

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA  
CONSENT AGENDA  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024**

**A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION**

- p. 1        1. Essa Public Library Report – January 2024.
- p. 3        2. Correspondence from the City of Sarnia dated January 19, 2024, re: Resolution - Carbon Tax.
- p. 5        3. Correspondence from the City of Cambridge dated February 14, 2024, re: Resolution - Catch and Release.
- p. 8        4. Correspondence from the Ministry of Transportation, re: License Plate Renewal(s).
- p. 9        5. Correspondence from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry dated February 16, 2024, re: Update on Regulation of Development for the Protection of People and Property from Natural Hazards in Ontario, and Extension of Minister’s Fee Direction.
- p. 11       6. Correspondence from Prince Edward County dated February 16, 2024, re: Resolution 2021-81 – Review of the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Rates.
- p. 13       7. Correspondence from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks dated February 16, 2024, re: Seeking Input on Proposed New Environmental Assessment Regulation for Municipal Infrastructure.
- p. 15       8. Correspondence from the Township of Perry dated February 26, 2024, re: Request to the Province to Amend Blue Box Regulation for “Ineligible” Services.
- p. 17       9. Nottawasaga Futures Newsletter – February 26, 2024.
- p. 25       10. Correspondence from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities dated February 27, 2024, re: Unveiling FCM’s pre-budget 2024 campaign on infrastructure and a new Municipal Growth Framework.
- p. 42       11. Correspondence from the County of Simcoe:  
p. 49        a) February 20, 2024 – County Council Highlights-Meeting Held February 13, 2024.  
p. 51        b) February 27, 2024 – Release – Warden Statement on the 2026 Recycling Change.  
              c) February 27, 2024 – Release – Update on Regional Waste Management Facility.
- p. 52       12. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
              a) February 21, 2024 –Policy Update – Advancing Energy, Environmental, Social and Economic Prosperity Advocacy.  
p. 54        b) February 23, 2024 – Policy Update – Keeping Energy Costs Down Act, CMHC Housing Data, Seniors Active Living Centres Regulation.

**B – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR ACTION**

None.

**C – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR REVIEW AND REPORT TO COUNCIL**

None.



## January 2024 Report

Prepared by: Emily Nakeff

“ This is such a community hub, it's amazing. For people who don't have many options, this is incredible.

- Patron comment

### Membership

Angus (New)	117
Thornton (New)	9
January 2023 total	107
<hr/>	
Year-to-date total	126
Total Active Cards	3,362

#### MATERIALS CIRCULATED

ANGUS	THORNTON
<b>6,952</b>	<b>856</b>
7,808 TOTAL IN 2024	

#### MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE

ANGUS	THORNTON
<b>541</b>	<b>89</b>
630 TOTAL IN 2024	

#### INTERLIBRARY LOANS

<b>62</b>	Items borrowed from other libraries
<b>26</b>	Items sent to other libraries



A new adult writers group now meets twice monthly at the Angus branch.

Digital library sessions: 460  
Public computer sessions: 270  
WiFi sessions: 7,674

## A PLACE TO IMAGINE, DISCOVER AND CONNECT



Frozen party had a brrrrilliant turnout.

### KIDS

Maker Kit drop-in - AN	39
Lego Drop-in - AN	38
Lego Drop-in - TH	4
Board Game Drop-In - AN	15
Board Game Drop-In - TH	16
<hr/>	
Search and Find: Polar Pals - AN	148
Search and Find: Forest Friends - TH	50
Family Movie - AN	24
Frozen Party - AN	12
Toddler Time - AN	33
Mighty Makers - AN	22
Tinker Tuesday - AN	11
Wiggles & Giggles - AN	23
Mighty Makers - TH	2
Search & Find Snowflakes - AN	25
Search & Find Snowflakes - TH	3

### TEENS

Teen Social - AN	14
Take and Make kit - AN	4
Grade 8 Night - AN	121

### Social Media

YouTube - Total Subscribers	750
YouTube - Views	8,886
Library Zest - Site Traffic	80
Facebook - Total Followers	1,743
Twitter - Total Followers	1,031
Instagram - Total Followers	798

Rollout of the library's new logo received 44 likes and several positive comments on social media:



I love our library :)



Cute !!



What a great change, love it!



