon admission but to have accommodation made available for both spouses so they may continue to live together.

Carried

[Redacted Signature] _____
Hemi Villeneuve, Clerk,

Canton de Hawkesbury Est
Réunion Extraordinaire



No. du point à l'ordre du jour: 16.
Résolution # 2023-50
Titre: Correspondance
Date: le 10 octobre 2023

Proposé par: Monique Desjardins
Appuyé par: Stéphanie Sabourin

Qu'il soit résolu que le Conseil soutien le projet de loi 21 qui modifie la Charte des droits des résidents énoncée à l'article 3 de la loi de 2021 sur les soins de longue durée en ajoutant le droit des résidents de ne pas être séparés de leur conjoint au moment de leur admission, mais de disposer d'un logement pour les deux conjoints afin qu'ils puissent continuer à vivre ensemble.

Adoptée


Hemi Villeneuve, Gréffière,



MUNICIPALITY OF
North Perth
www.northperth.ca

A Community of Character

330 Wallace Ave. N., Listowel, ON N4W 1L3 Phone: 519-291-2950 Toll Free: 888-714-1993

October 26th, 2023

Minister of Long-Term Care
 438 University Avenue, 8th Floor
 Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

To Whom It May Concern,

Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of North Perth passed the following resolution at their regular meeting held on October 16th, 2023 regarding a request for support for Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022 from Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP.

Moved By: Lee Anne Andriessen **Seconded By:** Sarah Blazek

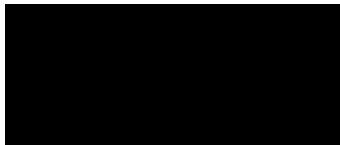
THAT: The Council of the Municipality of North Perth supports Consent Agenda Item 7.11 *Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP – Request for Support for Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022.*

AND THAT: Staff be directed to forward the resolution to other provincial entities and other Council counterparts across Ontario.

CARRIED

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,



Sarah Carter
 Acting Clerk/Legislative Services Supervisor
 Municipality of North Perth
 330 Wallace Ave. N., Listowel ON N4W 1L3
 519-292-2062
scarter@northperth.ca

Cc: Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP
 Perth Wellington MPP, Matthew Rae
 All Ontario Municipalities



Catherine Fife

MPP Waterloo

Todd Kasenberg
Mayor of Municipality of North Perth

RE: Requesting your support for Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022

September 25, 2023

Dear Mayor Kasenberg,

I am writing to you today to share an update on Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022, and to request your support for this important legislation.

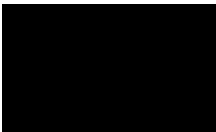
Bill 21 amends the Residents' Bill of Rights set out in section 3 of Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 by adding the right of residents not to be separated from their spouse upon admission but to have accommodation made available for both spouses so they may continue to live together.

The Act was inspired by Cambridge resident Jim McLeod, who will have been separated from his wife of 65 years Joan, on September 17, 2023. Nearly 6 years later, Jim continues to champion spousal reunification. He often says that he will talk to anyone and has two giant binders full of his advocacy work on the Bill. Last week, he told me that his heart is breaking because of his separation from Joan. He has brought other seniors who are separated from their spouses into the advocacy – you cannot sit with these folks for any amount of time and not care deeply about this legislation.

I know that you value the many contributions that older adults have made to Waterloo Region, and care deeply that they can live their final years with dignity and love. **I am hoping you will consider bringing a motion forward to your Council, in support of the Till Death Do Us Part Act.** Your support will help us to keep attention on this important legislation, so that it can finally be called to the Standing Committee on Social Policy – one step closer to Royal Assent.

I would be happy to discuss the Bill with you further, via phone call or an in-person meeting at your convenience. Thanks in advance for considering my request.

Sincerely,



Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP
Finance & Treasury Board Critic

Constituency Office
100 Regina St. S., Suite 220
Waterloo, ON N2J 4A8
Ph: 519-725-3477 | Fax: 519-725-3667
Email: cfife-co@ndp.on.ca

Queen's Park Office
Room 154, Main Legislative Bldg.
Queen's Park, Toronto ON M7A 1A5
Ph: 416-325-6913 | Fax: 416-325-6942
Email: cfife-qp@ndp.on.ca

BACKGROUND:

On November 15, 2022, the Till Death Do Us Part Act, passed second reading in the Ontario legislature after being [introduced for the third time in September 2022](#). The bill was then referred to the Ontario Legislature's Social Policy Committee. You can view highlights of the second reading debate here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYRIgQgDe2k>

I have been pushing for the Standing Committee on Social Policy to schedule a time to begin the work of reviewing Bill 21 since November 2022. **Today marks 286 days since the Act passed second reading at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.** Unfortunately, the Bill has yet to be called to committee.

Bill 21, which was formerly Bill 153 and 95, respectively, had passed second reading and was sent to the Justice Committee in December 2019, but was wiped off the order paper when Premier Ford prorogued the house in 2021. It was reintroduced early 2022 but did not have time to progress before the election.

Since I first introduced this Bill in 2019, the number of people who've reached out to my offices with heartbreaking stories of couples entering long-term care who are torn apart has skyrocketed. Simply put, Ontario seniors deserve dignity in care and should have the right to live with their partner as they age. Of note, Nova Scotia passed similar legislation, titled the [Life Partners in Long-Term Care Act](#) in 2021.

Following many meetings with stakeholders, it's clear that "care campuses" which offer different levels of care (independent, assisted living and long-term care) are the progressive model for investing in quality care for Ontario's aging population. Care campuses are an essential element to keeping couples together as they often age at different rates. This level of choice has been brought to my attention as especially important to rural and northern municipal leaders across Ontario. The care campus model for seniors housing that builds different levels of care has unique financial savings that will be critical as we grapple with a rapidly aging province.

We need the Bill to be called to the Standing Committee on Social Policy as soon as possible. We know that couples who are separated across Ontario cannot wait any longer for this legislative change to be made.

Here are the links to recent media coverage of the Till Death Do Us Part Act, which provide more specific insights into the lived experiences of older adults who are separated from their spouses:

- [CTV News Kitchener: Ontario seniors separated in long-term care pushing for the right to remain together](#)
- [CityNews Kitchener: Waterloo MPP appeals for seniors bill to be brought forward](#)
- [Waterloo Region Record: Cambridge senior calls for end to separating couples in long-term care](#)

Constituency Office
100 Regina St. S., Suite 220
Waterloo, ON N2J 4A8
Ph: 519-725-3477 | Fax: 519-725-3667
Email: cfife-co@ndp.on.ca

Queen's Park Office
Room 154, Main Legislative Bldg.
Queen's Park, Toronto ON M7A 1A5
Ph: 416-325-6913 | Fax: 416-325-6942
Email: cfife-qp@ndp.on.ca

2023 Servicing Capacity Assignment

On November 23, 2023 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. Council authorize assignment of new water and wastewater servicing capacity of 88,740 persons to local municipalities to support forecasted development towards Provincial housing pledges with a commitment for another capacity assignment within two years.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the local municipalities and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.



A The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Environmental Services

November 9, 2023

FOR DECISION

Report of the Commissioner of Public Works, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Planner **2023 Servicing Capacity Assignment**

1. Recommendations

1. Council authorize assignment of new water and wastewater servicing capacity of 88,740 persons to local municipalities to support forecasted development towards Provincial housing pledges with a commitment for another capacity assignment within two years.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the local municipalities and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

2. Purpose

This report seeks Council approval to assign new servicing capacity of 88,740 persons to support continued development in the near-term and provides an outlook of the next capacity assignment scheduled for 2025 for the York Durham Sewage System (YDSS) and standalone water resource recovery facilities.

Key Points:

- This capacity assignment will facilitate growth of 242,279 persons in local municipalities serviced by the YDSS and includes advancement of 11,171 persons to municipalities waiting on Phase 1 of the North YDSS Expansion as a result of the *Supporting Growth and Housing in York and Durham Regions Act, 2022*
- The amount and distribution of this capacity assignment were determined using short-term growth forecasts finalized in consultation with local municipalities

- The next capacity assignment will be in 2025 to reflect any incremental capacity needed as a result of growth forecast changes and progress on YDSS infrastructure
- Over \$4.5 billion of Regional water and wastewater infrastructure is planned to be built over the next 30 years to support continued growth across the Region
- Local municipalities were consulted throughout this process to optimize distribution of servicing capacity to meet short-term growth needs, in consideration of new housing targets and to ensure consistent practices in managing available capacity

3. Background

Since 2005, a phased water and wastewater capacity assignment process has facilitated growth to over 1.3 million people

Phasing capacity enables the Region and local municipalities to effectively manage shared water and wastewater systems and align capacity with current housing market trends. Assigned capacity provides certainty for new homeowners and businesses that Regional servicing will be in-place prior to occupancy. Through the [June 23, 2005](#) Council approved Water and Wastewater Capacity and Servicing Assignment Protocol, the Region and local municipalities aspire to provide a minimum of four to five years of water and wastewater servicing capacity with each capacity assignment. This protocol has directed multi-year capacity assignments throughout time totaling 1,311,473 persons as of the 2021 capacity assignment. Details are shown in Appendix A.

Population forecasts have evolved significantly through Provincial commitment to build more homes faster

As part of the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*, the Province has set specific 2031 housing targets for larger municipalities. Municipalities that pledge to meet these targets and are successful will have access to a new \$1.2 billion *Building Faster Fund*. An eligible municipality would receive no funding if it were below 80% of its annual assigned target but would receive up to 100% of allocated funding if it is on track to meet its target and could receive potential bonus funding. These pledges will advance existing longer-term forecasts in municipal land use plans and may trigger the need for additional municipal infrastructure. Eight of nine municipalities in York Region were requested to pledge.

The Province is advancing housing through a variety of tools including Minister's Zoning Orders (MZO), Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator, increased flexibility for expansion of community boundaries and conversion of employment lands. All these changes require new assumptions for planning when residents and businesses need Regional water and wastewater services.

Between 2022 and 2031, servicing to support 150,000 homes is required to meet new 2031 Provincial housing targets across the Region

As recently as August 21, 2023, the Province introduced new increased growth targets across eight of nine municipalities in York Region as reported to Council on [September 7, 2023](#). These targets now total 150,000 units by 2031.

York Region and local municipalities are currently revising growth and infrastructure plans, as well as financial implications, in response to these recent changes. At this time, new infrastructure plans and cost implications have not been finalized and cannot be fully accounted for in this capacity assignment. Once the Region and local municipalities assess these growth forecasts, servicing and cost implications, future assignments will provide additional required capacity.

4. Analysis

With this 2023 assignment, local municipalities serviced by the YDSS have 242,279 persons of capacity available to support growth towards meeting housing targets

At the end of 2022, 153,539 persons of assigned capacity remained available across the eight local municipalities serviced fully or partially by the YDSS. To support development needs in the YDSS sewershed, staff recommend an additional assignment of 88,740 persons servicing capacity to local municipalities, as shown in Table 1. This will bring the total available capacity to 242,279 persons which is equivalent to roughly 80,000 new residential homes or more than half of the Provincial housing target. Georgina and portions of other local municipalities are serviced by standalone systems and are discussed later in this report.

This capacity assignment includes an allotment from the YDSS Reserve to those municipalities (Aurora, East Gwillimbury and Newmarket) awaiting implementation of the North YDSS Expansion in accordance with the Province's direction.

Table 1
Proposed New Capacity Assignment (In Persons)

Local Municipality	Available Capacity at Year End 2022 ^[1]	Capacity Assignment ^[2]	Total Available for Growth	Pre-target Forecasted Annual Growth Rate	Estimated Years of Forecasted Growth	Provincial Housing Targets Annual Growth Rate	Estimated Years of Provincial Target Growth
Aurora	7,156	2,071 ^{[3],[4]}	9,227	1,012	9	2,628	4
East Gwillimbury	10,860	1,333 ^[3]	12,193	1,922	6	1,210	10
Georgina	7,339	-	7,339	873	8	1,858	4
King	6,427	-	6,427	1,054	6	-	-
Markham ^[4]	43,847	17,584	61,431	8,792	7	15,563	4
Newmarket	5,751	7,767 ^{[3],[5]}	13,518	1,132	12	3,796	4
Richmond Hill ^[6]	36,004	10,734	46,738	5,367	9	9,220	5
Vaughan	37,715	43,375 ^[7]	81,090	7,269	11	14,350	6
Whitchurch-Stouffville (Stouffville)	5,779	5,876	11,655	1,665	7	1,981	6
TOTAL – YDSS^[8]	153,539	88,740	242,279	28,213	9	-	-
TOTAL	160,878	88,740	249,618	29,086	9	50,606	5

1. Data shown for available capacity to end of 2022 includes Regional assignments up to November 2023 under the development-related inflow and infiltration reduction programs (SIP/SDIP/LEED and Triparty I&I Reduction Agreements)
2. Capacity allocation subject to completion of ongoing capital projects to address servicing needs within local watersheds and sewersheds as outlined in Appendix B.
3. 1,333 persons capacity assigned to each municipality from YDSS Reserve.
4. 738 persons of this capacity dependent on completion of North YDSS Expansion - Phase 1 trigger project scheduled for 2026-2028.
5. 6,433 persons of this capacity dependent on completion of North YDSS Expansion - Phase 1 trigger project scheduled for 2026-2028.
6. Completion of Langstaff Collector addresses servicing needs in Pomona Creek Service Area as outlined in Appendix B.
7. 28,837 persons of this capacity dependent on completion of Northeast Vaughan Water and Wastewater Servicing – Phase 1 trigger project scheduled for 2025, and Block 27 agreement remaining in effect.
8. Excludes Georgina as it is not serviced by the YDSS and includes King

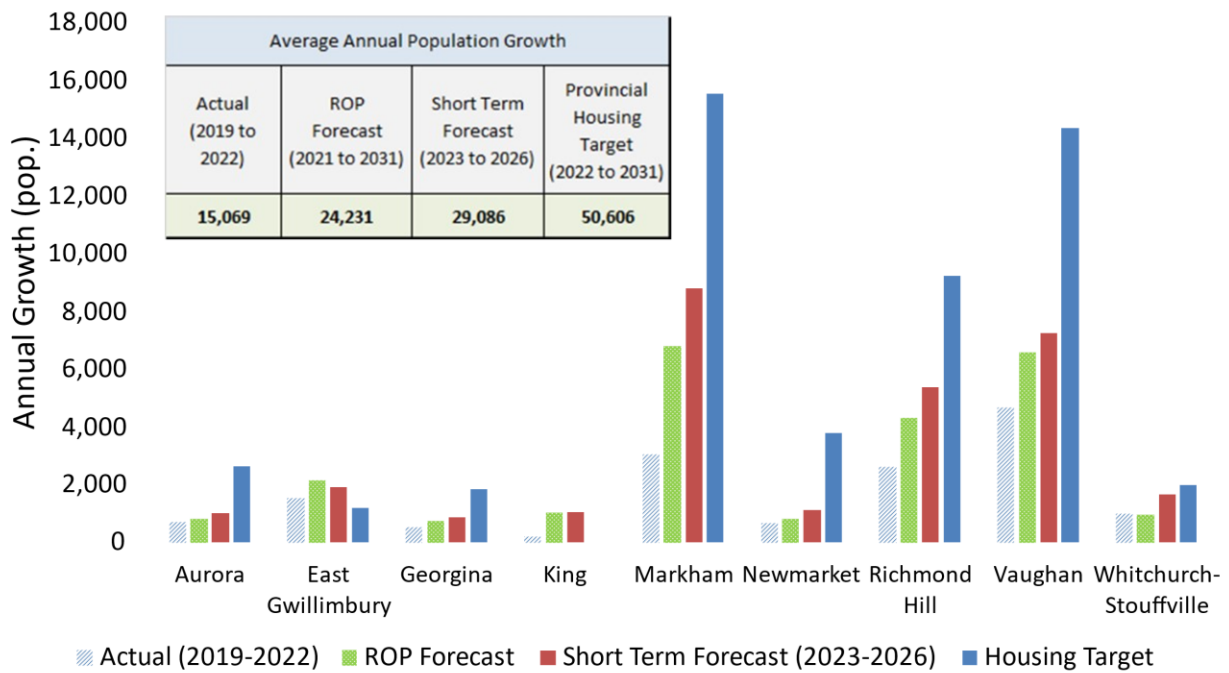
This 2023 capacity assignment includes 7,171 persons of capacity for Aurora and Newmarket contingent on completion of Phase 1 of the North YDSS Expansion

In November 2022, the Province enacted *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* and the associated *Supporting Growth and Housing in York and Durham Regions Act, 2022* which mandates York and Durham Regions to expedite delivery of the York Region Sewage Works Project to support accelerated growth and housing in the Regions. It effectively replaced the Upper York Sewage Solutions project with a Lake Ontario solution which requires three projects; proposed North YDSS Expansion, South YDSS Expansion and YDSS Primary System Expansion (including Duffin Creek Plant). The first project, outlined in the Direct Purchase of North YDSS Expansion Phase 1 Delivery Services Report, also on this agenda, includes improvements, expansion and extension of the YDSS to convey sewage from the northern municipalities to Duffin Creek Plant. With studies and design work still underway, the balance of capacity from implementing Phase 1 of the North YDSS Expansion will be assigned in the next capacity assignment in 2025. By that time, a better understanding of implications for Aurora, East Gwillimbury and Newmarket will be available.

Housing targets assume an unprecedented increase in development across the Region

As planning and timing of long-term growth continue to evolve with the changing development landscape, market trends and future housing completions are incorporated into short-term forecasts to support capacity assignment. Short-term forecasted growth rates accommodate some growth approved through Minister's Zoning Orders and development in Transit Oriented Communities. New housing targets exceed current forecasts and staff need time to assess impacts on current infrastructure plans. As demonstrated in Figure 1, while annual short-term forecasted growth rates have been updated to reflect higher than recent annual housing completions and Regional Official Plan forecasts, they are well below the new Provincial housing targets for most of the local municipalities.

During the period from 2019 to 2022, actual housing completions across York Region were equivalent to an average of about 15,000 persons per year, close to 70% of the forecasted rate for this period. For the period from 2023 to 2026, the forecasted annual average growth across the Region is 29,086 persons per year; twice the historical average annual growth rate, yet nearly 22,000 persons per year short of the Provincial housing target.

Figure 1**Forecasted and Actual (2019-2022) Housing Completions by Local Municipality**

Source: CMHC Completions (GTA Housing Now) and York Region Short-Term Forecasts

2023 capacity assignment provides at least six years of growth against Regional short-term forecasts and four or more years of servicing allocation at Provincial pledge growth rates

As shown in Table 1, the total assigned capacity of 242,279 persons in the YDSS supports at least six years of growth for each local municipality at short-term forecasted growth rates. When considered against ambitious provincial housing target rates, enough capacity is being assigned to support at least four years of servicing allocation, for development, however, some capacity in Aurora and Newmarket will be contingent on completion of Phase 1 of the North YDSS Expansion.

Significant fiscal room for the next generation of infrastructure projects could be realized if all developments were registered and built

This assignment will support development until the next Regional capacity assignment in 2025. Although timely construction and occupancy of homes is expected to ensure financial sustainability by development charges being collected to pay for debt to deliver infrastructure, there are some lagging planning approvals. Current Regional YorkTrax data indicates over 35% of draft approved development applications have not registered after three years, representing a significant portion of development charges to be collected. As the Region incurs significant debt to upfront finance water and wastewater infrastructure, generally well in advance of actual

housing completions, any delays in timing of new homes impedes the Region's ability to build more infrastructure. If all assigned existing capacity was built, the Region's fiscal debt for the already constructed enabling infrastructure would be eliminated, which would allow fiscal room to build new infrastructure to support growth.

York Region continues to invest over \$4.5 billion in water and wastewater projects over the next three decades to expand capacity for local municipality growth needs

As approved by Council, the 2022 Water and Wastewater Master Plan outlines over \$4.5 billion in infrastructure to support growth needs for the next three decades. With the growing need for more homes, the development community is seeking to advance Regional infrastructure projects to open up capacity sooner.

Completion of planned trigger projects will increase service capacity for growth

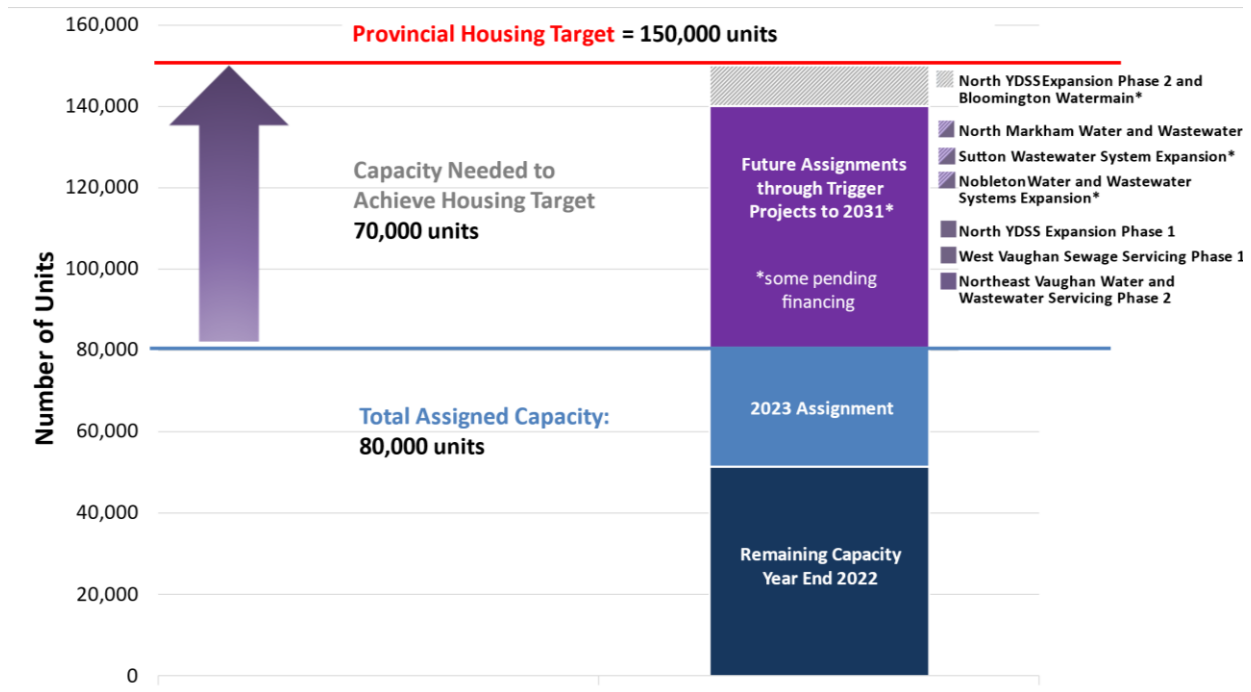
In the near term, several water and wastewater infrastructure projects, shown in Appendix C, are planned to significantly expand servicing capacity by 2041 in eight local municipalities. These projects are referenced herein as trigger projects, as they are defined in the Master Plan and open up capacity for growth. They include planned works that enable servicing for Newmarket, Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Northeast and West Vaughan, King City, and North Markham areas, in addition to expansion of the Nobleton and Sutton standalone systems.

Future capacity assignments will be based on these trigger projects subject to confirmation of funding and timing. In some cases, accelerated delivery of these projects may be negotiated through formal agreements with the local municipalities and the development community. Given certainty on funding and timing of trigger projects, the Region can then assign the associated capacity to the local municipalities, to keep development moving through the planning process. Once a project nears completion, capacity can be released, and development can proceed to registration. This approach will be undertaken for emerging work for the North YDSS Expansion.

Total available capacity with this assignment is 242,279 persons, equivalent to roughly 80,000 new homes and more than half of the Provincial housing target

Figure 2 provides an overview of the total Provincial housing targets across the Region, assigned capacity in the YDSS plus standalone systems and the balance required to meet these targets. Staff will report back in the next assignment which will consider additional servicing capacity based on funding gaps being addressed for new infrastructure. Given the funding gap and link to achieving Provincial targets, the Province would benefit from providing a funding contribution to the capital program.

Figure 2
Capacity Needed to Meet Provincial Housing Targets by 2031



Total assignment to Vaughan includes 28,837 persons pursuant to the Block 27 Development Charge Credit Agreement for the Northeast Vaughan trigger project

28,837 persons is included in Vaughan's total capacity assignment to exclusively support continued development of Block 27 in Northeast Vaughan. This assignment is pursuant to the Block 27 Prepaid Development Charge Credit / Reimbursement Agreement, dated December 1, 2020. This capacity assignment facilitates draft approval of development applications in the Block 27 Lands in accordance with the approved Block 27 Secondary Plan. Registration of these developments can proceed following completion of the Phase 1 Northeast Vaughan Wastewater and Water Servicing Works trigger project, expected in 2025.

Interim borrowing from the YDSS Reserve supports continued growth until implementation of the North YDSS Expansion

As mentioned earlier in this report, the capacity assignment contemplates full use of the YDSS Reserve by municipalities impacted by the Province's delay in approving the Region's former UYSS Project. Continuing to use capacity from the YDSS Reserve will enable Council to support near term growth in the three municipalities requiring the North YDSS Expansion infrastructure project.

Standalone systems have 17,913 persons of servicing capacity to support development that is ready to build

There is 17,913 persons unregistered capacity in the Region's standalone system communities. This is sufficient to support immediate community development needs and significantly contributes towards meeting Provincial housing targets in the Region, recognizing that the 12,960 persons unregistered in Georgina includes roughly 5,600 persons designated for Industrial, Commercial, Institutional developments. Capital projects have been initiated to address additional servicing capacity needs identified in the communities of Mount Albert, Nobleton and Sutton. A summary of unregistered capacity, draft approved or reserved capacity and available uncommitted capacity remaining at each facility is shown in Appendix D.

The Region will continue to monitor capacity consumption in these communities and review capital plans to ensure adequate servicing is available for approved growth in the near-term. While optimization studies of existing facilities are ongoing, future capacity needs will be considered through the Region's annual review of its growth and infrastructure plans.

The changing development landscape and ongoing infrastructure planning warrants more frequent capacity assignments to better meet servicing needs

Historically, capacity assignments happen every four to five years, with interim needs addressed as required or as infrastructure is completed. To increase the Region and local municipalities' ability to respond to rapidly changing development needs, staff are adopting a more agile capacity assignment with increased frequency to adapt to rapidly evolving development. Together, local municipalities and the Region are reassessing growth areas and related infrastructure plans to consider Provincial housing targets, the Province's decision on Upper York, and other legislative changes to allow development to advance more rapidly.

The next Regional capacity assignment is scheduled for 2025

Staff will provide Council with the next multi-year capacity assignment report in 2025. This is in keeping with the proposed agile assignment approach and allows the Region to provide capacity where and when it is needed. This 2025 assignment will consider updated servicing needs and infrastructure planning, status of trigger projects, remaining unused capacity and implications for the Fiscal Strategy.

5. Financial Considerations

Over \$1B additional water and wastewater infrastructure required in place of Water Reclamation Centre to meet *Supporting Housing and Growth in York and Durham Regions Act*

The province has directed York Region to deliver a southern YDSS solution to support growth in Aurora, East Gwillimbury and Newmarket. By doing so, it replaces the original planned water

and wastewater infrastructure with over \$1B in additional infrastructure, with these expenditures happening earlier in the planning horizon. Originally, phasing of the Water Reclamation Centre allowed for additional treatment trains to be constructed at intervals over a 30-year period. With the new North YDSS Expansion, phasing of sewer pipes is not feasible or practical, resulting in full costs to be expended through initial construction phases. Aurora, East Gwillimbury and Newmarket will have capacity assignment for four years against the Provincial target rate requiring North YDSS Expansion Phase 1 to be completed by 2027. Achieving the targeted rate beyond four years toward 2031 requires acceleration of Phase 2 of the North YDSS Expansion, which is not currently funded.

Nearly \$240 million in water and wastewater capital projects needed earlier in the 10-year capital plan to meet provincial housing targets

To support local municipalities in achieving their housing pledges, water and wastewater infrastructure would need to be delivered earlier than the approved Regional plans. Figure 2 summarizes anticipated capacity assignments through planned infrastructure to 2031, and earlier delivery of approximately \$240 million in infrastructure to meet Provincial housing targets.

Additional infrastructure upgrades beyond those identified in Figure 2 may also be triggered depending on location and magnitude of growth. To support new growth with a transportation network that is capable of all modes of travel, advancement of \$845M in roads and transit capital funding is needed. A large portion, \$472M, is associated with the Region's portion of BRT funding and would be contingent on obtaining full construction funding from senior levels of government. With reduced Development Charge collections resulting from Bill 23 as discussed in the [June 15, 2023](#) Council report, alternative funding sources including those provided by project-specific developer financing agreements may be required to deliver these projects.

6. Local Impact

All nine local municipalities were consulted on the 2023 Capacity Assignment

Short-term forecasts developed for this 2023 capacity assignment report were based on YorkTrax development application data and finalized through consultation with local municipal planning staff. Region staff presented and discussed analysis and key recommendations with local municipal staff, Planning Commissioners and Directors. Local municipal staff were informed of the proposed assignment, remaining multi-year capacity to service growth in their communities and outlook on future assignment. Local staff are aware the next multi-year servicing capacity assignment report is scheduled for 2025 and this assignment will further support local municipalities in meeting Provincial housing targets. Continued data sharing from all local municipalities into the YorkTrax system is an important element to assess progress and inform the next capacity assignment.

Active and complete sharing of development application data is fundamental to successful implementation of more frequent capacity assignments

More frequent capacity assignment is reliant on more frequent and complete data sharing between the local municipalities and York Region. This approach will rely on enhanced collaboration between Regional and local municipal planning and development engineering staff to coordinate growth needs with infrastructure delivery.

An increased capacity assignment frequency will require the following components:

- Annual short-term forecasting exercise using a centralized source of development information (YorkTrax)
- Increased and frequent analysis to assess residual capacity based on evolving infrastructure plans and implementation timelines
- Reassessment of capacity needs based on short-term market trends and forecasts
- Baseline assignment providing minimum of five years of capacity
- Preview of future capacity assignments tied to completion of trigger capital projects

York Region is best able to support servicing needs of its local municipalities when available capacity data is accurate and up-to-date. Local municipal staff can leverage available tools and more fully integrate them into planning processes to support close management of available capacity. This enables the Region to understand current status of assigned capacity, assess it against short-term development needs for each municipality (especially in light of changing growth forecasts) and evaluate where new capacity assignment is needed in the Region's shared system. This proactive approach means the Region can better assign capacity in alignment with timing needs of the local municipalities.

Other tools include 'use it or redistribute it' policies and application of holding zones where required. Review of existing local municipal 'use it or lose it' policies is warranted to ensure the tool is practical and effectively allows the municipality to reallocate capacity to ensure developments are ready to build and can proceed to the building permit stage.

The Region is working with local municipalities to automate planning data exchange through YorkTrax

On [April 13, 2023](#), staff updated Council on the Region's planning application modernization project to improve the development review and approval process across the Region. This project received funding through the Provincial Streamline Development Approval Fund to develop data standards, expand data exchange between municipalities and leverage technology to improve customer experience. In response to York Regions request for local commitment, Chief Administrative Officers from all nine local municipalities have indicated their support for this initiative. Each has identified a representative for their municipality to lead local

municipal coordination efforts. Planning data exchange is essential to support the flow of critical data needed to support real-time data analytics at all levels of government. Timely, accurate and complete development application data are needed to support a more agile approach to capacity assignment.

7. Conclusion

This 2023 capacity assignment will facilitate growth of 242,279 persons in local municipalities serviced by the YDSS, including advancement of 11,171 persons to municipalities waiting on the North YDSS Expansion resulting from the *Supporting Growth and Housing in York and Durham Regions Act, 2022*. The assignment is based on short-term capacity needs assessed through consultation with local municipalities, with the strategy of issuing another capacity assignment in 2025 to manage growth forecast changes.

For more information on this report, please contact Wendy Kemp, Director, Infrastructure Asset Management at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75141 or Sandra Malcic, Director, Long Range Planning at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75274. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Recommended by:



Paul Freeman, MCIP, RPP
Chief Planner



Mike Rabeau, P.Eng.
General Manager, Capital Infrastructure Services



Dino Basso
Commissioner of Corporate Services



Dave Szeptycki
Acting Commissioner of Public Works



Approved for Submission: **Erin Mahoney**
Chief Administrative Officer

October 20, 2023
#15758563

- Appendix A – Servicing Capacity Overview
- Appendix B – Area Specific Constraints
- Appendix C – Trigger Projects
- Appendix D – Standalone Systems Capacity

Overview of Servicing Capacity Assignment and Reserves as of Q4 2022

Service Area or Component	Population
Assigned Capacity to Local Municipalities	
York Durham Sewage System Service Area	1,201,128
Stand-Alone Sewage Systems (including Georgina)	87,199
Incentive Programs	9,118*
Developer Funded Inflow and Infiltration Program	14,028**
Total Servicing Capacity Assignment	1,311,473
Regional Reserves	
YDSS Reserve	4,000
Non-Profit Housing Reserve	5,009
Rental Housing Reserve	4,000
Total Servicing Capacity Assignment and Reserve	1,324,482

* Subject to meeting program requirements (e.g. water conservation, wastewater flow reduction, and conformity reporting)

** Includes capacity assigned to Aurora, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill and Vaughan for works completed per Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction agreements

Ongoing Capital Projects Addressing Area Specific Constraints

Local Municipality	Constrained Service Area	Project Addressing Area Specific Constraints	Current Status	Expected Commissioning Date	Notes
Aurora East Gwillimbury Newmarket	Aurora East Gwillimbury Newmarket	Henderson Sewage Pumping Station	Construction Completed	2023	Completion allows release of 500 persons remaining from 2018 assignment plus 1,000 persons assigned in centres and corridors. This also allows payback of 4,000 persons capacity borrowed from YDSS reserve
Markham Richmond Hill	Pomona Creek Service Area	Richmond Hill/Langstaff Gateway Regional Centre Servicing Project	Construction Completed	2023	Langstaff Collector addresses constraint Central Collector residual capacity of 20,000 persons to be split 50:50 There is adequate capacity in the Region's water system to service the noted TOC and secondary plan lands. Design work is underway to establish new system connections and revenue meters needed to service the developments.
Keswick	Keswick Pumping Station Sewershed	Keswick Sewage Pumping Station upgrades	Detailed Design	2024	Approved development can proceed. Applications without draft plan or site plan approval will be restricted for occupancy. Commercial development applications will be considered on a case by case basis.
Vaughan	Northeast Vaughan Area Wastewater: Jane Rutherford Sewersheds	Northeast Vaughan Water and Wastewater Servicing Project – Phase 1	Detailed Design	2025	Prior to completion of Phase 1, development can proceed provided total allocation in Jane Rutherford Sewershed does not exceed 48,000 persons from 2016 onward. Accounting for 40,000 persons in the south, Blocks 27, 34, 35 and 41 have a servicing capacity limit of 8,000 persons (up to

					2,000 persons is available in the North Maple Collector).
	Northeast Vaughan Area Water: Pressure Districts 8 and 9	Northeast Vaughan Water and Wastewater Servicing Project – Phase 2	Detailed Design	2028	Phase 1 works will limit capacity to 15,000 residential persons (plus 9,000 persons employment) for Pressure Districts 8 and 9; however, an additional 10,000 persons capacity is available in Pressure District 8 provided a connection to northeast Vaughan is made to the existing PD8 system at Keele and Teston.
East Gwillimbury	Mount Albert	Mount Albert Water and Wastewater System Upgrades	Detailed Design	2029	Prior to completion, development can proceed provided total allocation does not exceed 217 persons

Outlook for Trigger Projects

Trigger Project	Service Area	Municipalities	Expected Completion	Notes
York Durham Sewage System (YDSS)				
North YDSS Expansion - Phase 1	Aurora East Gwillimbury Newmarket	Aurora East Gwillimbury Newmarket	2026 to 2028	In conceptual design, timing, and associated capacity to be confirmed through detailed design 2023 assignment advances 7,171 persons, remainder to be determined through future Council report
North YDSS Expansion - Phase 2 and Bloomington Watermain	Aurora East Gwillimbury Newmarket	Aurora East Gwillimbury Newmarket	2031	New project with timing and associated capacity subject to funding and Council approval
Northeast Vaughan Water and Wastewater Servicing - Phase 2	Vaughan	Vaughan	2028	Timing associated with ongoing works
West Vaughan Sewage Servicing - Phase 1	Humber Sewage Pumping Station Sewershed	Vaughan	2028	Timing based on 2022 Master Plan Development can proceed provided total allocation does not exceed 20,000 persons from 2016 onward.
King City Sewage Pumping Station Upgrade – Phase 1	King City	King	Post 2028	Timing dependent on completion of Yonge St trunk sewer twinning component of North YDSS Expansion – Phase 1
North Markham Water and Wastewater Servicing	Portions of Future Urban Area Whitchurch-Stouffville	Markham Whitchurch-Stouffville	2032 to 2041	In discussions with local municipalities and developers Timing based on 2022 Master Plan Construction may be advanced through funding agreement Associated capacity assignment and split to be determined through future Council report
Stand-alone Systems				
Nobleton Water and Wastewater Servicing	Nobleton	King	2033	In detailed design, timing based on 2022 Master Plan Construction may be advanced through funding agreement
Sutton Wastewater System Expansion	Sutton	Georgina	2032 to 2041	In detailed design, timing based on 2022 Master Plan Construction may be advanced through funding agreement