### ADULTS

French Conversation Circle	24
Book Club - AN	9
Book Club - TH	7
Hobby Circle - AN	3
Writers Group - AN	7
Movie Night for Adults - AN	14
Board Game Night - AN	4

### SENIORS

Seniors Social - AN	30
Seniors Social - TH	3



**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SARNIA****City Clerk's Department**

255 Christina Street N. PO Box 3018

Sarnia ON Canada N7T 7N2

519-332-0330 (phone) 519-332-3995 (fax)

519-332-2664 (TTY)

[www.sarnia.ca](http://www.sarnia.ca) [clerks@sarnia.ca](mailto:clerks@sarnia.ca)

January 19, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau

Prime Minister of Canada

80 Wellington Street

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

[Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Prime Minister:

**Re: Carbon Tax**

At its meeting held on January 15, 2024, Sarnia City Council adopted the following resolution:

***Whereas the federal government recently increased the carbon tax in April 2023 and will almost triple it by 2030; and***

***Whereas the Parliamentary Budget officer has admitted that when fiscal and economic impacts of the federal fuel charge are considered that the vast majority of households will see a staggering loss; and***

***Whereas this tax flows through from producers to transporters to the grocery store floor for our citizens; and***

***Whereas this tax does very little to reduce pollution and emissions; and***

***Whereas two thirds of Canadians are approximately \$200 away or less from not being able to pay all their bills at the end of the month; and***

***Therefore, be it resolved that Sarnia City Council write a Letter to the Federal government (and copied to other Municipalities for their consideration) strongly urging them to cancel the carbon tax which is financially hurting our citizens at a time***

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***when affordability concerns are at an all-time high to ease the financial and inflationary pressure on our Citizens.***

Your consideration of this request is respectfully requested.

Yours Sincerely,



Amy Burkhart  
City Clerk

cc: All Ontario Municipalities

The Corporation of the City of Cambridge  
Corporate Services Department  
Clerk's Division  
Tel: (519) 740-4680 ext. 4585  
mantond@cambridge.ca

February 14, 2024

**Re: Catch and Release**

At its Council Meeting of February 13, 2024, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge passed the following Motion:

**WHEREAS** this council believes that the safety of our community and its protection from crime in all its forms is of utmost importance.

**WHEREAS** our taxpayer-funded judicial system exists to protect the public, who in return for their tax dollars are entitled to a system that works.

**WHEREAS** the number of charges laid for failure to comply with court orders – primarily failure to comply with the terms of a promise to appear, undertaking, recognizance, probation order, or peace bond – are steadily on the rise in the province of Ontario.

**WHEREAS** there has been a notable increase in the number of violent offences committed in the province of Ontario by individuals who are concurrently subject to release orders.

**WHEREAS** the Ontario justice system is backlogged, court systems under strain, and police and prosecutors overwhelmed by their caseloads.

**WHEREAS** we have seen a dramatic lowering of the threshold for release, resulting in violent, serious, or repeat offenders who should by rights have been reasonably detained in custody, released on supervision plans that are increasingly deficient.

**WHEREAS** the general sense among the criminal population is that breaching bail conditions will not result in much by way of consequence for the offender, as evidenced by a clear pattern province-wide of unjustifiable release, a pattern which is bound to continue given insufficient resources to conduct Crown bail reviews, surety bond estreatment hearings, and ensure the subsequent collection of surety bond funds after judgment.

**WHEREAS** a 'catch and release' system constitutes a failure of government to perform a core function of its existence, that being the protection of public safety and that this failure constitutes a clear and present danger to the public.





**WHEREAS** the current hard drug crisis has contributed to a desperate criminal element that is exacting a significant financial and emotional toll on communities across Canada including Cambridge.

**WHEREAS** our police services are being demoralized by expending precious time and resources having to manage the repeated arrests of these habitual criminal offenders within a system that limits their ability to effectively protect the public.

**AND WHEREAS** this ineffective follow-through by our judicial system unfairly erodes the public's trust in our police services, who consequently become the target of frustrated and angry residents who feel they are no longer being protected from crime.

**AND WHEREAS** the increasing erosion of public faith and trust in our judicial system ultimately brings the administration of justice in the province of Ontario into disrepute and leads to a growing feeling amongst residents that they are no longer protected by a system perceived to prioritize the rights and freedoms of the criminal over the rights and safety of themselves and their families.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Clerk for the City of Cambridge send a letter to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, the Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Attorney General of Ontario Doug Downey, Ontario Solicitor General Michael Kerzner, the Honourable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, MP Bryan May, MP Valerie Bradford, MPP Jess Dixon, MPP Bryan Riddell, Police Chief Mark Crowell, Waterloo Regional Police Service, all Ontario Police Associations and Police Departments, Ontario Provincial Police, all Ontario MPPs and MPs, and all municipalities throughout Ontario for their endorsement consideration, requesting additional funding in Ontario's legal system to support a meaningful resistance to the current "catch and release" practice, including hiring sufficient court staff, with a specific focus on additional assistant Crown Attorneys.