Servicing Capacity in Stand-alone Systems

Stand-alone Facility	Approved Capacity (persons)	Capacity Used to Year End 2022 (persons)	Total Unregistered Capacity Available at Year End 2022 (persons)	Draft Approved / Reserved Capacity (persons)	Available Uncommitted Capacity at Year End 2022 (persons)
East Gwillimbury					
Holland Landing	4,300	4,221	0 ^[1]	0	0
Mount Albert	7,350 ^[2]	5,783	1,567	490	1,077
Georgina					
Keswick	49,000 ^[3]	37,254	11,746	5,771	5,976
Sutton	7,500	6,286	1,214	859	355
King Township					
Nobleton	6,750 ^[4]	6,599	151	2,343	-
Schomberg	3,444	2,935	509	158	351
Vaughan					
Kleinburg	7,505	4,779	2,726	315	2,410
Total Stand-alone	85,849	67,857	17,913	9,936	10,169

1. Remaining 79 persons capacity is not available as Holland Landing Lagoons are currently at full utilization and cannot support additional connected population
2. Includes 1,350 persons assigned capacity to become available on completion of upgrades to the Mount Albert water and wastewater systems from phase 1
3. The approved capacity of 49,000 persons in Keswick includes both residential and employment populations, with Georgina allocating based on both types of land use. Local Council has reserved 5,621 persons for the Keswick Business Park and other ICI developments (per numbers in Report No.DS-2020-0038, May 5, 2021).
4. Includes 160 persons capacity recovered through Township inflow and infiltration reduction initiatives



Office of the Commissioner
 Community and Health Services
 Memorandum
FOR INFORMATION

To: Regional Council – Special Council Meeting
 Meeting Date: November 23, 2023
 From: Katherine Chislett
 Commissioner of Community and Health Services
 Re: **Homelessness in York Region and Development of a Homelessness Service System Plan**

York Region is one of 47 Service Managers across Ontario responsible for planning, development, implementation and delivery of housing and homelessness services as required by the Housing Services Act, 2011. As Service Manager, the Region administers and delivers homelessness prevention and housing stability supports, including funding for community agencies to provide services. The Region is also responsible for managing emergency and transitional housing, delivered in partnership with non-profit agencies. These collective efforts are aimed at helping people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness to find and keep housing and to achieve housing stability.

A memorandum on homelessness in York Region was provided to Council in [June 2023](#). It provided current data about homelessness and poverty, and information on some key challenges and gaps in the current homelessness service system. Following its receipt, it was agreed a Special Council Meeting would be held on homelessness.

This memorandum provides information to support the November 23, 2023 Special Council Meeting on homelessness. It also provides an overview of other housing-related plans coming forward to Council in 2024.

A Homelessness Service System Plan will be developed in consultation with stakeholders as a key component of York Region’s next 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan

The purpose of the Special Council Meeting is to inform Council about the growing challenge of homelessness in York Region, actions being taken to address it, information on new approaches, and to engage on development of a Homelessness Service System Plan. The Homelessness Service System Plan will be tabled for Council consideration in Q2/Q3 2024.

The agenda for the Special Council Meeting includes the following:

- An overview of roles and responsibilities of key partners in the homelessness service system, data on current system needs and forecasted demand for services across the Region. There will be information shared on key factors that can lead to homelessness, and the importance of interconnections across the social determinants of health including economic, social, and health related considerations.
- Jim MacSween, Chief, York Regional Police, Daniele Zanotti, President and CEO, United Way Greater Toronto and Jeff Schlemmer, Executive Director, York Region's Community Legal Clinic will share their perspectives on the state of homelessness in York Region, and their experiences helping people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in York Region and Ontario.
- Dr. Stephen Hwang from St Michael's Hospital, Heather McDonald, Chief Executive Officer, LOFT Community Services, Clovis Grant, Chief Executive Officer, 360°Kids, and Michael Braithwaite, Chief Executive Officer, Blue Door will share thoughts and ideas on innovative, cost effective solutions, illustrate the importance of a collaborative, rights-based approach, and describe the importance of the community partnerships that are required to reduce homelessness.
- Information about development of the Homelessness Service System Plan, including two proposed goals (ending chronic homelessness, and strengthening a human rights based approach), and three Priority Areas of the plan (prevention and diversion, intervention and housing stability, and strengthening the systems response).
- A short video capturing perspectives from York Region residents experiencing homelessness, residents who have successfully transitioned away from homelessness and staff from community agencies working with residents to provide homelessness prevention and life stabilization supports and services.
- The session will conclude with time for Council to discuss and ask questions about homelessness, and share perspectives on development of the Homelessness Service System Plan.

Additional materials to support this meeting are included in the Appendices:

- Homelessness Roles and Responsibilities (Appendix A)
- York Region programs that provide support and services to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness (Appendix B)
- Biographies (Appendix C)

The Special Council Meeting will focus on the homelessness side of the York Region Housing Continuum

York Region has many different housing types and these can be described in a continuum, as shown in Figure 1, where there are individuals and families who:

- May be at risk of, or experiencing homelessness and who may be in emergency or transitional housing or living unsheltered in the community
- Reside in non-profit, co-operative or Housing York Inc. Community Housing
- Reside in Private Market Rental or Owned Housing, which may or may not be affordable

Figure 1
York Region Housing Continuum



While the lack of community housing and affordable private market housing are major factors in contributing to homelessness and making it difficult to help people to end their homelessness, the Special Council Meeting will focus on the homelessness side of the continuum. As described later in this memo (Table 1), affordable rental housing and community housing will be the subject of reports to Committee and Council throughout 2024. In addition, affordable housing is the focus of Council's Housing Affordability Task Force.

A Homelessness Service System Plan is under development to guide the Region's homelessness response

The Homelessness Service System Plan will be developed using a data-informed approach that will guide the Region's homelessness planning activities in the coming years. Engagement with

local municipalities, provincial ministries, community partners, and people with lived experience will be key in developing the system plan.

The Special Council meeting will initiate broader engagement work on the Homelessness Service System Plan. Some preliminary consultation has occurred to support development of the Plan, and to support the Special Council meeting. This included key informant interviews with leaders in the homelessness service system, a presentation at the Human Services Planning Board in Spring 2023, and engagement with local municipal staff through the Local Municipal Community, Health and Recreation Leaders Table.

The Federal Government and some Service Managers in Ontario have aligned their actions to specific goals, to address homelessness. York Region has identified two aspirational goals to guide the Homelessness Service System Plan and how it will be implemented. These goals will be shared at the Special Council Meeting for Council feedback:

Goal 1: End Chronic Homelessness in York Region

Chronic Homelessness is a term used to describe people who have been experiencing homelessness for six months or longer in the past year or someone who has experienced homelessness for 18+ months in the past three years.

Addressing barriers facing people experiencing chronic homelessness will help people who often have the greatest needs. As this group tends to be the highest users of services, helping them to find and keep housing sooner can reduce demand on the emergency and transitional housing system. This could enable resources to shift over time to homelessness prevention and longer term supports making the system more efficient.

Ending chronic homelessness also means that if people do experience homelessness, it is temporary in duration, and they can transition to housing stability. Success in ending chronic homelessness will be demonstrated by decreases in the number of people experiencing homelessness across York Region.

Goal 2: Use a Human Rights approach to guide decision making and service provision

A Human Rights approach requires meaningful and inclusive participation of people with lived/living experience of homelessness in the design and implementation of policies, programs, and services. A Human Rights approach will help ensure York Region's actions to address homelessness incorporate supports and services will effectively address the systemic causes and needs of people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Actions in the Homelessness Service System Plan will be organized under three priorities:

- **Prevention and Diversion for people at risk of homelessness:** The best way to end homelessness is to stop it from happening in the first place. Prevention measures, such as eviction prevention, aim to reduce the number of people that lose their homes. Diversion supports help people find safe alternative housing options that prevent them from needing emergency housing.
- **Intervention and Housing Stability for people experiencing homelessness:** Intervention and housing stability measures help people receive the resources and services they need while experiencing homelessness. Examples include access to primary care, financial assistance and life skills training.
- **Systems Response:** An effective systems response aligns policy directions across sectors where possible, to provide an integrated homelessness service system. This relies on the coordination and collaboration of service providers, helping people at-risk of or experiencing homelessness access the supports and services they need. An effective systems response allows rapid assessment of a person's needs, mapped to the best available supports, with the goal of housing stability.

By prioritizing prevention and diversion, intervention and stability, and an integrated systems response, York Region aims to address the growing challenge of homelessness in a comprehensive and evidenced-informed way, ensuring that if and when it occurs – homelessness is a rare, brief and non-recurring event.

The Homelessness Service System Plan will guide the Region's approach and investments on actions to reduce and prevent homelessness

Data will be presented at Council on projected needs related to homelessness in York Region. This forecasting data will support development of the Homelessness Service System Plan, inform the approach, and provide information on investments required to reduce and prevent homelessness in York Region. Staff are working with a vendor with significant expertise in developing homelessness forecasts for municipalities.

York Region's Homelessness Community Programs are funded by the Province and York Region Tax Levy

For 2023, York Region Council approved a gross expenditure budget of \$31.8 million for programs that directly address homelessness, of which \$13.3 million is funded through the regional tax levy.

In March 2023, the Province increased total Homelessness Prevention Program funding by \$202 million. As a result, York Region's allocation increased by \$15.8 million over the 2022/23 funding allocation of \$20.9 million, bringing the new total to \$36.7 million for fiscal 2023/24 (projected to \$10.3 million for the 2023 calendar year). This additional funding is to help address

York Region's historical underfunding from the Province, as reported in the 2021 Ontario Auditor General's Report.

As a result of the increase from the Province, the total revised 2023 budget for Homelessness Community Programs is \$42.2 million.

Needs across the housing and homelessness system will be addressed through targeted plans, which will form the next 10-year housing and homelessness plan in 2025

The Region is required by the *Housing Services Act, 2011* to develop and implement a 10-year plan to address local housing and homelessness needs. In [June 2023](#), Council received a report outlining progress in 2022 and actions for 2023 under [Housing Solutions](#), the Region's current 10-year housing and homelessness plan. While the Region has continued to make progress in advancing the goals of *Housing Solutions*, the report also outlines continued challenges across the housing continuum.

Work on the next 10-year housing and homelessness plan has begun, with a memo to Council outlining the approach for developing it planned for Q1 2024. Throughout 2024, Council will receive three distinct plans for consideration targeting specific needs within each component of the housing and homelessness system. The next 10-year housing and homelessness plan will consolidate commitments outlined in these three plans, targeted for Council's consideration later in 2025.

The three major plans supporting the next 10-year housing and homelessness plan, with their purpose and intending timing, are listed in Table 1.

Table 1
Plans to Address Needs Within the Housing and Homelessness System

Plan	Purpose	Report Timeframe
1. Homelessness Service System Plan	Respond to immediate and long-term needs of residents experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, including exploring creating more emergency, transitional and longer-term housing options	Q2/Q3 2024
2. Community Housing Development Master Plan	Guide long-term investments to increase supply of community housing for housing providers, including Housing York Inc.	Q2/Q3 2024
3. Affordable Private Market Housing Implementation Plan	Identify actions, advocacy, and partnership approaches to address private market housing gaps in the short, medium, and long-term	Q2/Q3 2024

These plans will align with key Regional plans and policies, including the [2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan: From Vision to Results](#).

York Region will continue to partner and collaborate with community partners to respond to and address homelessness

Homelessness is a growing challenge in the Region that requires a system response. York Region staff recognize that the key to developing an effective system plan is meaningful engagement. Following the Special Council Meeting, York Region staff will continue to solicit feedback and ideas on how York Region can work with a broad range of partners to respond to homelessness and to increase stability for residents. Engagement will include people with lived experience, service delivery partners, representatives from other sectors, community agencies, and other levels of government.

For more information on this memo, please contact Kevin Pal, General Manager at 1-877-464-9675 x 72150. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.



Katherine Chislett
Commissioner of Community and Health Services



Erin Mahoney
Chief Administrative Officer

October 27, 2023

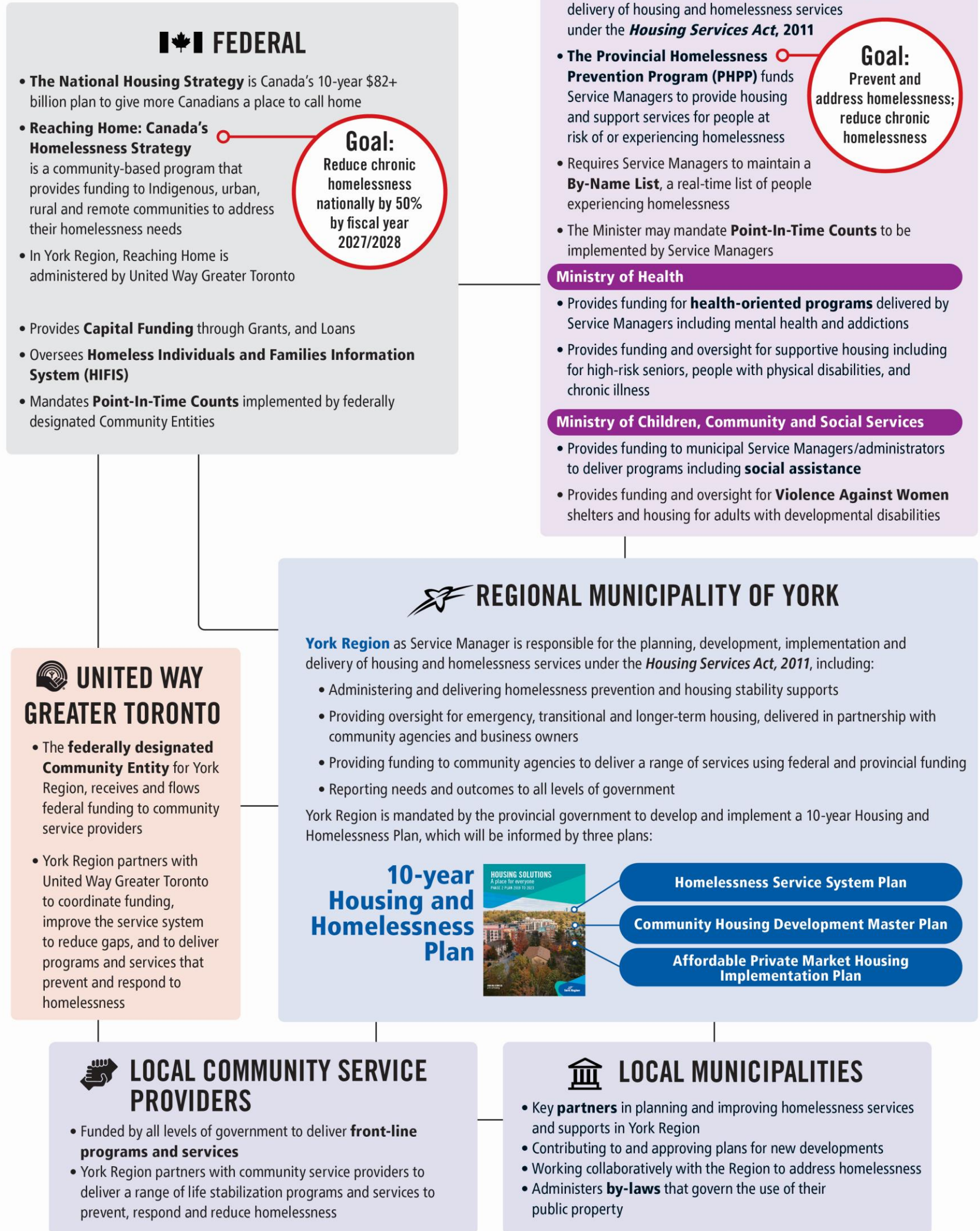
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Appendix A – Roles and Responsibilities

Appendix B – York Region programs that provide support and services to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness

Appendix C –Speaker Biographies

Roles and Responsibilities in the Homelessness Sector



Homelessness Community Programs Summary

How to get help:

- Residents in York Region who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness are encouraged to contact the York Region Emergency Housing Central Intake Line at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 76140. This phone line is answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays.
- For more information on available supports, please call Access York at 1-877-464-9675 Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or visit york.ca/EmergencyHousing

Program	Description
Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP)	Provides financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and other housing costs, and up to six months of wraparound support to people not on provincial social assistance.
Housing Stability Program (HSP)	Provides financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and other housing costs, and up to six months of wraparound supports to York Region residents on provincial social assistance -- Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) -- to help people maintain stable housing.
Diversion Program	Assists people to find safe alternative options before needing to access emergency housing. The Diversion Program complements prevention and rapid re-housing services. The program provides rapid response for residents who are at imminent risk of homelessness or who may be experiencing homelessness.
Outreach Program	Provides short-term intensive case management, service navigation, referrals to health and social services, and crisis support to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness to find and/or keep stable housing. Outreach staff provide support to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, where they are sheltering (e.g. encampments).

	<p>Outreach workers also collaborate with community agencies, emergency medical services, police, local municipal by-law and the public to achieve improved client outcomes including health, housing stability, personal and community safety.</p>
<p>Community Paramedicine Outreach Response Team (CPORT)</p>	<p>The Community Paramedicine Outreach Response Team (CPORT) is a partnership between the Region’s Homelessness Community Programs Outreach team and Community Paramedicine team, and two local doctors. CPORT, outreach workers and community paramedics work in partnership to provide primary care, mental health and substance use, and social supports to people where they reside, including encampments.</p>
<p>Cold Weather Response and Heat Relief Plans</p>	<p>York Region’s Cold Weather Response Plan provides safe and welcoming services for people experiencing homelessness during the cold weather season (typically November 1 to April 30, annually). Expanded services are provided to safeguard people experiencing homelessness from cold weather, alert people experiencing homelessness and other members of the public that cold weather conditions are expected or currently exist, and to support community members to take appropriate precautions.</p> <p>The Out of the Cold Seasonal Shelter Program is operated by Blue Door. This year the program runs from October 2023 to June 2024.</p> <p>York Region’s Heat Relief Plan provides expanded supports and services to people experiencing homelessness during the hot weather season, such as drop-in programs, municipal cooling centres, community meal programs, and cooling kits to help mitigate the effects of extreme heat. The inaugural Heat Relief Strategy was in effect from July 1, 2023, to September 30, 2023.</p>
<p>Drop-by / Drop-In Programs</p>	<p>Provide people who are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness with meals, personal supplies, access to shower and laundry facilities, support to find housing and obtain referrals, and warm transfers to health and other social services. York Region funds drop-by programs and operates them in partnership with community partners and local municipalities across the Region.</p>

Emergency and Transitional Housing	<p>York Region provides oversight and operational funding for nine emergency and transitional housing facilities delivered by community agencies that offer temporary housing, drop-in/drop-by services, case management, life stabilization support, and assistance to develop individual housing plans.</p> <p>York Region has 183 emergency housing beds and 66 transitional housing beds. Additional beds are provided when needed through the Hotel Program.</p>
Home Now Program	<p>Using a Housing First approach, this program provides people experiencing chronic homelessness with wrap around supports to find and keep long-term housing and remain stable in the community. Households in the Home Now program receive rent subsidies and supports to find and maintain housing, as well as wraparound supports related to mental health, substance use, budget management and employment. In a Housing First approach, access to housing is not linked to readiness or acceptance of treatment for any physical health, mental health or substance use issues. This approach acknowledges that people are more likely to experience success overcoming challenges once they have access to permanent housing.</p>
Homes with Supports Program (HWS)	<p>Provides supports with daily living including lodging, meals, etc., to low-income residents who may have a mental health diagnosis or are elderly and frail and are unable to live independently. York Region administers agreements and licenses for 22 Housing with Supports privately owned homes, provides financial subsidies for 392 beds and ensures compliance with York Region's Lodging Homes Bylaw. Referrals are accepted from a variety of sources, including hospitals and community agencies.</p>
Homemakers and Nurses Services (HNSA)	<p>Provides homemaking services and foot care to low-income residents so they can remain in their home when they have a temporary or permanent illness or disability. This program is partially funded by the Ministry of Health.</p>
Integrated Support Program (ISP)	<p>Provides social worker support to people with complex needs. Support can include short-term counselling, case management, and community referrals.</p>

Presenters

Daniele Zanotti, President and CEO of United Way

Daniele Zanotti was named President & CEO of United Way in June 2016. With more than 20 years of experience in the public and non-profit sectors, he has earned a reputation as an accomplished, strategic, and energetic leader.

From 2007 to 2015, Daniele served as CEO of United Way York Region, where he led the transformation of the charity from federated fundraiser to convener, mobilizer and agent of community change. In 2015, he helped establish a new regional organization, merging the United Ways in York Region and Toronto. In 2018, he led another merger between United Way Toronto and York Region with United Way Peel Region into United Way Greater Toronto.

Before joining United Way, Daniele served the community through organizations like the Rexdale Community Health Centre; The Regional Municipality of York; Family Day Care Services; and Villa Charities Foundation. He is also deeply involved outside of his professional career, volunteering his time as a member of CivicAction's Board of Directors and the City of Toronto's Partnership to Advance Youth Employment (PAYE) and Toronto's Resilience Steering Committee.



Jeff Schlemmer, Executive Director, York Region Community Legal Clinic



Jeff Schlemmer manages the York Region Community Legal Clinic as executive director, under the direction of the community Board of Directors. Jeff is a senior barrister, having practiced law for over 35 years. He was a long-time Adjunct Professor at Western University's Faculty of Law. He has volunteered extensively, including terms as Chair of a public library Board and Vice Chair of a Police Services Board. He is a keen advocate for the rights of vulnerable and disabled residents of York Region.

Jim MacSween, Chief, York Regional Police

Jim MacSween is the Chief of York Regional Police and is responsible for 2,300 employees, an operating and capital budget of \$390 million and community safety for 1.2 million citizens. He brings a balance of operational, administrative and strategic experience to his current role.

He is a recipient of the Governor General's Exemplary Service 20-year medal and completed his 30th year of policing in October of 2019.

Active in the community, Chief MacSween has volunteered his time with such organizations as Habitat for Humanity and Special Olympics Ontario, including serving on the games organizing committee for the 2013 Special Olympics Summer Games held in York Region. He is currently on the Board of Directors for St. Johns Ambulance and has previously served as Chair of the Community Services Committee. He is also an annual participant in the Law Enforcement Torch Run.



Dr. Stephen Hwang, Director, MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, and St. Michael's Hospital Chair for Homelessness, Housing and Health



Dr. Hwang co-led the At Home/Chez Soi study, the largest randomized controlled trial in history to evaluate solutions to address homelessness. Its success testing the "Housing First" approach persuaded the federal government to commit resources to scale up Housing First interventions across the country.

Dr. Hwang is the director of MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions. He is also the St. Michael's Hospital Chair in Homelessness, Housing and Health, a scientist with the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, and a professor in the University of Toronto's Department of Medicine, Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation. An internal-medicine physician at St. Michael's Hospital, Dr. Hwang conducts a weekly clinic at Seaton House, Canada's largest homeless shelter for men. Dr. Hwang's awards include the 2022 Alumni Award of Merit from the Harvard Chan School of Public Health, and the 2020 University of Toronto President's Impact Award.

Heather McDonald, CEO, LOFT

Heather McDonald is the CEO of LOFT, first appointed in 2017. LOFT is an important community partner and service provider in York Region, providing housing and outreach services for people struggling with mental and physical health issues in the Toronto and York/South Simcoe region. Heather has led comprehensive health clinic sites for people who face barriers to getting health services in the community in London and Toronto. Heather has previous work experience in areas of addiction, primary care, and the mediation fields.



Heather is a regular presenter at local, provincial and national conferences. She was awarded the Globe and Mail's Changemaker award in 2022.

Clovis Grant, CEO, 360°kids



Clovis Grant is the CEO of 360°kids, an organization that partners with York Region communities and organizations to develop opportunities for youth who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. 360°kids serve youth who are vulnerable or in crisis, through a variety of programs which provide stability and safety, increases their support system, and teaches them greater self-sufficiency.

Clovis has provided leadership in the Human Services sector for over 25 years in the areas of homelessness, employment, social assistance, mental health and disabilities. He has worked with HOPE *worldwide* Canada, The Region of York, and Eva's Initiatives.

Michael Braithwaite, CEO, Blue Door

Michael is the CEO of Blue Door and has over 30 years of experience creating innovative solutions to better support vulnerable people. As CEO, he has helped launch Blue Door's first employment social enterprise called Construct, three supportive housing programs including the first safe space for 2SLGBTQ+ youth in York Region, a national housing and homelessness podcast, a merger with Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold, and is currently executing a Solutions Lab in collaboration with SHS Consulting and Habitat for Humanity to explore the journey from homelessness to homeownership.



Previously Michael worked at Raising the Roof and 360°kids in York Region. As CEO of Raising the Roof, Michael launched Reside, a program to transform underutilized properties into affordable housing by engaging the social enterprise Building Up. As Executive Director at 360°kids, Michael led the development of several innovative and collaborative initiatives including the development of the Youth Hub, an Anti-Human Trafficking Program, the first Nightstop Housing Program in Canada, and in partnership with the York Region District School Board developed iGrad a classroom-based program whereby a teacher uses an e-learning platform to help youth complete high school.

Update on Implementation of the Community Safety and Well-being Plan for York Region

On November 23, 2023 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. It is recommended the Regional Clerk circulate this report to Clerks of local municipalities, York Regional Police Services Board, Human Services Planning Board of York Region and the Newcomer Inclusion Table of York Region.



The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Community and Health Services

November 9, 2023

FOR DECISION

Report of the Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Update on Implementation of the Community Safety and Well-being Plan for York Region

1. Recommendation

It is recommended the Regional Clerk circulate this report to Clerks of local municipalities, York Regional Police Services Board, Human Services Planning Board of York Region and the Newcomer Inclusion Table of York Region.

2. Purpose

To provide an update on the progress and outcomes of the first year of the [Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region 2022 to 2026](#) (Plan).

Key Points:

- Under the *Police Services Act*, York Region is required to develop a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and report on progress
- Council approved the Plan in [May 2022](#)
- Community Action Tables were established in Fall 2021 and are having a positive impact
- The Plan identifies 122 Community Action Table actions through 2022 to 2026 and 83% or 101 of those actions are projected to be completed or underway by the end of 2023
- The six objectives outlined in the Plan are being achieved. Partnerships and funding have been aligned to support local implementation and drive policy change, including a Council-approved priority under the Community Investment Fund, in [May 2023](#).

- The Region secured over \$7.3 million in Federal funding to support implementation of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

3. Background

Council approved the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan in May 2022

Using a place-based approach, the Plan is a long-term tool to enhance safety by focusing on well-being. Through data and community consultation, four communities were identified and approved by Council as focus areas for the Plan: northern Georgina, central Newmarket, south-central Richmond Hill and south-central Markham.

The Plan identifies and assesses priority risks and includes social development and prevention strategies to mitigate the risks. Community consultations identified mental well-being, housing stability and economic stability as top priorities for action to improve safety and well-being.

In [June 2018](#), Council designated the [Human Services Planning Board of York Region](#) as the Advisory Committee for the Plan. The Human Services Planning Board continues to serve an advisory role in the Plan's implementation throughout its 2023 to 2026 term and will continue to receive regular updates on implementation.

Community Action Tables were established in Fall 2021 and are implementing local action plans

In [May 2021](#) Council approved establishment of a Community Action Table for each of the four focus areas under the Plan. Launched in Fall 2021, and informed by data and community consultations, the Community Action Tables take a proactive approach to identify and respond locally to the kinds of challenges that impact safety and well-being. Comprised of representatives from local municipalities, York Regional Police, school boards, service providers including grass-roots agencies, and resident leaders, Community Action Tables develop and implement annual local actions plans. Successes of the first year of the Community Action Tables are outlined in the [Year One Achievements Community Action Tables 2022-2026](#).

4. Analysis

The six objectives outlined in the Plan are being achieved

Through proactive, locally driven, and targeted actions, the six strategic objectives outlined in the Plan are being achieved. The following examples outline key actions underway that support the Plan's objectives.

1. **Bringing partners together and strengthening community capacity:** Local action plans are underway. Membership on Community Action Tables and Children, Youth and Family

Situation Tables continues to grow. Multiple partnerships are being leveraged to achieve collective community impact.

2. **Leveraging strengths, and bridging gaps where they exist:** Community engagement continues to build on existing strengths. Partnership data is used to target identified risks and gaps to improve service navigation and connections.
3. **Targeting efforts to communities that can benefit most:** Beginning to pilot the expansion of some initiatives to cover additional areas where evidence and data-informed needs have been identified.
4. **Focusing on top opportunities for action and prioritizing preventative initiatives:** Actions focus on priority risks of Mental Well-Being, Housing Stability and Economic Stability and have expanded to include the roll out of preventative and innovative initiatives such as youth focused programs.
5. **Setting up for success by mobilizing resources and collaborating to drive change:** Securing and coordinating resources remain a priority, including funding to support local implementation and drive policy change. In [May 2023](#), Council approved the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan as a priority area under the Community Investment Fund. Research to establish a funders table is underway.
6. **Delivering the Plan and building on success:** The Region continues to steward the Plan engaging approximately 6,000 residents through Community Action Tables in the first year of the Plan. As work continues, an evaluation framework is in development to inform future direction.

Community Action Tables are making a positive impact across all focus areas

Under the guidance of a [lead agency](#), each Community Action Table brings a broad range of community partners and residents together. Knowledge and lived experience to co-create approaches help to mitigate risks and foster and strengthen inclusion and belonging in our communities. At the end of 2022, 43% (52 of 122) of the actions from the four local action plans were completed or underway (see Appendix A – Community Action Tables Accomplishments Overview). By the end of 2023, Community Action Tables are projected to have 83% (101 of 122) of the actions completed or underway.

As actions are completed, it is expected the outcomes will contribute to an increased sense of belonging and a reduction in risks affecting safety and well-being. Below are some examples from residents of the impact of our Community Action Tables in community.

- “As a newcomer in Canada, the support we got from the South Markham Community Action Table Ambassador Siva (Lead Community Ambassador) was resourceful. She helped guide me by providing me with mental health resources during our difficult transition into our new life in Canada. I want to thank South Markham Community Action Table from the bottom of our hearts.”

- “Working with the Richmond Hill Community Action Table Coordinator on the Communi-Tea event was a pleasure. Family Services York Region is a responsive and welcoming team and well organized.”
- “These community luncheons mean so much to my son and I for our mental well-being, as our family has been going through a lot lately. It means a lot that my son can volunteer here as well.”
- “The work of the Community Action Tables is tremendous; great to see support being provided to the Newmarket Heights neighbourhood.”

Successful Partnership with York Regional Police is recognized as a leading practice

Working in partnership, York Region and York Regional Police continue to identify opportunities to align projects and initiatives, share data and collaborate on funding opportunities, participate on Community Action Tables and other initiatives to foster stronger relations with community. York Regional Police co-chair the Children, Youth and Families Situation Tables with the Region, partner on the Mobile Youth Services Hub and are situated to partner on the Traumatic Incident Response Protocol (see Appendix B – Building Safer Communities Fund Initiatives Overview).

In September 2023 York Regional Police and York Region were recognized for the collaboration between the two organizations through their participation on a panel about alternative delivery models featuring the approach taken in York Region to implement the Plan. [The Safety of our Cities Conference](#) was attended by community safety and well-being experts from across North America.

Region signs \$7.3M agreement with Public Safety Canada under the Building Safer Communities Fund

Through the Building Safer Communities Fund (2022 to 2026), York Region will receive \$7.3 million, over four years, to prevent and reduce underlying risk factors that lead to gun and gang prevalence in York Region. Six initiatives have been developed that will help support implementation of the Plan and will roll out over the term of the agreement (see Appendix B).

Using learnings, observations and York Regional Police crime data, York Region has identified other parts of the Region that could benefit from targeted support, such as City of Vaughan and Town of Aurora and has begun to pilot the Building Safer Communities Fund initiatives in these areas.

The Plan supports the Healthy Communities Priority of the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan and supports York Region’s Vision of strong, caring and safe communities.

The Plan aligns with the Support Community Wellbeing Priority and subsequent objectives of the [2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan](#) which focuses on the livability, health, safety and social wellbeing of our communities, and supports Council’s [Vision](#) of strong, caring, safe, communities by developing strategies to improve the overall well-being of communities. The Plan also supports the [Inclusion Charter for York Region](#) vision for a welcoming and inclusive community where everyone can develop to their full potential.

5. Financial Considerations

Although mandated by the Province, there is no dedicated provincial funding to support the Plan. Regional Council has allocated approximately \$435,000 through the 2023 budget approval.

In addition, to support implementation of the Plan, proactive steps and partnerships have been established. To date, \$7.3 million has been allocated from the Federal Building Safer Communities Fund for the first iteration of the Plan (2022 to 2026). In addition, United Way Greater Toronto has contributed \$192,000 (2022 to 2023) by way of funding partners to support a mental health research project and thorough Quick Action Grants where Community Action Tables empowered resident leaders and community agencies to accomplish many actions from their action plans. A Community Safety and Policing Grant for \$750,000 (2022 to 2025) was secured to support staffing in collaboration with York Regional Police. The Region will continue to pursue opportunities through senior levels of government and other sources to advocate for sustained support to implement Plan initiatives. Any additional resources that may be needed will be identified as part of future budget processes.

6. Local Impact

Local municipalities and community members have provided valuable support and insight as they continue to be key partners in implementation of the Plan. From its inception, the Plan's impact is summarized by the following examples:

- Approximately 6,000 residents have been engaged as of mid-September 2023.
- 214 situations of Acutely Elevated Risk have been brought to the Children, Youth and Families Situation Tables, with 142 situations being closed with Acutely Elevated Risk reduced and connection to services made as of end of September 2023. Acutely Elevated Risk refers to situations where imminent harm is present. Without immediate intervention, these situations will escalate and a negative outcome such as criminalization, victimization and/or harm is likely to occur.
- 434 youth served as of end of September 2023 through services of the Mobile Youth Hub and connected to community resources, youth specific programming, and basic needs supports.
- Two community-led pilot projects, the Mental Health Research Project in partnership with York University and Neighbourhood Tenant Support Services Project were launched.
- This progress demonstrates momentum and continued impact of this work through visible stronger community connections and collaborations. A steady increase in participation across all four focus areas can be attributed to streamlining services and partnerships among diverse service providers and supporting impactful resident-led initiatives.

7. Conclusion

The Plan will continue its strategic and collaborative efforts to foster thriving, safe and caring communities. Working alongside local municipalities, resident leaders, community and York Regional Police, the Plan brings together diverse partners to co-create opportunities to act on local priorities. The Community Action Tables continue to be a strong pillar of the Plan that have been instrumental in bringing community together and increasing engagement. The Plan will build on the successes and lessons learned that will help with planning for the future.

For more information on this report, please contact Mary Boushel, Director, Strategies and Partnerships at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 78389. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.