Should you have any questions related to the approved resolution, please contact me.

Yours Truly,

Danielle Manton  
City Clerk



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Cc: (via email)  
Hon. Prime Minister Trudeau  
Hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
Attorney General of Ontario  
Ontario Solicitor General  
Hon. Premier Ford  
Ontario Police Associations  
Ontario Police Departments  
Ontario MPPs and MPs  
All Ontario Municipalities



Ministry of Transportation

Ministère des Transports

Assistant Deputy Minister's Office  
Integrated Policy and Planning  
Division

Bureau du sous-ministre adjointe  
Division des politiques et de la  
planification intégrées

438 University Avenue  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M5G 2K8  
Tel. (647) 302-7129

438 Avenue University  
12<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M5G 2K8  
Tel. (647) 302-7129

**Memo to Chief Administrative Officers re:  
Licence Plate Renewal**

I am writing to provide further information regarding the Government of Ontario's announcement on Feb. 15, 2024, regarding proposed changes to the way licence plates are renewed in Ontario.

The government has announced it will be introducing legislation related to the renewal of licence plates in the coming days, and more details regarding the proposed changes will be released over the coming months.

It is important to note the Government of Ontario is not eliminating licence plate renewals nor is it proposing changes to the plate denial process. The introduction of a new plate renewal process will not change the way municipalities collect unpaid fines.

Plate denial information will continue to support municipal fine collection. As a plate nears its expiry date, the automated system will check if the plate has fines, outstanding tolls, or insurance issues. If the plate has none of these issues, it will be renewed automatically for one year. If the plate has any of these issues, renewal will not proceed and the vehicle owner will be notified that they need to take action, which will include paying any fines or their plate will expire.

Expired plates will continue to be subject to roadside enforcement.

MTO and partner ministries have consulted with key stakeholders, including municipal court managers, throughout the development of this proposal. Further consultations will be held in spring 2024 to discuss the proposal in more detail.

We thank you for your support on this important initiative.

If you have further questions, please contact Katie De Palma at [katie.depalma@ontario.ca](mailto:katie.depalma@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

Jonathan Lebi, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Transportation

Sarah Corbett

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**Subject:** FW: Update: Regulation of Development for the Protection of People and Property from Natural Hazards in Ontario – Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Extension of Minister's Fee Direction

**From:** ca.office (MNRF) <[ca.office@ontario.ca](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca)>

**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2024 3:53:26 PM

**To:** ca.office (MNRF) <[ca.office@ontario.ca](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca)>

**Cc:** Keyes, Jennifer (MNRF) <[jennifer.keyes@ontario.ca](mailto:jennifer.keyes@ontario.ca)>

**Subject:** Update: Regulation of Development for the Protection of People and Property from Natural Hazards in Ontario – Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Extension of Minister's Fee Direction

You don't often get email from [ca.office@ontario.ca](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca). [Learn why this is important](#)

*\*This message is being sent on behalf of Jennifer Keyes, Director, Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch, MNRF\**

Good afternoon:

I am writing to inform you of recent updates under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (the act) regarding the regulation of development for the protection of people and property from natural hazards in Ontario. Amendments to the act that were made in recent years to update the conservation authorities permitting framework and associated regulations will come into effect on April 1, 2024. These changes will clarify and streamline regulatory requirements to focus on natural hazards and public safety and provide greater transparency in the permitting process.

### **Updated rules for the protection of people and property from natural hazards**

Effective April 1, 2024, updated permitting related provisions of the act will come into effect, supported by a new Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits, which set out prohibited activities and areas where a conservation authority permit is required, exemptions for permits for certain low-risk activities, the process for applying for a conservation authority permit, and service requirements for conservation authorities in reviewing permit applications. The new rules will apply to all conservation authorities and replace the existing 36 conservation authority-specific regulations.

Key changes include:

- Updating some definitions and areas where development activities are prohibited, while maintaining important provincial standards.
- Requirements for mapping of regulated areas to be made available online and for public notification to be given of any changes.
- Exemptions from the requirement for a conservation authority permit for some low-risk activities, subject to certain conditions, such as sheds, removable docks, garage rebuilds, fencing, and agricultural drainage.
- Limiting the conditions that can be included on a permit to matters related to natural hazards and public safety and general permit administration.
- Service standards for permit issuance including pre-consultation and confirmation of complete applications within 21-days and requiring annual reporting on permitting statistics



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including reporting on the level of conservation authority compliance with new regulatory requirements.

- Enabling applicants to appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) if a permit decision is not made within 90-days and appeals of permitting fees charged by conservation authorities to the OLT.
- Enabling Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry's tools regarding the review of permit decisions and the issuance of permits.
- Updated enforcement powers and offence provisions under the act, including stop work orders and increased penalties.

A decision notice is now available at the Environmental Registry of Ontario, posting #019-2927: [Proposed updates to the regulation of development for the protection of people and property from natural hazards in Ontario.](#)

### Minister's Fee Direction

I would also like to notify you that the Minister has extended his Direction (through the issuance of a new Direction) to conservation authorities to not change any fees charged as part of their programs and services associated with planning, development, and permitting. This extended direction is in effect as of January 1, 2024, until December 31, 2024.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry at [ca.office@ontario.ca](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

Jennifer Keyes

Director, Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

[ca.office@ontario.ca](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca)

**Please Note:** As part of providing [accessible customer service](#), please let me know if you have any accommodation needs or require communication supports or alternate formats.

*This electronic transmission, including any accompanying attachments, may contain information that is privileged or confidential and is intended only for the use of the recipient(s) named above. Any distribution, review, dissemination, or copying of the contents of this communication by anyone other than the intended recipient(s) is strictly prohibited. If you received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail and permanently delete the copy you have received. Thank you.*

[EXTERNAL]

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February 16, 2024

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of February 13, 2024 the following resolution regarding support for a review of the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates was carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-81**

**DATE:** February 13, 2024

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Roberts

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Hirsch

**WHEREAS** poverty is taking a devastating toll on communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, with people in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program being disproportionately impacted;

**WHEREAS** the cost of food, housing, medicine, and other essential items have outpaced the highest inflation rates seen in a generation;

**WHEREAS** people in need of social assistance have been legislated into poverty, housing insecurity, hunger, poorer health, their motives questioned, and their dignity undermined;

**WHEREAS** Ontario Works (OW) Financial Assistance rates have been frozen since 2018 (\$733 per month);

**WHEREAS** Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have been increased by 6.5 per cent as of July 2023 to keep up with inflation, however even with the increase, ODSP rates still fall below their value in 2018 (\$1,376 when adjusted for inflation) and significantly below the disability-adjusted poverty line (\$3,091 per month)

**WHEREAS** OW and ODSP rates do not provide sufficient income for a basic standard of living and, as a result, hundreds of thousands of people across Ontario who rely on these programs live in poverty;

**WHEREAS** the poverty risk profile for Prince Edward County created by Vital Signs states that 10.1% - 13.5% of County residents are living on low income;

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From the Office of the Clerk  
The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward  
T: 613.476.2148 x 1021 | F: 613.476.5727  
[clerks@pecounty.on.ca](mailto:clerks@pecounty.on.ca) | [www.thecounty.ca](http://www.thecounty.ca)

**WHEREAS** designated Service Managers are doing their part, but do not have the resources, capacity, or tools to provide the necessary income and health related supports to people experiencing poverty; and

**WHEREAS** leadership and urgent action is needed from the Provincial Government to immediately develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to address the rising levels of poverty in Ontario, in particular for those on Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of Prince Edward County joins the Town of Orangeville to calls on the Provincial Government to urgently:

- a) At least double Ontario Works and ODSP rates and index rates to inflation, answering calls already made by "Raise the Rates" campaign and the "Income Security Advocacy Centre";
- b) Commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen;
- c) Commit to jointly working between the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services and the Ministry of Health on the best methods of assessing client needs and then matching those in need to the services they require;

**AND FURTHER THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, Prince Edward Lennox and Addington Social Services, the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, and all Ontario Municipalities.

**CARRIED**

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catalina Blumenberg".

Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Roberts, Councillor Hirsch, and Marcia Wallace, CAO



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Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement, de  
la Protection de la nature et des Parcs



Environmental Assessment  
Modernization Branch

Direction de la modernisation des processus  
d'évaluation environnementale

135 St. Clair Avenue West  
4th Floor  
Toronto ON M4V 1P5

135, avenue St. Clair Ouest  
4<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M4V 1P5

February 16, 2024

Greetings,

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (ministry) continues to take action to modernize Ontario's environmental assessment (EA) program.