Recommended by:

Katherine Chislett

Commissioner of Community and Health Services



Approved for Submission:

Erin Mahoney

Chief Administrative Officer

October 27, 2023

#15781238

Appendix A – Community Action Tables Accomplishments Overview

Appendix B – Building Safer Communities Fund Initiatives Overview

COMMUNITY ACTION TABLES ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVERVIEW

Metric	Results
Number of actions completed/underway	61 of 122 planned actions were completed in 2022-2023 and 40 are underway. Priority actions going forward include women's wellness groups, housing support workshops aimed at educating both tenants and landlords, pay-what-you-can Fresh food markets, and updating resident and partner informed community asset maps.
Number of residents engaged	<p>Central Newmarket - 2300 York Region residents engaged (distribution of flyers, community dinners, online posting)</p> <p>Northern Georgina - 7060 York Region residents engaged (weekly community lunches, social media outreach, outreach at cultural events and at tax clinics)</p> <p>South-central Richmond Hill - 723 York Region residents engaged (distribution of flyers, community dinners)</p> <p>South-central Markham - 2228 York Region residents engaged (distribution of flyers, community dinners)</p>
Number of participants at the Community Action Tables	<p>Northern Georgina - Approximately 30 members sit on the Table which includes York Region residents, service providers, York Region staff representatives, local municipalities, York Regional Police, United Way Greater Toronto, school boards, and worship groups</p> <p>Central Newmarket - Approximately 58 members sit on the Table which includes York Region residents, service providers, York Region staff representatives, local municipalities, York Regional Police, United Way Greater Toronto, school boards, and worship groups</p> <p>South-central Richmond Hill: Approximately 80 members sit on the Table which includes York Region residents, service providers, York Region staff representatives, local municipalities, York Regional Police, United Way Greater Toronto, school boards, and worship groups</p> <p>South-central Markham: Approximately 72 members sit on the Table which includes York Region residents, service providers, York Region staff representatives, local municipalities, York</p>

Regional Police, United Way Greater Toronto, school boards,
and worship groups

BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES FUND INITIATIVES OVERVIEW

Initiative	Status	Goals
<u>Children, Youth and Family Situation Tables</u>	Launched Jan 2023	Brings together diverse, multi-sector service providers to resolve situations of acutely elevated risk and prevent negative outcomes from (re)occurring.
<u>Mobile Youth Services Hub</u>	Launched Jan 2023	Provides mobile services to vulnerable youth in identified high traffic areas. Aims to increase resource access, social inclusion and community safety through crisis intervention and prevention supports.
<u>Service Navigator Pilot Program</u>	Launched Aug 2023	Provides youth and other residents with improved service access and navigation tools to increase awareness and access to available supports. Service Navigators have cultural connections, community connections and/or lived experience with priority risks. Service navigators can be embedded in locations such as schools and hospitals.
<u>Youth Supporting Youth Pilot Program</u>	Launched Aug 2023	Uses a peer mentorship approach to support youth with strategies and coping mechanisms to increase protective factors and reduce underlying risk factors. Program offers peer support certification and workshops at local schools and in the community on topics.
<u>Community Violence Prevention Funding</u>	Launched Aug 2023	Students, grassroots organizations, and agencies can apply for funding to undertake community driven proactive actions to reduce underlying risk factors that can lead to youth crime, harm and victimization.
<u>Traumatic Incident Response Protocol</u>	Q4 2023	Following a traumatic incident in the community, the program will identify and mobilize local municipalities and community partners.

Vacant Home Tax Update

On November 23, 2023 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. Council not proceed with implementing a Vacant Home Tax for the financial reasons outlined in this report.
2. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the local municipalities for information.



The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Finance and Administration
November 9, 2023
FOR DECISION

Report of the Commissioner of Finance and Chief Planner Vacant Home Tax Update

1. Recommendations

1. Council not proceed with implementing a Vacant Home Tax for the financial reasons outlined in this report.
2. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the local municipalities for information.

2. Purpose

This report provides updated information for Council's consideration regarding the financial feasibility of implementing a Vacant Home Tax in York Region, including recent data about the housing market, the progress of the Province's legislative framework, and the experience of other Ontario municipalities.

Key Points:

- Vacant Home Tax is a policy tool created when market conditions made commercialization of homes more prevalent. While investment activity in the housing market continues, interest rates have driven up the cost of financing. Higher costs and slowly declining housing prices are expected to make it less financially viable for investors to buy homes and leave them vacant
- While data about the impact of Federal legislation, including the two-year ban on foreign purchases of homes and the Underused Housing Tax, is still not yet available, it is expected that these will result in fewer vacant homes
- Based on recent data from Statistics Canada and preliminary vacancy information published by Toronto and Ottawa, updated estimates suggest the Region could expect

up to 80% fewer vacant homes than KPMG’s previous estimate resulting in revenues over four years of at least \$27 million lower than initially forecasted

- Although the program is not expected to be self-sustaining for the Region, as most other Ontario municipalities have also determined, the potential effectiveness of the program as a housing affordability policy tool could be further explored as part of the Affordable Housing Implementation Plan

3. Background

A Vacant Home Tax (VHT) is a policy tool that was designed to increase availability of the existing housing supply by encouraging owners of vacant homes to return them to either the rental or resale markets.

In 2017, the Province granted the City of Toronto the authority to levy a VHT and allowed other Ontario municipalities to apply for designation to do the same.

In [October 2021](#), Council directed staff to conduct a feasibility study for implementing a VHT in York Region. This study was prepared by KPMG, using assumptions based on the City of Vancouver’s experience, and showed that a VHT could be financially viable. These results were presented in a report to Council in [September 2022](#).

In [May 2023](#), an updated report to Council recommended that any further consideration of the tax be deferred to ensure its alignment with the Province’s new VHT Policy Framework and to conduct updated cost and benefit estimates that reflected changing economic and legislative conditions.

Council directed staff to report back in the Fall of 2023 about this matter with updated information.

Increased financing costs and lower house prices may mean that fewer investors are buying homes and then leaving them vacant

Investors are a major source of homes that are being left vacant and may be subject to a VHT.

Since May 2023, the Bank of Canada has enacted two more interest rate increases, reaching its highest overnight level since 2001. Recent Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation data showed that by the second quarter of 2023, the average mortgage payment in Ontario had increased by 17% over the prior year. Due to these higher carrying costs, many more homeowners are now listing their properties for sale. Between June and July of this year, the number of unsold listings increased by 50% in York Region. In response, York Region’s average home resale price fell by 2% in June, and by another 1% in July.

Current cost pressures, and the potential for further price corrections, could further discourage prospective investors from buying homes and then leaving them vacant.

Higher rent revenues may also encourage investors to rent existing vacant homes

According to rental reports published by the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board, by the second quarter of this year, the number of condominium units listed for rent in York Region had increased by 62% compared to last year.

Despite rents increasing by 9% over last year in York Region, many newly listed units are now tenanted, and the number of leased units has grown by 45% over the same period. The higher potential for rent revenues and higher carrying costs may already be encouraging more owners of vacant homes to list them for rent.

Senior government programs could also help reduce the number of vacant homes

The Federal Underused Housing Tax, effective January 2022, discourages homeowners from leaving their properties vacant. However, the reduction in the number of vacant homes due to this tax cannot be estimated until at least 2024 as the Canada Revenue Agency is accepting penalty-free Underused Housing Tax payments up to an extended deadline of November 1, 2023.

The federal government implemented a two-year ban on foreign purchases of homes, which came into effect in January 2023. While the impact has not yet been quantified, data from British Columbia's Speculation and Vacancy Tax program and [research](#) from the United Kingdom suggests that homes purchased by foreign investors are more likely to be vacant.

Once data is available, the impact of foreign ownership on York Region's housing market could be better assessed; however, both factors suggest the number of vacant homes in York Region could fall compared to prior figures.

The Province has not released its Vacant Home Tax Policy Framework

Any municipality requesting Provincial designation to levy a VHT will need to align with the Provincial Policy Framework. A draft of the framework was initially expected in March 2023, but it is not yet available. The Policy Framework could impose limitations on a potential program.

Most Ontario municipalities are not expected to implement a Vacant Home Tax, primarily due to their financial feasibility concerns

The Cities of Toronto, Ottawa, and Hamilton are the only Ontario municipalities that may levy the tax by legislation or designation, respectively. Halton Region is in the process of designing a program for potential implementation in 2024. To date, all other Southern Ontario municipalities

that have evaluated a tax did not proceed with implementation primarily due to financial feasibility concerns. This is summarized in Appendix A.

Peel has suspended its implementation of a Vacant Home Tax

In April, Peel Region requested that local municipalities provide letters of support to support the Region's application for Provincial designation to implement a VHT. Mississauga and Brampton did not provide supporting letters, and Caledon sent a letter of dissent for the proposed tax.

On July 6, 2023, Peel Region formally suspended its implementation of a VHT.

Early vacancy figures from Toronto and Ottawa are expected to decrease once appeals and audits have been fully processed

Figures are expected to decrease from those shown in Table 1. Toronto expects to receive more Notices of Complaint for the 2022 tax year until April 15, 2024, and final data will be available after a three-year audit process. Ottawa's figures do not reflect the outcome of 2,800 Notices of Complaint. At the time this report was written, Ottawa staff reported that 86% of Notices of Complaint processed were accepted as not being vacant for the purpose of the tax.

Table 1
Updated Vacant Homes in Ottawa and Toronto

Municipality	Declared Vacant	%	Deemed Vacant	%
Toronto ¹	2,161	0.26%	17,437	2.13%
Ottawa ²	3,268	0.97%	2,836	0.84%

¹ Data as of August 1. Reflects a reduction of over 27,000 vacancies due to Notices of Complaint processed to date

² Data as of April 30. Does not reflect decisions on over 2,800 Notices of Complaint

Toronto and Ottawa are expected to implement changes to their Vacant Home Tax programs

Toronto and Ottawa will introduce exemptions for newly constructed properties starting in the 2024 tax year, which could reduce the number of homes subject to the tax. Other program changes are also taking place. For example, on [August 23](#), Ottawa Council directed that the declaration process be improved and simplified and on [October 11](#), Toronto City Council approved a plan to increase the tax rate from 1% to 3% for the 2024 taxation year. Also, Toronto will tax homes that do not meet the definition of a short-term rental (e.g., Airbnb) that are being rented for 28 days or longer, but do not have a lease in place.

The long-term impact of these changes on the number of vacant homes and tax revenues is not known at this time.

Vancouver has cancelled its planned vacant home tax increase

On May 10, 2023, the City of Vancouver cancelled the Empty Homes Tax (their version of the Vacant Home Tax) rate increase from 3% to 5% planned for the 2023 tax year due to concerns that higher evasion would result in additional audit and enforcement expenses. Like Ottawa and Toronto, Vancouver introduced a new exemption for vacant new units retroactive to 2022 resulting in \$3.8 million in taxes being refunded. The associated staff report suggested the reduction in vacant homes since 2017 might not be a trend that continues in a post-pandemic environment, and more time is required to assess the effectiveness of the tax.

Consultations with other municipalities considering a Vacant Home Tax have shown that cost savings through joint administration would not be achievable

Consultations were held during the summer with GTHA municipalities that either are levying or planning to implement a tax and joint processing agreements for other programs were reviewed. Through this process, staff determined that all participating municipalities would require identical VHT programs with no variations in exemptions, program features, timelines or vacancy thresholds to be able to realize savings from sharing resources efficiently. Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) data-sharing restrictions also limit the ability to share resources among municipalities.

Of the three Ontario municipalities that are currently levying a vacant home tax, all have different programs, and none expressed an interest in joint administration. Therefore cost savings from a joint processing facility are not achievable.

4. Analysis

In October 2023, Statistics Canada released new data highlighting major differences between York Region's and the City of Vancouver's housing markets. Staff have analyzed these differences and their impact on previous assumptions.

York Region could have fewer properties subject to a Vacant Home Tax, with lower assessed values, than had been previously assumed

Statistics Canada data, summarized in Table 2, show that 43% of all condominium units and 14% of single-family detached homes in Ontario are owned by investors. Among York Region properties, fewer are owned by investors across all housing types compared to the Provincial

average. Since primary residences would be exempt from a VHT, this suggests fewer homes may be subject to the tax than previously anticipated.

Table 2
Share of Properties Owned by Investors (Non-Primary Residences)

Housing Type	Ontario	York Region
Single Family Detached	14.1%	9.0%
Semi-Detached	15.3%	12.9%
Row House	21.2%	16.6%
Condominium	42.6%	33.1%
Total	20.1%	13.2%

Source: Canada Housing Statistics Program Residency ownership and property use by residential property type and period of construction (Table 46-10-0070-01), 2021

York Region has fewer investment properties than any Canadian municipality levying a VHT, illustrated by Table 3. In addition, these taxable homes typically have lower assessed values than primary residences. The assumption that York Region's vacant homes would have higher-than-average assessed values like in Vancouver resulted in revenue projections that could be overestimated by at least \$3 million in the first year alone.

Table 3
Share and Relative Value of Taxable Homes

Municipality	Share of homes owned by investors (non-primary residences)	Assessed value of non-primary vs. primary residences
Vancouver	31.3%	131%
Toronto	23.6%	99%
Ottawa	17.8%	115%
Hamilton	15.7%	93%
York Region	13.2%	69%

Sources: Canada Housing Statistics Program Residency ownership and property use by residential property type and period of construction (Table 46-10-0054-01), 2021; Vancouver Empty Homes Tax Annual Report 2021 Vacancy Reference Year

Updated projections show a Vacant Home Tax in York Region would likely not be self-sustaining

Toronto and Ottawa data on vacant homes by housing type was applied to York Region's housing mix, and Statistics Canada data informed assumptions about the number of taxable properties and their assessed values. Table 4 shows that depending on whether York Region's experience more closely resembles Toronto's or Ottawa's, the Region can expect between 290 and 1,052 vacant homes, up to 82% lower than initial forecasts.

Table 4
Updated York Projections for Vacant Homes and Tax Revenues

Scenario	Initial Vacant Units	Revenues (\$ millions) ¹			
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Original ²	1,605	13.6	12.2	10.9	9.7
Preliminary Toronto Experience (Low)	290	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.1
Preliminary Ottawa Experience (High)	1,052	5.7	5.0	4.4	3.9

¹ Based on a 1% tax rate

² Forecasted by KPMG, presented in May 2023

A Vacant Home Tax will be reviewed again, as a policy tool, as part of the Affordable Housing Implementation Plan

Although the program is no longer considered to be feasible from a solely financial perspective, the experience of Vancouver suggests that it could be an effective policy to help reduce the number of vacant homes, especially as the City increased its tax rate. The potential use of a VHT will be assessed among other policy tools as part of the Affordable Housing Implementation Plan, expected in 2024.

5. Financial Considerations

As Table 5 demonstrates, a VHT in York Region would be expected to generate total net losses of between \$1.2 and 14.9 million over the first four years of implementation, based on cost estimates prepared by KPMG. However, there are additional risks to net proceeds, including additional enforcement resourcing needs, possible litigation costs, revenue impacts of any additional exemptions, and complexities related to implementing a VHT in a two-tier environment, which cannot be quantified. As a result, actual net losses could be even higher

than projected. The potential for tax levy pressures rather than the planned net revenues support a recommendation not to proceed with implementing a VHT.

Table 5
Updated York Projections for Vacant Homes and Tax Revenues

(\$ millions)		Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Revenues ¹	Low		1.6	1.4	1.2	1.1
	High		5.7	5.0	4.4	3.9
Costs ²		(0.2)	(7.3)	(5.0)	(3.8)	(3.9)
Net Revenues/ (Costs)	Low	(0.2)	(5.7)	(3.6)	(2.6)	(2.8)
	High	(0.2)	(1.6)	-	0.6	-

¹ Based on a 1% tax rate. The Low and High revenue scenarios are based on revenue forecasts assuming York Region's experience would be similar to that of Toronto or Ottawa, respectively

² Forecasted by KPMG, presented in May 2023

6. Local Impact

KPMG's April 2023 final report recommended a hybrid administration approach as the most cost-effective option, with shared responsibilities between the Region and its local municipalities. Should York Region proceed with implementing a VHT, local municipal administrative impacts and concerns, such as potential resident confusion, resource and capacity pressures, and information-sharing challenges would need to be resolved.

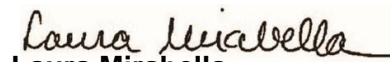
7. Conclusion and Next Steps

The VHT was introduced when housing market conditions could potentially lead to homes being purchased as investments and left vacant. Based on updated information, the tax is not expected to be self-sustaining in York Region. However, figures may change as the number of vacant homes reported by the Cities of Ottawa and Toronto are finalized.

Staff will continue to monitor the programs at other Ontario municipalities and provide updates as required. While updated figures suggest the tax may not be financially feasible, the effectiveness of the policy on housing affordability and availability will be further assessed through the Affordable Housing Implementation Plan expected in 2024 for Council consideration.

For more information on this report, please contact Edward Hankins, Director, Treasury Office and Deputy Treasurer at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71644 or Sandra Malcic, Director, Long Range Planning ext. 75274. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Recommended by:



Laura Mirabella

Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer



Paul Freeman, MCIP, RPP

Chief Planner



Approved for Submission:

Erin Mahoney

Chief Administrative Officer

October 26, 2023

1533383

Updated Interjurisdictional Scan

Municipality	Initial Tax Rate ¹	First Reference Year (calendar)	Status
City of Toronto	1	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bills sent to property owners in Mar. 2023 • Accepting Notices of Complaint until Apr. 2024 • Three-year audit process to begin
City of Ottawa	1	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bills sent to property owners in Jun. 2023 • Accepted Notices of Complaint until Sept. 2023 • Audit process underway
City of Hamilton	1	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration portal under development • Mandatory declaration notices to be mailed mid-December 2023
Region of Peel	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program suspended in Jul. 2023 due to dissolution of Region of Peel
Region of Halton ²	1	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed program design expected in Fall 2023
City of Windsor	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deferred implementation in Jul. 2023, until the Provincial framework is released
City of Niagara Falls	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council declined to implement a tax in Feb. 2023 due to financial feasibility concerns
City of Kitchener	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council declined to endorse a tax in Aug. 2022 due to financial feasibility concerns
Region of Waterloo	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declined to implement a tax following the City of Kitchener's decision
City of London	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declined to implement a tax in Jan. 2022 due to financial feasibility concerns

Municipality	Initial Tax Rate ¹	First Reference Year (calendar)	Status
Region of Durham	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declined to implement a tax in Mar. 2023 due to financial feasibility concerns
Town of Blue Mountains	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declined to explore implementing a tax in Apr. 2023 due to program design and administrative complexities

¹Expressed as a per cent of Current Value Assessment as determined by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation

²Initial tax rate and reference year are subject to Council approval



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August 17, 2023

To York Regional Council

Hello,

I wanted to pass along an open letter, sent this week by legal clinics from across Ontario, including ours, responding to apparent increased frustration and animosity by some Ontario municipalities against their unhoused residents. The anti-homeless by-law proposed in Barrie was one example. Orillia, for instance, recently passed an anti-homeless bylaw and Timmins is considering moving their homeless shelter into the bush. Many communities continue to evict residents from homeless encampments.

<https://www.orilliamatters.com/local-news/atherley-road-homeless-encampment-cleared-away-by-city-7140618>

<https://www.barrietoday.com/local-news/cheap-shot-new-orillia-bylaw-bans-tents-shelters-on-city-land-7298566>

<https://www.timminspress.com/news/local-news/city-confident-in-new-protocols-for-removing-encampments>

<https://www.timminspress.com/news/local-news/council-passes-motion-calling-for-relocation-of-living-space>

The open letter was sent to all Ontario municipalities and urges them to follow the legal requirements set out by the Superior Court in the case of *The Regional Municipality of Waterloo v. persons Unknown and to be Ascertained*, 2023 ONSC 670. These dictate that encampment evictions only occur once a municipality has provided accommodation alternatives that genuinely meet the needs of diverse encampment populations.