Building on our [spring 2023 proposal](#) to evaluate environmental assessment (EA) requirements for municipal infrastructure projects, I would like to inform you about a new proposal arising out of the spring proposal. This new proposal is to revoke the Municipal Class EA and make a regulation under the *Environmental Assessment Act* that will clearly identify which municipal infrastructure projects are subject to the streamlined EA process and the process they must follow. This approach will help us eliminate unnecessary burden on lower-impact projects and reduce duplicative requirements.

As you may be aware, Ontario has been working to modernize its almost 50-year-old environmental assessment program since 2019. We have been working to make changes that will reduce delays on infrastructure projects that matter most to Ontario communities, while maintaining appropriate environmental oversight and consultation opportunities.

In July 2020, Ontario amended the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act) to enable moving to a project list approach. To fully implement these changes, regulations are needed to list projects subject to comprehensive EA (i.e. Part II.3 projects), list projects subject to streamlined EA regulation requirements (Part II.4 projects), and set out the streamlined EA process for Part II.4 projects. The streamlined EA project list and process regulations will eventually replace the current complex system of class environmental assessments that apply to certain types of projects. It is the ministry's vision that the modernized streamlined regulations will eliminate duplication and provide clear expectations regarding consultation and defined timelines while maintaining environmental protections.

Implementation of the 2020 EA Act amendments started with the proposal for projects that will be subject to comprehensive (Part II.3) EA requirements, which remains under consideration. The new proposal is premised on the comprehensive EA project list proposal being implemented, and the relevant EA Act amendments proclaimed into force.

The ministry is seeking your feedback as we develop the first of the streamlined EA project lists and process regulations. The proposed regulation would set out municipal infrastructure projects undertaken by municipalities, that will be subject to the new Part



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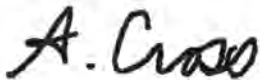
11.4 of the amended Act. These projects would be required to undertake a streamlined EA process set out in the regulation (the proposed Municipal Project Assessment Process (MPAP)).

The proposed streamlined MPAP would be a time-limited process. The proposed regulation would create a six-month timeline for the process. The regulation would be accompanied by guidance for proponents of projects subject to the new regulation. The guidance would help Indigenous communities and the public understand the process and how to get involved in a project.

For more information about this proposal, please visit <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-7891>. Please note that the comment period ends on March 17, 2024.

Please do not hesitate to contact the ministry's EA Modernization team at [EAmmodernization.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:EAmmodernization.mecp@ontario.ca) with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Annamaria Cross  
Director, Environmental Assessment Modernization Branch  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

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# Township of Perry

PO Box 70, 1695 Emsdale Road, Emsdale, ON POA 1J0

PHONE: (705)636-5941  
FAX: (705)636-5759  
[www.townshipofperry.ca](http://www.townshipofperry.ca)

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February 26, 2024

Via Email

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

Dear Premier Ford,

**RE: Request to the Province to Amend Blue Box Regulation for  
'Ineligible' Sources**

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At their last regular meeting on Wednesday February 21, 2024, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Perry supported the following:

**"Resolution #2024-52  
Moved by: Paul Sowrey  
Seconded by: Jim Cushman**

**Whereas** under Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box producers are fully accountable and financially responsible for their products and packaging once they reach their end of life and are disposed of, for 'eligible' sources only;

**And Whereas** 'ineligible' sources which producers are not responsible for include businesses, places of worship, daycares, campgrounds, public-facing and internal areas of municipal-owned buildings, and not-for-profit organizations, such as shelters and food banks;

**And Whereas** should a municipality continue to provide services to the 'ineligible' sources, the municipality will be required to oversee the collection, transportation, and processing of the recycling, assuming 100% of the costs;

**Be it resolved that** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Perry hereby request that the province amend Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue

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*Box so that producers are responsible for the end-of-life management of recycling products from all sources;*

***And further that*** Council hereby request the support of all Ontario Municipalities;

***And further that*** this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka, and to all Ontario Municipalities.

**Carried."**

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Beth Morton  
Clerk-Administrator

BM/ec

c.c. Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka  
All Ontario Municipalities

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**Sarah Corbett**

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**From:** Robin Brown <robin@nottawasaga.com>  
**Sent:** February 26, 2024 10:50 AM  
**To:** Sarah Corbett  
**Subject:** Nottawasaga Futures Newsletter

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You don't often get email from robin@nottawasaga.com. [Learn why this is important](#)



**Nottawasaga Futures is a community  
economic development agency serving the  
South Simcoe Area.**

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Nottawasaga Futures

Submit Your  
Nomination by  
March 5th, 2024

## Business Excellence Awards 2024 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

### Award Categories

Business Excellence  
Award

Customer Service  
Awards

Agricultural  
Award

Community Excellence  
Award

Entrepreneur of the  
Year

Youth Entrepreneur  
Award

New Business  
Award

Technology Innovation  
Award



Name of business and email is required for nomination.