Although we are happy to support the province-wide effort, we are also pleased to report that, so far as we can tell, York Region is taking a compassionate, progressive approach to its unhoused residents and is doing about all it can to support them. We don't hear about encampment evictions. You may recall that CEO Emmerson spearheaded, and you unanimously supported, the Region allocating an additional \$14M to homelessness relief this year. We believe that his approach has informed the work of the Region.

The homelessness crisis is serious and continues to grow in York Region - in considerable part because the federal and Ontario governments have not made serious commitments to getting back in the business of building rent-g geared-to-income housing, as it used to do before downloading this to municipalities in the '90s (and it underbuilt in York Region before that).

But while much more work is needed, we believe that York Region is working in good faith to do all it can to fight the homelessness crisis, and want to express our appreciation on behalf of our client community.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Schlemmer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Schlemmer
Executive Director

Full Disclosure: York Region, as part of its homelessness reduction efforts, provides CLCYR with \$280,000/yr. for an Eviction Prevention Program.

To all Municipal Councils in Ontario

Community Legal Clinics provide poverty law services for vulnerable and marginalized people throughout Ontario. One of our clinics recently represented unhoused residents of Waterloo Region in the municipality's lawsuit to evict residents living at an encampment. Other clinics are representing unhoused residents against the municipalities of Hamilton and Kingston who are attempting to do the same.

We are writing to you to express our concerns regarding the approach taken by some municipalities in Ontario towards encampment evictions despite the recent ruling of the Ontario Superior Court in [The Regional Municipality of Waterloo v. Persons Unknown and to be Ascertained, 2023 ONSC 670](#) (the *Waterloo* decision), which held that the proposed encampment evictions were unconstitutional because they violated the *Charter*.

No one wants to see our neighbours living in encampments. However, the *Charter* dictates that unless and until encampment residents are provided with truly accessible accommodation, evictions should not occur. Moreover, encampment residents deserve to be consulted and involved when municipalities are attempting to find solutions for them.

An alarming and increasing number of Ontarians, most of whom are living with disabilities, are now forced to live outdoors in dire poverty. They are forced to live outside because of many systemic factors, including:

1. Deplorably low social assistance rates (shelter rates are stuck at monthly rates of \$556 for Ontario Disability Support Program recipients and \$390 for Ontario Works recipients);
2. A federal government that stopped supporting public and market affordable housing for almost three decades;
3. A [Landlord and Tenant Board](#) that prioritizes hearing landlord's rights applications over tenant applications; and,
4. A provincial government that has made rent [less affordable](#) by not only maintaining the absence of rent control for vacant units, but also introducing new rent control exemptions.

As the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has [noted](#), the homelessness crisis in this province is a "made in Ontario crisis" brought about by the policy decisions and choices of successive provincial governments over the past three decades.

Municipalities are responding to the needs of their residents differently. Some are taking a tacit acceptance approach to encampments, where bylaws are not being enforced and policies are being enacted focusing on a [human rights based approach](#). This approach often involves bringing residents into the decision making table and treating them as rights holders to determine the best way that they can be supported. Unfortunately, other municipalities are taking the opposite approach and focusing on clearing and forcibly removing residents, resulting in people being displaced with nowhere else to go.

Forcibly removing encampment residents without judicial oversight in this way is both unethical and unconstitutional, as set out in *Waterloo*. Where disputes over encampments arise, municipalities must first consider whether their bylaws and policies comply with this decision. *Waterloo* held that Bylaws permitting municipalities to remove encampments and their residents from municipally-owned property could not be enforced unless and until the municipality had provided truly accessible accommodation which genuinely meets the individual needs of the encampment's residents.

There are many legitimate reasons why an individual may be unable to access a shelter bed, many of which were summarized in *Waterloo*. The *Charter* requires that a municipality not only demonstrate that it has enough shelter beds to serve the number of people experiencing homelessness, but also that those beds meet the needs of the people they are intended to serve. Enforcing encampment evictions in the absence of suitable indoor alternatives is unconstitutional.

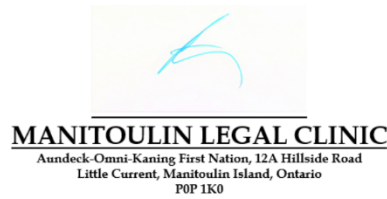
Waterloo also endorsed the process of a municipality bringing the issue to the Court for a determination of at what point the legal standard is met, and invited the Region of Waterloo to return when it believes that it has satisfied the Charter's requirements. Kingston City Council is following this same approach. Notwithstanding this, litigation is never the best use of taxpayers' dollars. It expends limited funding that could be used for providing shelter. It expends the limited resources of community legal clinics and non-profit organizations. Lastly, it creates new trauma and uncertainty for individuals who are unhoused. Instead, we urge you to follow the recommendations found in the [National Protocol for Homeless Encampments in Canada](#), including consulting with residents of encampments and community stakeholders.

We urge municipal leaders to lead with a human rights based approach and respect and follow the *Waterloo* decision and the [Bamberger](#) decision from British Columbia. Enforcement and displacement should be used as a last resort. Any enforcement ought to be guided by the Superior Court as sought by applications by the Regional Municipality of Waterloo and the City of Kingston.

We are happy to provide further information or to discuss this with you or your legal representatives at your convenience.

Yours truly,





- c.c. Hon. Nina Tangri
Associate Minister of Housing
- c.c. Hon. Sean Fraser
Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
- c.c. Colin Best
President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Appendixes to Open Letter to all Municipal Councils in Ontario

Appendix A: Reasons Encampment Dwellers May Not Stay in Shelters

There are many reasons why an encampment dweller may not wish to stay at a group shelter. *The Regional Municipality of Waterloo v. persons Unknown and to be Ascertained*, 2023 ONSC 670 decision stands for the principle that these must all be addressed before a municipality may be said to offer truly low-barrier accommodation.

These include:

1. Generally shelters require occupants to leave during the day. They have no place to go or a way to get there. If the shelter is full upon their return they might not get in for the night. Ironically, encampments may be less transient. Shelter stays are inherently unpredictable and precarious. Many people can find themselves abruptly evicted onto the street at any time of day and with any weather conditions. People who have routinely experienced shelter evictions may opt to remain in an encampment because they know it has the ability to provide more day-to-day stability.
2. Shelters generally don't permit family or couples. Separation causes stress, anxiety and panic in partners who can no longer protect each other. If separated, one partner may not find shelter space. Often the other will stay with them in encampments in order to avoid this. Many unhoused citizens do not have cell phones that would otherwise assist with reconnecting.
3. Shelters generally don't permit pets. Pets can be the biggest source of emotional support for unhoused citizens. The loss of their pets (including the risk of their being put down) can be traumatizing for them and can lead to dysregulation.
4. Shelter spaces are often abstinence-based, refusing to adopt a harm reduction approach to provide increased safety and support. These structural barriers lead people to prioritize their safety by staying outside where they can access the support of peers and harm reduction services to stay well and stay safe. Many shelters do not allow substances to be stored onsite. Some shelters do not allow harm reduction materials. Despite these restrictions, drug use can be rampant in shelters. People who are attempting to maintain sobriety are at risk of compromising their sobriety if they are at a shelter where drug use is high and it is trafficked. Sobriety is also threatened when people cannot bring harm reduction materials into shelter.

5. Shelters generally have no place for belongings. Items like tents, cooking and warmth tools, and clothing can take significant effort to obtain. When people living unhoused have to leave their tents, or their encampments are cleared, they are at high risk of losing all of their hard-won possessions. Given that shelters are routinely full and residents do not often have phones, they must walk with their possessions from shelter to shelter. It is very physically taxing, especially for those with physical disabilities, to spend their days like this.

6. As a population that experiences exceptionally high rates of physical disability (according to one study conducted in Toronto, 43% of homeless respondents reported arthritis or rheumatism, 23% reported problems walking, a lost limb, or another physical handicap, 20% reported heart disease, and 17% reported high blood pressure, among others) encampments can provide reprieve from the need to constantly be moving and carrying belongings.

7. It can be very difficult for people with some mental illnesses, or personality or socialization disorders, to cope with other people. Many have been banned from shelters.

8. There is a risk of violence from unstable occupants in group shelters, along with exposure to drug dealers, sexual predators, etc. People with a history of trauma or abuse may be triggered by a group setting of strangers. People have a valid fear of being a victim of an assault or sexual assault in shelter, or may have a history of these incidents during their stay at a shelter that reasonably precludes them from returning to shelter due to this trauma.

9. Encampment residents describe finding a community or family of people they respect and can trust in encampments. They help to watch over each others' possessions and help others when they need it.

9. Some encampment dwellers suffer from disordered reasoning, making it difficult to persuade them to come indoors.

Appendix B: The *Waterloo* and *Bamberger* Decisions

Waterloo decision

The Court in the *Waterloo* decision held that the *Charter* requires municipalities to offer unhoused community residents accommodation that genuinely meets their needs rather than forcing them into accommodation that does not, and that they are constitutionally

entitled to shelter on municipal property until truly accessible accommodation is offered to them.

For reference some of the relevant passages of the *Waterloo* decision are:

[6] *The Region's position is that it does not require the Court's assistance in the determination of its legal rights. It maintains that it may assert its legal rights to evict any trespasser on Region-owned property who are in breach of the By-Law. Rather, the Region brings this application to seek the direction of the Court in how it might enforce its legal rights.*

[93] *To be of any real value to the homeless population, the [housing] space must meet their diverse needs, or in other words, the spaces must be **truly accessible. If the available spaces are impractical for homeless individuals, either because the shelters do not accommodate couples, are unable to provide required services, impose rules that cannot be followed due to addictions, or cannot accommodate mental or physical disability, they are not low barrier and accessible to the individuals they are meant to serve.***

[101] *If evicted from the Encampment, the residents will likely be forced to live in the rough or set up camp somewhere else because there is an insufficient supply of **low-barrier** accessible beds in the Region. In these circumstances, creating shelter to protect oneself is, in my opinion, a matter critical to any individual's dignity and independence. The Region's attempt to prevent the homeless population from sheltering itself interferes with that population's choice to protect itself from the elements and is a deprivation of liberty within the scope of section 7.*

[149] *The By-Law does nonetheless violate the [section 7 Charter](#) rights of the Encampment residents because of complex economic, personal, and social circumstances, including the shortage of accessible shelter spaces in the Region for homeless persons. The homeless of the Region have no place to live, rest and sleep without severe risk to their health caused, in part, by the By-Law's prohibition to erecting any form of shelter on the Region's lands.*

Bamberger decision

The *Waterloo* decision related to municipally-owned property but not park land. With respect to park land a balancing of rights to use is required. Nevertheless, the constitutional right for unhoused occupants to be sheltered on the land takes

precedence over leisure use by citizens, as the British Columbia Supreme Court held in *Bamberger v. Vancouver (Board of Parks and Recreation)*, [2022 BCSC 49](#)

[62] *In my view, there is a “qualitative difference” between the impact of the Orders on those sheltering in the Park at the time the Orders were made and other persons living in the City of Vancouver. I am satisfied the Orders have a significant and important impact on those persons as individuals such that they are entitled to notice and right to be heard: Knight at p. 677.*

[63] *At stake for them is nothing less than their [s. 7 Charter](#) right to life, liberty, and security of the person. **This elevates their right to be heard above ordinary users of the Park, or even particular users of the Park, such as (to take counsel’s example) a soccer team whose game is cancelled when a field is closed for maintenance.***

[97] *A reasonable decision in these circumstances requires the General Manager to satisfy herself that she was truly protecting the constitutional rights of the Petitioners in seeking out a proportionate balance between their rights and the right of members of the public to use the Park.*

York Region' s 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

On November 23, 2023 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. Council to approve the York Region 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, included as Attachment 1.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee, York Regional Police Services Board and local municipalities for their information.



The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Finance and Administration

November 9, 2023

FOR DECISION

Report of the Chief Administrative Officer

York Region's 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

1. Recommendations

1. Council to approve the York Region 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, included as Attachment 1.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee, York Regional Police Services Board and local municipalities for their information.

2. Purpose

This report seeks Council approval of the 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for York Region and York Regional Police in Attachment 1. This document is a text-only version with graphics to be added once text is approved. Under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (the Act), York Region must review and update its multi-year accessibility plan at least once every five years.

Key Points:

- York Region and York Regional Police prepared one combined multi-year accessibility plan and will work together to implement and report compliance with the Province's accessibility legislation
 - A multi-year accessibility plan outlines strategies and actions to prevent and remove barriers for people with disabilities in York Region's and York Regional Police's programs, services and facilities
 - The proposed 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for York Region and York Regional Police (Attachment 1) updates and replaces the Plan approved by Council in April 2020
-

- Key changes to the 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan include an update that York Region and York Regional Police have met all accessibility requirements to date and have identified areas for improvement under each Standard. The continuous improvement actions York Region and York Regional Police will undertake from 2023 to 2027 include:
 - Employment Standards – York Regional Police will develop a specialized course for its staff providing a comprehensive understanding of disability in the workplace
 - Transportation Standards – York Region Transit will conduct an accessibility and best practices review
 - Design of Public Spaces Standards – Review and update the Region's Accessibility Design Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities

3. Background

Ontario's law requires accessibility plans

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) was passed in 2005 with the goal to make Ontario more accessible and inclusive by 2025. To support this goal, the *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation* (IASR) under the AODA sets out accessibility standards for private and public organizations in the areas of Information and Communications, Employment, Transportation, Design of Public Spaces and Customer Service. The [Act and its Regulation](#) also include general, compliance and reporting requirements.

The Regulation requires designated public sector organizations (including municipalities) and other large organizations with 50 or more employees to:

- Establish, implement, maintain and document a multi-year accessibility plan which outlines the organization's strategy to meet requirements under the legislation and to prevent and remove barriers for people with disabilities in its programs, services and facilities
- Develop the plan in consultation with an accessibility advisory committee and people with disabilities
- Make the plan available to the public
- Prepare and post annual status reports
- Review and update the plan at least once every five years

The draft York Region 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (Attachment 1) is the legislated review and update to the [2020 to 2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan](#) approved by

Council in 2020. York Region and York Regional Police prepare one combined plan. View previous plans and annual accessibility status reports at york.ca/accessibility.

Accessibility Plan supports the Region's vision of strong, safe and caring communities

York Region is home to nearly 1.2 million people of all backgrounds and abilities. According to the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disabilities, approximately one in five York Region residents aged 15 and over (or 18%) has at least one type of disability. Accessibility means giving people of all abilities opportunities to participate fully in everyday life.

Creating a community that is welcoming, inclusive and accessible for everyone aligns with the goals set out in Regional strategies and policies including Vision, Regional Official Plan, 2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan – From Vision to Results, Accessibility Policy and the Inclusion Charter for York Region.

The Plan demonstrates York Region's and York Regional Police's commitment to meeting accessibility needs of people with disabilities in a timely and proactive manner. Both organizations aim to provide equitable access to their programs, goods, services and facilities in a way that respects a person's dignity and independence.

York Region and York Regional Police continue to meet legislated accessibility requirements with guidance and advice from the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

York Region and York Regional Police have jointly developed plans and implemented actions to achieve legislative compliance with the Act since 2010 when the first requirements under the Act became law. York Region is the compliance lead for both organizations and Council approves the Plan on behalf of both York Region and York Regional Police.

Accessibility planning in both organizations is currently guided by the multi-year accessibility plan approved by Council in April 2020. This proposed 2023 to 2027 Plan updates and replaces the 2020 to 2023 Plan. The Plan includes actions over the next three years. The end date coincides with the term of York Region's current Strategic Plan. It will be updated in 2027 to align with the new term of Council. Annual status reports highlight accomplishments by York Region and York Regional Police in delivering on the Plan and can be found on york.ca/accessibility.

Accessibility planning and implementation at York Region and York Regional Police are guided and supported by a Council-appointed Accessibility Advisory Committee, as required under the Act. Members of York Region's Accessibility Advisory Committee come from different backgrounds and abilities, represent local municipalities, and are appointed for a term concurrent with Council.

4. Analysis

The Plan outlines actions to meet legislated requirements

The proposed Plan organizes objectives and actions under the five standards and general requirements in the Regulation. These objectives and most actions were approved in the last Council approved Plan, and the proposed Plan builds on, and adds to, these actions. The following provides a description of each standard and the general requirements, with examples of actions:

- Information and Communications Standards – Create, provide and receive information and communications in ways that are accessible to people with disabilities. Examples include accessible websites and web content
- Employment Standards – Incorporate accessibility practices across all stages of employment. Examples include providing accommodations during recruitment, assessment and selection processes and supporting employees with disabilities in the workplace
- Transportation Standards – Make it easier to move around the Region by considering the accessibility needs of people with disabilities. Examples include providing safe storage and handling of mobility aids and automated electronic pre-boarding and onboard announcements for passengers on public transportation. These requirements are not applicable to York Regional Police who do not provide public transportation services
- Design of Public Spaces Standards – Make regional public spaces more accessible. Examples include providing forest trails that are accessible to all users and accessible pedestrian signals for safer crossing at intersections
- Customer Service Standards – Provide accessible customer service to people with disabilities. Examples include mandatory accessible customer service training for all employees and provision of notice of temporary service disruptions
- General Requirements – Implement actions to enhance accessibility across the organization. Examples include using the corporate Accessibility Policy to guide the Region's work, providing employee training on the Regulation and including accessibility criteria in purchases

Most actions in the Plan are already in effect and continue to be part of regular business practices.

The Plan was developed in consultation with internal and external partners, including the public and members of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Act requires the multi-year accessibility plan be developed, reviewed and updated in consultation with people with disabilities and an accessibility advisory committee.

Development of the proposed Plan was informed by consultation with internal and external stakeholders, including internal one-on-one focused conversations and consultations with subject matter experts (AODA leads for each of the Standards), two public YRAAC meetings, online consultation survey (34 responses and over 260 visits to the public consultation page), and social media interactions (over 9000 interactions).

Continuous quality improvement actions are included in the Plan to ensure programs, services and facilities continue to be accessible to everyone

While not legally required to include continuous quality improvement in the Plan, York Region and York Regional Police have traditionally included related actions. The Plan includes a review of compliance processes for requirements of the Act which have been implemented in the past to identify improvements. This ensures our approach remains current.