Have Questions? Contact Robin Brown

Email: [robin@nottawasaga.com](mailto:robin@nottawasaga.com)

1-800-509-7554 • [www.nottawasaga.com](http://www.nottawasaga.com)

### South Simcoe Business Excellence Awards

Nottawasaga Futures, and its partners, endeavor to foster an environment that encourages constant improvement and success for businesses, recognizing that they are the foundation of our community's well-being and prosperity. As a testament to this commitment, we will be honoring exceptional businesses across South Simcoe with awards in categories such as Agriculture, Business Excellence, Community Excellence, Customer Service,

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Entrepreneurship, New Business, Technology Innovation, and Youth Entrepreneurship.

Business nominations will be accepted for The Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, the Township of Essa, the Town of Innisfil, and The Town of New Tecumseth.

Call or send an email stating the **business name, email address, and Award(s) category** by **March 5, 2024, to [robin@nottawasaga.com](mailto:robin@nottawasaga.com)**. Application forms are sent out to the nominee as soon as the nominations are received. **Please note that the sources of nominations are confidential and will not be released to the businesses.**

For more information please contact Robin Brown at (705) 435-1540, ext.108 1(800) 509-7554 or send an email.



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LIVE ●

**NEW!**

# BUSINESS COACHING

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- ◆ Digital Marketing Innovations
- ◆ Artificial Intelligence Applications

Contact us to learn how to transform your business with the power of

AA

AI. Don't miss out on unlocking your company's full potential!

For more information visit our website: [nottawasaga.com](http://nottawasaga.com)



## Emerging Issues in the Ag Sector

**March 22, 2024 9:00am to 12:00pm | Registration 8:30am**  
*The Gibson Centre 63 Tupper St W, Alliston, ON L9R 1E4*

JOIN US FOR THIS  
**FREE EVENT**



**TO REGISTER:** ☎ (705) 435-1540 x 108 • TOLL FREE: (800) 509-7554 ✉ [ROBIN@NOTTAWASAGA.COM](mailto:ROBIN@NOTTAWASAGA.COM)

Registration is open for our 2024 AgKnowledge Forum!

Great speakers, networking, local food and swag draws.

Friday March 22, 2024

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8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Gibson Centre, Alliston

Click [here](#) for complete list of our speakers and topics.

To register, please email [robin@nottawasaga.com](mailto:robin@nottawasaga.com)



South Simcoe Streams Network would like to thank the Alliston Rotary Club for hosting a Volunteer Fair on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. We would also like to thank all those who came to learn more about volunteering and making a difference in the community. It was a great opportunity to meet so many wonderful people and share more about Streams Network, some of our successes, and ways you can help support us.

We look forward to seeing you at our 2024 events.

Would you like to know more about the Streams Network?

22



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Check us out at: [Nottawasaga](http://Nottawasaga) or contact Theresa Parent at [theresa@nottawasaga.com](mailto:theresa@nottawasaga.com)



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# Summer Company

Are you looking for a summer job? Have you always wanted to test the water with entrepreneurship but unsure of where to start, scared, or nervous? Summer Company might be a great fit for you! Summer Company will provide accepted students mentoring, business training and up to \$3,000 in funding to start and run their business for the summer. The Small Business Centre will assist you in the development of your business plan and throughout your business operations during the whole summer.

**Summer Company 2024 is open for applications! Apply by May 17th to be considered for this program.**

To learn more about the program guidelines and access the application, visit [HERE](#).

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## Financial Support and Resources

- [Nottawasaga Futures Community Investment Fund](#)
- [Steps to Consider Before Starting a Business](#)
- [Simcoe County CDAP Top Up Grant](#)
- [Canada - Ontario Job Grant](#)
- [Ontario Business Registry](#)
- [Business Benefits Finder](#)



## Campaign Member Toolkit Federation of Canadian Municipalities

### OUR STORY

*Canada's communities are experiencing record population growth — so how do we ensure they remain great places to live for all residents?*

Infrastructure is essential to the well-being of all Canadians. Clean water, wastewater, local roads, public transit and community amenities are all vital for our communities to thrive.