Key changes to the 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan include an update that York Region and York Regional Police have met all accessibility requirements to date. York Region and York Regional Police have identified areas for improvement under each Standard. The continuous improvement actions York Region and York Regional Police will undertake from 2023 to 2027 include:

- Employment Standards – York Regional Police will develop a specialized course for its staff providing a comprehensive understanding of disability in the workplace
- Transportation Standards – York Region Transit will conduct an accessibility and best practices review
- Design of Public Spaces Standards – Review and update the Region's Accessibility Design Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities

Updates on continuous quality improvement initiatives are included in the annual status reports.

Accessibility legislation and standards are in a constant state of review and resulting amendments may require updates to the Plan

All current requirements set out in the Regulation for designated public sector organizations came into effect on January 1, 2021. However, accessibility legislation and standards are reviewed periodically.

The Act itself must be independently reviewed every three years. The government appoints reviewers to assess the effectiveness of the Act. In 2022, Rich Donovan was appointed to conduct the Fourth Review of the AODA. Mr. Donovan is a globally recognized subject matter

expert on disability and corporate profitability. His review focused on three key areas: potential changes to improve the AODA's success, spreading awareness and building community support, and compliance and enforcement. His report to the Minister of Accessibility and Seniors may result in changes to the Act and its Regulation in the future.

Standards under the Act must be reviewed by the Province of Ontario five years after coming into force. Reviews of Employment, Transportation, and Information and Communications standards have been completed; however, amendments are pending. The mandated review of the Design of Public Spaces is currently underway. The Province is also working on two new standards in the areas of health care and education.

York Region and York Regional Police will monitor, review and respond to any amendments to the Standards by bringing forward any required changes to the Plan, if necessary.

5. Financial Considerations

Accessibility planning is integrated with the Region's business planning and budget process and actions are completed using existing staff resources and approved operating budgets.

6. Local Impact

This proposed Plan supports inclusive communities, a common goal shared with all organizations that have endorsed the Inclusion Charter for York Region, including all of the Region's nine local municipalities. Under the Act, each local municipality is also required to develop a multi-year accessibility plan outlining activities it will undertake to prevent and remove barriers to accessibility for its own programs, services and facilities.

As part of the implementation of the Plan, staff will continue to work together with local municipal counterparts to share information, best practices and resources. Collaborative efforts with and through local municipal accessibility advisory committees and the Municipal Diversity and Inclusion Group (comprised of local municipalities, York Regional Police, school boards, hospitals, local organizations and agencies) will also be undertaken.

7. Conclusion

The Plan meets York Region's legislated requirements for accessibility planning and affirms the Region's commitment to meet the accessibility needs of people with disabilities so that all people have access to Regional programs, goods, services and facilities in a way that respects their dignity and independence.

The Plan will be updated in 2027 to align with the next term of Council and meet the legislated requirement to be reviewed and updated at least every five years. Annual status reports outlining the progress of actions will also be prepared and posted.

For more information on this report, please contact Stephen Maio, Senior Executive Officer at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71420. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.



Recommended by:

Stephen Maio

Senior Executive Officer, People Equity and Culture



Approved for Submission:

Erin Mahoney

Chief Administrative Officer

October 27, 2023

#15801125

Attachment 1 – 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (#1580112)

York Region 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

York Region Logo

York Regional Police Logo

**Accessible formats or communication supports for this document are available upon request.
Please email aoda@york.ca or call 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74562.**

Note: This document is a text-only version. Graphics will be added once text is approved

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Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that York Region is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples including the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Métis peoples and the treaty territories of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Williams Treaties First Nations. Today this area is home to many diverse Indigenous Peoples, and we recognize their history, spirituality, culture and stewardship of this land. We also acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our closest First Nation community.

A Message from York Region Chairman and CEO and Members of Regional Council

York Regional Council strives to build a welcoming and inclusive community where diversity is celebrated and everyone can develop to their full potential, participate freely in society and live with respect, dignity and freedom from discrimination.

In partnership with York Regional Police, The Regional Municipality of York is committed to meeting the accessibility needs of people with disabilities in a timely and proactive manner. We are committed to using reasonable efforts to provide equitable access to Regional programs, goods, services and facilities in a way that respects the dignity and independence of all York Region residents.

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) sets out accessibility standards for organizations to implement with the goal of making Ontario more accessible and inclusive for everyone. With guidance and advice from York Region's Accessibility Advisory Committee, we continue to meet and, in certain circumstances, exceed these standards by identifying, removing and preventing barriers through accessibility planning. Among these actions, York Region strives to make transit accessible for all travellers, maintains four accessible trails in the York Regional Forest and meets Web Content Accessibility Guideline standards across all websites.

The 2023 to 2027 York Region Multi-Year Accessibility Plan highlights and guides the work York Region and York Regional Police are doing to create accessible programs, services and facilities that value the diversity of our residents and allow every person to thrive in a barrier-free community without discrimination.

Message from the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future

The York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee advises York Regional Council and York Regional Police on how to make it easier for people with disabilities to use our programs, services and facilities.

Our committee is made up of passionate, insightful professionals and volunteers who are committed to creating a more accessible York Region. With leadership from Council and the Senior Management Team, YRAAC has worked tirelessly to ensure York Region and York Regional Police have met, and in some cases exceeded the requirements of the Provincial accessibility legislation and its standards.

The committee represents local municipalities, people with diverse backgrounds and different abilities that allow us to offer many perspectives to improve accessibility for York Region residents. To us, accessibility means ensuring that all people have the freedom and opportunity to participate freely in their community.

In 2023, our Committee celebrated a big milestone marking the 20th Anniversary of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee. Since its inception in 2003, YRAAC members have participated in more than 90 formal meetings and provided feedback and consultation on over 250 presentations. We believe that our knowledge, expertise, and most importantly, lived experiences, have positively contributed to making Regional programs, services and facilities more accessible. YRAAC has also been involved in organizing and hosting many accessibility forums and professional development events.

This updated York Region Multi-Year Accessibility Plan builds on the accomplishments of York Region's previous accessibility plans and activities to implement the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA). It also outlines the work ahead to help achieve the vision of creating an accessible Ontario by 2025 and beyond.

Our Region is enriched by contributions from people of all abilities. We look forward to the future and a barrier-free community where everyone is included. It is our privilege to continue to advise Regional Council and York Regional Police on identifying and removing barriers, changing attitudes, and raising awareness about all abilities and the importance of accessibility in York Region.

Summary: A Plan on a Page

York Region Statement of Organizational Commitment

The Regional Municipality of York (York Region) is committed to meeting the accessibility needs of people with disabilities in a timely and proactive manner and will use reasonable efforts to provide equitable access to Regional programs, goods, services and facilities in a way that respects a person's dignity and independence.

York Regional Police Statement of Organizational Commitment

York Regional Police is committed to meeting the accessibility needs of people with disabilities in a timely and proactive manner so that all people may have equitable access to programs, goods, services and facilities in a way that respects their dignity and independence.

The Plan

This 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan outlines how York Region and York Regional Police meet the requirements of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005* and remove barriers in our programs, services and facilities for people with disabilities across five areas that impact our daily lives: information and communications, employment, transportation, design of public spaces, and customer service. AODA also has General and Compliance requirements. We strive to make York Region more inclusive and accessible for everyone.

Did you know?

This Plan only applies to York Region and York Regional Police and outlines how both organizations meet the requirements of the AODA and remove barriers to accessibility in its programs, services and facilities. For more information about accessibility at nine local municipalities, school boards, hospitals and other organizations or levels of governments (federal and provincial), please visit their websites.

York Region at a Glance

York Region is home to nearly 1.2 million people of all ages and backgrounds. It is one of Canada's fastest growing communities and the third largest municipality in Ontario.

According to the Canadian Survey on Disability (2017), approximately one in five residents (or 18%) aged 15 years and over has at least one type of disability.

York Region has nine local municipalities: Town of Aurora, Town of East Gwillimbury, Town of Georgina, Township of King, City of Markham, Town of Newmarket, City of Richmond Hill, City of Vaughan and Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. It is a diverse region which combines urban and rural areas and is in the northern part of the Greater Toronto Area.

The Region provides [services and programs](#) that are delivered across wide areas and require large-scale coordination. These include children's services, court services, economic development, forestry, housing services, long-term care, paramedic services, planning, public health, regional roads, social assistance, transit, waste management and water. Our [Who Do I Call](#) information sheet outlines services offered by local towns and cities.

York Regional Police provide [police services](#) to residents. Key priorities include working with partners in addressing community safety issues, delivering sustainable and effective police services to communities, and ensuring roads, schools and communities are safe through prevention and enforcement.

York Region

Vision:

Strong, caring, safe communities

Mission:

Working together to serve our thriving communities – today and tomorrow

Values:

Integrity, Commitment, Accountability, Respect, Excellence

York Regional Police

Motto:

Deeds Speak

Vision:

To make a difference in our community

Mission:

We will ensure our citizens feel safe and secure through excellence in policing

Values:

Professionalism, Compassion, Fairness, Courage, Respect

About the 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

The Plan outlines the long-term strategies of both organizations to achieve legislated accessibility requirements and improve accessibility within programs, services and facilities. The 2023 to 2027 Plan builds off the success of Council's direction, York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee's advice and the strong foundation of previous multi-year accessibility plans. Each [local municipality](#) is also required to have a multi-year accessibility plan.

The Plan Must be Reviewed and Updated at Least Once Every Five Years

The AODA became law in 2005. The overarching purpose of the AODA is to make Ontario accessible by 2025. Under the AODA, York Region and York Regional Police must establish, review, update and post a multi-year accessibility plan at least once every five years. The legislation also requires organizations to prepare annual status reports on actions taken to improve accessibility and to implement legislated requirements.

The AODA sets out accessibility standards for private and public organizations. The following provides a description of each standard and the general requirements, all of which are addressed in this Plan:

- Information and Communications – Create, provide and receive information and communications in ways that are accessible to people with disabilities
- Employment – Incorporate accessibility practices across all stages of employment
- Transportation – Make it easier to move around through accessible public transportation services
- Design of Public Spaces – Make public spaces more accessible
- Customer Service – Provide accessible customer service to people with disabilities
- General Requirements – Implement actions, including accessibility policies and plans, to enhance accessibility across the organization
- Compliance Requirements – File accessibility reports every two years and comply with other compliance requirements

York Region and York Regional Police Plan Together

York Region and York Regional Police have developed a joint Plan and implemented actions to achieve compliance with the AODA since 2010 when the first requirements of the AODA became law. York Region is the compliance lead for both organizations.

Creating communities where every person can participate is important for people, businesses and community life. An accessible community allows everyone to develop to their full potential, participate freely in society and live with respect, dignity and freedom from discrimination. York Region and York Regional Police continue to plan so services are accessible and welcoming for everyone.

Accessibility planning supports the Region's vision of strong, caring and safe communities. The Plan outlines strategies and actions approved by Regional Council to prevent and remove barriers for people with disabilities in our programs, services and facilities. It details our approach for meeting the

requirements of the AODA. Most actions in the Plan are already in effect and part of regular business practices.

Creating a community that is welcoming, inclusive and accessible for everyone aligns with goals set out in Regional strategies and policies, including the Region's Accessibility Policy and York Regional Police AODA Procedure AI-345.

To maintain organizational focus on [Vision](#), the Region sets priorities over each four year term of Council through the [Strategic Plan](#), in alignment with the four areas of focus: Economic Vitality, Healthy Communities, Sustainable Environment and Good Government. The Corporate Strategic Plan is integrated with the Region's [Multi-Year Budget](#). Vision also serves as the guiding document for the Region's provincially mandated plans such as the [Regional Official Plan](#) and the [Community Safety and Well-being Plan](#).

York Regional Police understands that inclusion matters. Its commitment to promoting equity and inclusion within their organization and the community is demonstrated through the [Inclusion Strategy](#) and the [Business Plan](#), which serves as the organization's roadmap in building a workplace and a region where everyone feels that they belong.

How the 2023 to 2027 Plan is Developed

The development of the 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan includes seven key steps: Consultations (Phase 1), Development of the Plan, Consultation (Phase 2), Council approval of the Plan, Posting and Distribution, Implementation, and Annual Status Reports.

Summary of Consultations

The AODA requires the Plan to be developed, reviewed and updated in consultation with persons with disabilities and an accessibility advisory committee. York Region and York Regional Police collect feedback about the Plan from people with disabilities, the community and the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee.

This requirement was met through consultations with staff, including meetings and one-on-one conversations with subject matter experts, consultations with York Region's Community of Belonging for Staff with Disabilities, Diversity and Inclusion Staff Committee, and York Regional Police Internal Support Network.

Multi-Year Accessibility Plan external consultations included two public YRAAC meetings and an online survey conducted during the Plan's development phase. The survey included targeted outreach to community agencies serving York Region residents with disabilities, Municipal Diversity and Inclusion Group (MDIG), York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC) and accessibility advisory committees within York Region's nine local municipalities.

What we heard

Many survey respondents confirmed that the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan includes the information residents would like to know about York Region's and York Regional Police's accessibility planning. The majority of respondents also confirmed that the Plan is easy to read and understand. Most

respondents answered that they did not encounter any barriers when accessing York Region or York Regional Police programs, services and facilities. Key findings and themes for each of the AODA standards are listed below.

Information and Communications:

- The majority of respondents confirmed that York Region and York Regional Police make its information and communications accessible (this includes verbal, written and digital formats)
- It is important for both organizations to continue to meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0)
- Some respondents noted that it is not always easy to find the information they are looking for

Employment:

- The majority of respondents noted that they are not familiar with York Region and York Regional Police accessible employment processes
- Respondents noted that it is important to be transparent about accessible employment processes, such as hiring practices and accommodations in the workplace on internal and external websites
- Some respondents noted that the application and interview processes may present challenges and barriers

Transportation (York Region Transit):

- The majority of respondents answered that York Region's transportation services are accessible and have improved over the years but would benefit from ongoing training for transit drivers
- Respondents urge the Region to continue to create safe stops that are close to community spaces and various amenities for those with disabilities and to take family needs into account when providing supports to those who have disabilities (e.g. transportation for dependents/minor children)
- Accessible fare and service integration across the Greater and Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA) has been identified as a barrier. Continued collaboration is encouraged between all of the transit agencies and the province to ensure accessible and affordable transit is available to all transit riders

Public Spaces and Facilities (design of public spaces/ built environment):

- The majority of respondents confirmed that newly constructed or redeveloped York Region and York Regional Police public spaces and facilities are accessible, however priority should be given to the remediation of public buildings and public spaces built before 2016
- Accessible washrooms and safety for people with disabilities should remain a priority
- The Region should consider adding information about accessibility features and services offered at its public buildings to make it easier for the public to find this information (physical signage and online)

Customer Service:

- The majority of respondents answered that York Region and York Regional Police provide accessible customer service
- It is important for both organizations to ensure customer service numbers and contact information is easy to find and accessible
- Automated systems may be difficult to navigate

The Plan in Action

This Plan highlights actions to strengthen the accessibility of York Region and York Regional Police programs, services and facilities. It updates and builds on the 2020 to 2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan approved by Regional Council in 2020 and aligns with the term of Council and 2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan. It is integrated with the Region's business planning and budget process and will be updated in 2027 when the new budget cycle begins.

Ongoing Actions and Accessibility Accomplishments

Multi-year accessibility planning was first established in 2013. Since then, York Region and York Regional Police have implemented and met all AODA requirements for broader public sector organizations. Building on the solid foundation of accessibility accomplishments and actions, York Region and York Regional Police will continue to meet and, in some cases, exceed the AODA requirements.

General Ongoing Actions and Accomplishments

Continue to implement the general requirements of the AODA through the following actions designed to enhance accessibility across the organization:

- Continue to use York Region Accessibility Policy and York Regional Police AODA Procedure AI-345 which govern how York Region and York Regional Police achieve and maintain compliance with the requirements of the AODA
- Implement a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan that outlines long-term strategies to achieve AODA requirements and improve accessibility across programs, services and facilities; report annually on the status of the Plan
- Include accessibility criteria in purchases and acquisitions including self-service kiosks
- Train all employees, volunteers and agents on the AODA, the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation and Ontario's Human Rights Code as it pertains to people with disabilities

Information and Communications Ongoing Actions and Accomplishments

Continue to provide accessible information and communication to residents, visitors and employees through the following actions:

- Ensure processes for receiving and responding to feedback are accessible to people with disabilities
- Provide and arrange for the provision of accessible formats and communication supports upon request, in consultation with the requestor and considering the person's accessibility needs. This includes emergency plans and public safety information
- Ensure all existing York Region and York Regional Police websites and web content conform to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA in accordance with the timelines set out by the AODA Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation

What are we proud of?

All existing York Region and York Regional Police websites and web content conform to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA as required by the AODA. Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) are international standards developed through the World Wide Web Consortium for making websites and web content accessible to a broader range of users with disabilities. York Region is responsible for compliance for york.ca and several affiliate websites, including: yorklink.ca, vivanext.com, yrt.ca, yrp.ca and yrpsb.ca (websites for economic development, transit and police services, respectively). York.ca and York Region's affiliate sites are updated constantly, and we continue to monitor and address accessibility issues on an ongoing basis to ensure these websites and web content remain accessible.

Employment Ongoing Actions and Accomplishments

Continue to ensure employment policies and practices are inclusive of people with disabilities with these established actions:

- Ensure all employees and successful applicants with disabilities are informed of available supports and accommodations
- Ensure applicants with disabilities are informed of available accommodations during the recruitment, assessment and the selection processes
- Consult with employees to provide and arrange for accessible formats and communication supports
- Provide employees with individualized workplace emergency response information, upon request
- Maintain a return-to-work process and provide individual documented accommodation plans for employees with disabilities when required
- Ensure the needs of the employees with disabilities are considered for the purposes of performance management, career development, advancement and redeployment

What are we proud of?

York Regional Police Working with Restrictions Internal Support Network

In line with its priority to cultivate an environment of professionalism, respect and well being, in 2022 the York Regional Police established an Internal Support Network (ISN) for employees who represent and support individuals who require workplace accommodations.

Self-identifying as the Working with Restrictions ISN, the group strives to be inclusive and multi-representational of both visible and invisible disabilities. ISNs are voluntary support networks designed to help specific, self-identified groups share information and experiences. ISN members also provide mentoring and guidance to help members develop both personally and professionally. The ISNs raise awareness and promote the importance of an inclusive environment for all members.

Advocating for increased awareness and inclusivity within the workplace so that everyone can participate with purpose and belonging, the group has hosted a Multiple Sclerosis fundraiser; participated in workplace discussions with stakeholders from around the province to increase

awareness; and hosted motivational guest speakers to share their lived experiences on the importance of workplace accommodations.

The Working with Restrictions ISN and the support it receives from the Chief of Police and the Executive Leadership Team, demonstrates YRP's continued commitment to promoting inclusivity, celebrating diversity and reflecting the communities we serve.

Transportation Ongoing Actions and Accomplishments

(Applicable only to York Region as a public transportation services provider)

Continue to ensure York Region's conventional and specialized transportation services are accessible to people of all abilities with these established actions:

- Offer information on the accessibility equipment and features of vehicles, routes and services is available upon request
- Establish documented emergency preparedness and response policies that provide for the safety of people with disabilities
- Ensure people with disabilities are able to board or deboard at the closest available safe location if the official transit stop is not accessible
- Offer safe storage and handling of mobility aids
- Provide alternate accessible arrangements to transport persons with disabilities to their destination if there is a service disruption
- Offer specialized transportation to visitors who are eligible in the jurisdiction where they live
- Coordinate specialized transportation services between adjacent municipalities with connections made from one transportation service to another
- Provide same hours of operation for conventional and specialized transportation services
- Ensure service delay information is provided to a passenger using specialized transportation in a mutually agreed upon manner
- Provide clearly marked priority seating for people with disabilities
- Allow companions and dependents to travel on specialized services with a person with a disability, with notice and paid fare; a support person who accompanies a person with a disability is not charged a fare
- Ensure transit operating contractors provide accessibility training for staff on how best to provide service to people with disabilities, the safe use of accessible equipment and features, emergency response procedures and addressing temporary barriers, in addition to the other AODA training requirements
- Provide an eligibility application process for those wanting to use specialized transit; riders can be deemed eligible for full specialized transportation services, the Family of Services or conventional transportation under three categories: Unconditional (no limit), Temporary (with a time limit) and Conditional (with some conditions for use)
- Offer temporary specialized services for emergency needs or on compassionate grounds
- Accept same day bookings for specialized services and provide same day service based on availability; registrants can also book any number of trips within regular hours of service
- Offer automated electronic pre-boarding and on-board announcements
- Implement transportation specific accessibility performance measures

Transportation Maintenance Procedures and Performance Measures

York Region will continue to implement transportation specific accessibility performance measures.

Elements of the Region's planned activities are as follows:

- **Process for managing, evaluating and taking action on customer feedback** includes but is not limited to the following steps:
 - Customer feedback/complaints are received by York Region Transit (YRT) and Mobility On Request staff representatives, tracked in the complaint tracking system and forwarded to the appropriate functional area for investigation and resolution, and customer follow-up, where requested
 - Monthly reports summarize the number of complaints received and categorize them according to functional area. Customer feedback is used to identify opportunities for service improvement
- **Demographic and ridership projections for specialized transportation services:**
 - YRT undertakes a demand analysis for Mobility On Request as part of the five year service plan. The five year service plan for Mobility On Request includes ridership projection as well as measures to reduce waiting times.
- **Steps to reduce waiting times:**
 - As part of the five year service plan for Mobility on Request, YRT identifies steps to reduce waiting times, including maintaining contractual obligations for on time service delivery and providing same day service.
- **Accessibility equipment failures:**
 - Measures to identify, prevent and address accessible equipment failure is documented in the operating contract between YRT and the operating contractors. These include pre-trip, in-trip and post-trip inspections and regularly scheduled maintenance of vehicles.
- **Development of accessible design criteria to be considered in the construction, renovation or replacement of bus stops and shelters:**
 - YRT ensures that there is a staff representative at every York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting. YRT continues to provide updates and solicit feedback on transit-related matters, including the design of bus stops and facilities, when required. YRT continues to upgrade stops and terminals using accessible design criteria to increase accessibility.

What are we proud of?

York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRACC) members receive transit orientation including a York Region Transit (YRT) Family of Service vehicles tour. Adapting to a virtual environment of YRAAC meetings, a comprehensive descriptive video tour was created featuring accessibility components on vehicles ranging from 60-foot articulated buses to small accessible vans. YRT is compliant in all AODA transportation regulations and continues to strive to go above and beyond in making transit accessible for all travellers. The virtual tour can be used as a teaching tool for others wishing to learn about YRT's accessible fleet.

Design of Public Spaces Ongoing Actions and Accomplishments

Continue to ensure new or redeveloped public spaces comply with specific accessibility design requirements for the following areas:

- Trails, beach access routes and forest trails
- Outdoor public eating areas
- Public play spaces and accessible parking
- Exterior paths of travel including sidewalks and accessible pedestrian signals
- Service counters, fixed queuing lines and waiting areas
- Emergency and preventative maintenance in public spaces

Did you know?

York Region maintains four trails accessible to wheelchairs, strollers and other assistive devices. Accessible trails are wider, clear of large obstructions and graded for ease-of-movement for all visitors. Each trail ranges between 1.5 to 2 kilometres and loops through a variety of landscapes. Accessible parking is available. The York Regional Forest is open to the public 365 days per year with no cost to enter. Accessible trails are located at:

- **Hall Tract** at 15681 McCowan Road in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville – 1.5 kilometres of accessible trails
- **Hollidge Tract** at 16389 Highway 48 in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville – 1.8 kilometres of accessible trails
- **North Tract** at 17054 Highway 48 in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville – 1.7 kilometres of accessible trails
- **Nobleton Tract** at 5345 15th Sideroad in the Township of King – 1.7 kilometres of accessible trails

What are we proud of?

With York Regional Council's leadership and advice of the previous York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee, York Region's new building located at **17150 Yonge Street** in Newmarket was awarded **the Gold Certification by the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC)**. The RHFAC is a national rating system that measures and certifies the level of accessibility of buildings and sites. To receive Gold certification, sites must achieve a rating score of 80% or higher and meet mandatory Gold certification requirements. Some of the accessible and inclusive designs that earned the 17150 Yonge Street building its Gold certification include:

- Accessible paths of travel leading to the building's entrances, which are provided throughout the building
- The site and building incorporate safety warning features, such as tactile attention indicators at the top of stairs and where drive aisles are level with pedestrian paths; cane-detectable features; and features detecting if there are overhead or protruding hazards along the path of travel
- The fire alarm system is equipped with visual and audible signal devices mounted in both public and private areas (e.g., washrooms and changerooms)

This certification is a testament to York Region's commitment to building welcoming and inclusive communities that are accessible to all.

Design of Public Spaces Maintenance Procedures

York Region and York Regional Police will continue to implement the maintenance procedures and performance measures requirements of the AODA through the following actions:

- Review and update procedures for the preventative and emergency maintenance of the accessible elements required in the Design of Public Spaces Standards, such as curbs and ramps, handrails and tactile indicators on stairs
- Review and update procedures for dealing with temporary disruptions when these accessible elements are not working

Customer Service Ongoing Actions and Accomplishments

Continue to offer an excellent accessible customer experience to everyone through the following actions:

- Provide Accessible Customer Service training to all staff and volunteers, and to agents who provide service to the public on our behalf
- Accommodate the use of assistive devices, support persons and service animals
- Receive and respond to feedback regarding the manner in which goods or services are provided to people with disabilities
- Provide notice of temporary service disruptions to programs, services or facilities

Did you know?

York Region launched and operated several COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Clinics during the Covid-19 pandemic that were designed to be accessible by default. This was one of the largest direct service delivery initiatives in its history. Throughout the planning and design phases of the clinics, site selection and accessibility audits were conducted, and the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee was consulted to ensure accessibility standards were being met. Clinic staff who were already AODA trained also received supplemental accessibility content in their clinic training program to provide quality and accessible customer service. The accessibility features of the clinics ensured all persons with disabilities could access these vital services.

Other vaccination clinic options were offered to York Region residents as well, including drive-through vaccination clinics, in-car vaccination options at non-drive-through sites and specialized clinics that meet the unique needs of people, such as children with developmental disabilities. Recommendations for accessibility at Mass Immunization Clinics were documented in the Risk Assessment Planning Tool, which will help inform the development of future clinics.

From March 2021 to August 2023, Mobility On-Request (MOR) completed 2,328 trips to safely connect paratransit customers and seniors to their nearest vaccination clinic within York Region. Drivers provided added support by remaining at clinics to avoid having customers wait outside for their return trips. The MOR team supported stakeholder communications and worked with Public Health on drive-through clinic entrance and exit logistics.

Next Steps

Although not a requirement of the AODA, York Region and York Regional Police will continue to implement continuous quality improvement actions aimed at ensuring programs, services and facilities continue to be accessible to everyone. This includes reviewing processes created to meet the requirements of the AODA to identify opportunities for improvement, including:

- **General Requirements:** review and update Region's accessible procurement practices and procedures. York Region must include accessibility criteria when buying or acquiring goods, services, facilities and self-service kiosks. The Region considers accessibility, along with other criteria like the quality and the cost. These procurement requirements came into effect in 2013 (for public sector organizations). The Region will review and update current processes to ensure the process and resources in place are up to date and reflect best practices.
- **Information and Communication Standards:** review and update Region's Information and Communications Guidelines and enhance access to training, resources and supports for staff in their adoption and application of the guidelines. This includes updated corporate brand standards and resources, accessible Word and PowerPoint templates and style sheets, understanding of colour contrast ratios and increasing adoption of accessible best practices in communications.
- **Employment Standards:**
 - undertake an equity audit to review Human Resources policies from an inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility perspective
 - review York Region's internal disability management program to align with the new Canadian Standards Association (CSA Group) on Workplace Disability Management [CSA Z1011:20](#) – the first National Standard on occupational disability management
 - York Regional Police will develop a specialized course for its staff, that provides a comprehensive understanding of disability in the workplace, reflects on ableism, able-bodied privilege, and accommodations, with the aim of improving inclusion for everyone
- **Transportation Standards:** York Region Transit will conduct an accessibility and best practices review to enable YRT to make informed decisions around how to improve the accessibility of its services
- **Design of Public Spaces Standards:** review and update the Region's Accessibility Design Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities to meet current best practices for newly constructed or redeveloped spaces and to ensure the Region continues to be a leader in developing accessible environments for all
- **Customer Service Standards:** conduct an internal needs assessment to determine opportunities for continuous improvement in serving customers with disabilities

York Region's long-standing commitment to continuous improvement extends to accessibility and continues to drive the Region forward. York Region and York Regional Police will continue to identify areas for accessibility improvements to ensure residents of all abilities can enjoy the same opportunities as they live, work, play and invest in York Region.

Actions to Monitor, Evaluate and Report on AODA Requirements

York Region and York Regional Police will continue to monitor the Province of Ontario's legislative reviews of accessibility laws and requirements. Both organizations will continue to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and its regulations, including any amendments to existing and release of new applicable standards.

As legislated, York Region and York Regional Police will review and update this plan at least every five years. An annual status report outlining the progress of the actions in the plan will also be prepared. These documents will be posted on the Region's and York Regional Police websites at york.ca, yrp.ca, and yrpsb.ca and can be made available in an accessible format or with communication supports upon request. Accessibility (compliance) reports will be submitted every two years as required to the Government of Ontario, which regulates compliance for all Ontario organizations.

In addition to the development of the 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, York Region and York Regional Police will:

- **2023:** File accessibility (compliance) report with the Government of Ontario
- **2024:** Prepare an annual status report
- **2025:** File accessibility (compliance) report with the Government of Ontario and prepare an annual status report
- **2026:** Prepare an annual status report
- **2027:** File accessibility (compliance) report with the Government of Ontario and prepare the 2027 to 2031 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Let Us Know What You Think

We welcome your feedback. Please let us know what you think about the York Region 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and general accessibility matters.

To view this plan online, visit york.ca/accessibility

To request a copy of the plan in another format or to send us your comments or questions, please contact us at:

The Regional Municipality of York

Email: aoda@york.ca

Mail: Accessibility Unit, The Regional Municipality of York, 17250 Yonge Street Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6Z1

Phone: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74562

York Regional Police

Email: accessibility@yrp.ca

Mail: Professionalism, Leadership and Inclusion Office, York Regional Police, 47 Don Hillock Drive Aurora, Ontario L4G 0S7

Phone: 1-866-876-5423 ext. 7643

TTY: 1-800-668-0398

From: [Sudak, Ashley](#)
Subject: York Region Transit Fare Capping Program replacing monthly passes effective January 1, 2024
Date: November 27, 2023 2:55:14 PM
Attachments: [Fare-Capping-Campaign_Ad.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Town of Newmarket. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trusted content.

Good afternoon,

York Region Transit (YRT) Fare Capping Program replacing monthly passes effective January 1, 2024.

- Starting January 1, 2024, travellers can ride YRT for free after 40 trips for adults, 39 trips for youth or 28 trips for senior and child in the calendar month, using PRESTO
- This new Fare Capping Program will replace monthly passes; the last day to purchase a YRT monthly pass is December 14, 2023
- All travellers of any age category can take advantage of fare capping; customers can still enjoy all the benefits of a monthly pass without having to pay in advance
- PRESTO fare payment on any YRT, Mobility On-Request or TTC route in York Region will count towards a customer's monthly trip cap
- For more information, visit yrt.ca/FareCapping

This information is being provided to you in advance of notification to the general public. Travellers will be informed of these changes through notices posted at bus stops (see attached), on-bus, terminal and vivastation announcements, media advisory, YRT Contact Centre, yrt.ca and social media.

For general inquiries, please contact the YRT Contact Centre at 1-866-668-3978 or via email at transitinfo@york.ca.

Save with PRESTO

Beginning January 1, 2024, **free rides** after 40 adult trips, 39 youth trips and 28 senior/child trips in the **calendar month**, using PRESTO.



Note: This new program will replace monthly passes.



November 29, 2023

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building
Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

Please be advised that at the November 28, 2023, Township of Cramahe Council Meeting the following resolution was passed regarding Catch and Release Justice

Resolution No. 2023-319

Moved By: COUNCILLOR SCHRIVER
Seconded By: DEPUTY MAYOR ARTHUR

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive for information the correspondence from the Town of Midland respecting catch and release justice; and

THAT Council direct staff to send a letter of support for the resolution passed by the Town of Midland to the Premier of Ontario, MPP Breese, and all Ontario municipalities

Sincerely,



Nicole Hamilton
Municipal Deputy Clerk
Township of Cramahe
nhamilton@cramahe.ca

cc. Hon. Ric Breese, MPP, Hastings-Lennox & Addington
All Ontario municipalities

THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF MIDLAND

575 Dominion Ave
Midland, ON L4R 1G1
Phone: 705-526-4100
Fax: 705-526-9100
info@midland.ca



September 8, 2023

The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A4

Via Email: sencom@sen.parl.gc.ca

Premier Doug Ford
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON
M7A 1A1

Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: "Catch and Release" Justice is Ontario

At its September 6, 2023, Regular Council Meeting with Closed Session the Council for the Town of Midland passed the following Resolution:

That the Town of Midland send a letter to the Federal and Provincial Governments requesting meaningful improvements to the current state of "catch and release" justice in the Ontario legal system. Police Services across Ontario are exhausting precious time and resources having to manage the repeated arrests of the same offenders, which in turn, is impacting their morale, and ultimately law-abiding citizens who are paying the often significant financial and emotional toll of this broken system; and

That this resolution be sent to other Municipalities throughout Ontario for their endorsement consideration.

Thank you.

Yours very
truly,

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MIDLAND

Sherri Edgar

Sherri Edgar, AMCT
Municipal Clerk
575 Dominion Ave
Midland, ON L4R 1G1



November 27, 2023

Sent to: mkoning@cayrcc.org

Dear Mark Koning:

RE: Lighting Request – December 1 to 3, 2023 – Red For Change and World AIDS Day

On behalf of the Town of Newmarket Council I am pleased to recognize Red for Change and World AIDS Day by illuminating the Fred A. Lundy Bridge located on Water Street in red from December 1 to 3, 2023 from sunset until 11:00 PM.

Thank you for submitting your request and for your contributions to the community.

Yours sincerely,

John Taylor
Mayor



Emily Thomas-Hopkins
Legislative Coordinator
Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive
P.O. Box 328 Station Main
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7
Email: ethomashopkins@newmarket.ca
Tel: 905-953-5300 x2210
Fax: 905-953-5100

November 27, 2023

Sent to: mkoning@cayrcc.org

Dear Mark Koning:

RE: Lighting Request – December 1 to 3, 2023 – Red For Change and World AIDS Day

I am writing to advise that your lighting request has been approved in accordance with the Council-approved [Proclamation, Lighting Request and Community Flag Raising Policy](#), and the Town of Newmarket will illuminate the Fred A. Lundy Bridge located on Water Street in red from December 1 – 3, 2023 to recognize Red For Change and World AIDS Day. Please note that the lighting will occur from sunset until 11:00 PM.

Approved proclamations, lighting requests, and community flag raisings will be listed on the Town's website. Approved lighting and community flag raisings will also be communicated to the public through the Town's social media.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Thomas-Hopkins

Legislative Coordinator



November 27, 2023

Sent to: pamelad@yellowbrickhouse.org

Dear Pamela Deveaux:

RE: Community Flag Raising Request – December 6, 2023 – National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

On behalf of the Town of Newmarket Council I am pleased to announce the community flag pole located at the Municipal Offices at 395 Mulock Drive will fly your flag on December 6, 2023 to recognize the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

Thank you for submitting your request and for your contributions to the community.

Yours sincerely,

John Taylor
Mayor



Emily Thomas-Hopkins
Legislative Coordinator
Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive
P.O. Box 328 Station Main
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7
Email: ethomashopkins@newmarket.ca
Tel: 905-953-5300 x2210
Fax: 905-953-5100

November 27, 2023

Sent to: pamelad@yellowbrickhouse.org

Dear Pamela Deveaux:

RE: Community Flag Raising Request – December 6, 2023 – National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

I am writing to advise that your community flag raising request has been approved in accordance with the Council-approved [Proclamation, Lighting Request and Community Flag Raising Policy](#). The community flag pole located at the Newmarket Municipal Offices (395 Mulock Drive) will fly your flag on December 6, 2023 to recognize the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Please note that the flag must be dropped off at the Town of Newmarket Operations Centre at 1275 Maple Hill Court by 4:00 PM on December 4, 2023 ATTN: Nick Evans. Alternatively, you can leave it in the drop off box at the front of the building after 4:00 PM.

Approved proclamations, lighting requests, and community flag raisings will be listed on the Town's website. Approved lighting and community flag raisings will also be communicated to the public through the Town's social media.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "ETH", written in a cursive style.

Emily Thomas-Hopkins

Legislative Coordinator