Canada is experiencing historic population growth. And with 1.25 million new residents in the last year, we are encountering a **dual challenge**: building both enough housing to restore affordability while ensuring local infrastructure is sufficient to support a good quality of life for all.

To ensure that Canada's growth is successful, **FCM** is urging the federal government to properly fund the crucial next generation of infrastructure that Canadians will rely on. FCM is requesting Ottawa to convene all orders of government to come together and develop a **Municipal Growth Framework**. With a new, diverse, predictable and more equitable way to fund local governments, municipalities will be better positioned to give Canadians the quality of life they expect and deserve.

Progress on a federal infrastructure plan is at standstill, which is concerning in a context of rapid growth. At the same time, no new infrastructure programs are available today, even though the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program is closed, and the Permanent Public Transit Fund will not start before 2026. Moreover, the Canada Community-Building Fund which allows municipalities to decide how best to allocate their funding and provides the flexibility to make strategic investments in a wide range of project categories is under re-negotiation between the federal government and signatories.

A **Municipal Growth Framework** can act as a key to unlock communities' full potential and address our most pressing national challenges, including infrastructure, housing and homelessness, climate change and public safety.



## CAMPAIGN KEY MESSAGES

- **As Canada experiences historic growth, there is a critical need to invest in the infrastructure supporting new housing units**, such as water and wastewater, public transit, local roads, and climate change adaptation measures. This is crucial to support quality of life for Canadian families, today and for generations to come.
- **The federal government needs to step up in Budget 2024 and solidify its commitment to new housing by investing in supporting infrastructure.** New housing units are critical for Canada, but so is the infrastructure required to sustain them.
- **With a new federal infrastructure plan at a standstill, municipalities are concerned that the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) is the only federal infrastructure program that municipalities can rely on to rehabilitate existing infrastructure and develop new assets to accommodate growth.** Moreover, FCM is concerned that onerous conditions could be introduced into the CCBF as it is renegotiated. Canada's growing municipalities must be able to count on a flexible and predictable CCBF at the end of the current renegotiation process between the federal government and signatories.
- **This current infrastructure gap is exacerbated by the fact that funding models for municipalities have not changed since 1867, while almost every aspect of life in our communities has.** Outdated fiscal models cannot fund the needs of communities today or in the future.
- **Canadian municipalities and FCM are seeking to engage and collaborate with other levels of government** and find innovative solutions for Canadians as we face these historic challenges. We need all orders of government to work together—no matter the circumstances or jurisdiction—to address modern challenges and protect the quality of life for citizens.
- **Canada's municipalities, through FCM, are calling for a new Municipal Growth Framework** that empowers local governments with revenue tools that grow with Canada's national population and economy. This framework would ensure a future where Canadians see their communities growing confidently, with scale and ambition that delivers what Canadians need now: more affordable housing, support for the most vulnerable, core infrastructure that can support generations of residents, and reliable, efficient transit we can rely on into the future.
- **A first step is for the federal government to convene provinces, territories and municipalities to negotiate a Municipal Growth Framework** that results in an accord between the three orders of government to enable Canada's long-term growth.

## SAMPLE OP-ED

### **Stalled progress: Canada needs urgent infrastructure investment to build better lives amid record growth**

As Canada experiences record population growth, an intensifying housing and homelessness crisis and a soaring cost of living, the need for sustainable solutions is increasingly urgent.

Life is harder than it should be in Canada. Cities and communities that support our quality of life with the services and infrastructure they provide are facing a debilitating infrastructure funding gap precisely when our residents need support the most.

The conclusion of the 10-year Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and the lack of follow-on programs has left communities vulnerable. There is no sign of a new infrastructure plan, let alone one that enables the growth and corresponding housing development that is being targeted nationally.

The delay of initiatives like the Permanent Public Transit Fund, set to start only in 2026, and the ongoing renegotiation and new added uncertainty of the Canada Community-Building Fund, which communities rely on to fund core infrastructure, directly affects Canadians. It stalls progress on efficient transit systems, well-maintained community spaces and access to affordable and accessible housing.

These widening gaps in programs for the services Canadians need are alarming, especially in the context of rapid growth and the essential infrastructure needed to support swift action in housing development.

Despite promises made at the FCM's Annual Conference last June, where the Prime Minister committed to a new federal-provincial-territorial infrastructure plan by Fall 2023, Canadians are still waiting.

The absence of a comprehensive plan brings uncertainty to the lives of individuals, particularly those searching for affordable housing. We need a housing and homelessness plan now, but for it to be successful the focus must extend beyond new housing units to include the infrastructure required to service these units and encompass a renewed commitment to invest in complete neighborhoods with robust public services.

It's not just about bricks and mortar, pavement, and water systems. Fundamentally, it's about the daily experiences, struggles, and goals of individuals and families across the country, especially when it comes to securing a place to call home.

Efficient transportation, inclusive communities and well-maintained core infrastructure are integral components of a successful housing strategy.



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Municipal budgets are strained, impacting services that Canadians rely on daily. Unlike federal and provincial revenue, municipal tax revenue does not automatically adjust for inflation or economic growth, putting pressure on services that contribute to the quality-of-life Canadians expect and deserve.

There are many examples that underscore the urgency of the situation. In Brampton, Ontario, additional planned housing growth up to 2031 will require a \$3 billion investment in infrastructure above the City's planned forecast.

Again, this isn't just about numbers; it's about the lives of individuals in Brampton and communities nationwide, the quality of life that our country promises, and how people deserve better.

Recent federal and provincial efforts to address housing affordability are commendable but will fall short without a parallel commitment to infrastructure investment.

A forthcoming federal Housing Action Plan must offer urgent additional measures, but without a corresponding infrastructure plan, the prospect of maintaining and increasing the quality of life for Canadians remains elusive.

In the face of these challenges, municipalities are urgently calling for immediate infrastructure funding, particularly in areas like water, wastewater, and adaptation to keep Canadians safe and meet urgent core infrastructure needs.

There must also be a clear commitment in the next Budget from the federal government to convene all orders of government to work together on a new, and sustainable Municipal Growth Framework.

Striking a framework agreement will establish a foundation for sustainable growth, infrastructure investment and housing affordability.

It should empower municipalities with predictable revenue sources that are linked with national population and economic growth; enabling local governments to contribute directly and tangibly to the improved well-being and daily lives of Canadians.

As Canada navigates its unprecedented growth, a comprehensive plan that centers on people and families and their experiences is not just essential. It is the key to a brighter and more prosperous future for all Canadians.



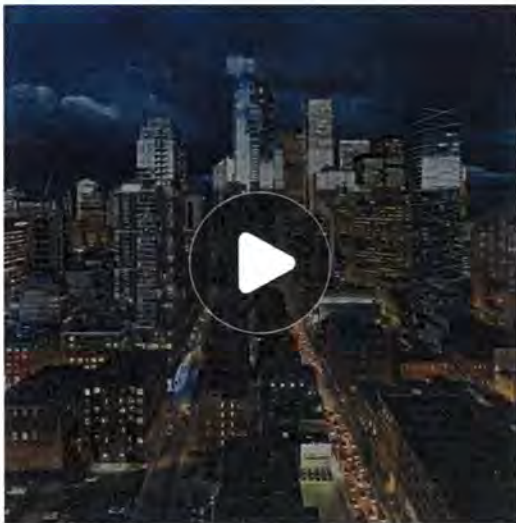
## SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

If you're interested in helping us spread the word, here are some social media posts and visuals to get you started. We encourage you to use this copy as a guide and to add localized messaging that will resonate with your community.

### Option #1 –

Download [square video](#)

Download [vertical video](#)



#### Suggested Post Copy:

Growing communities need infrastructure that generates economic growth and improves quality of life.



In Budget 2024, it's time for the federal government to step up and empower municipalities with the tools we need to support unprecedented growth – and that starts with a conversation between the three orders of government to enable Canada's long-term growth.

Learn more: <https://fcm.ca/en/focus-areas/municipal-growth-framework>

#FCMUpdateRequired #cdnpoli [#CDNmuni](#)

#### X Option:

Growing communities need infrastructure that generates economic growth and improves quality of life.



In Budget 2024, it's time for the government to step up and empower municipalities with the tools we need to support growth.

<https://fcm.ca/en/focus-areas/municipal-growth-framework>

#FCMUpdateRequired

## Option #2

Download [square graphic](#)

Download [vertical graphic](#)



### Suggested Post Copy:

Families can't move into homes that aren't connected to water or power. We need to make sure we have the proper infrastructure in place to allow Canadians to grow and thrive.

The federal government needs to step up and solidify its commitment to new housing by investing in the supporting infrastructure that make a house, a home. 🏠

Learn more: <https://fcm.ca/en/focus-areas/municipal-growth-framework>

#FCMUpdateRequired #cdnpoli

### X Option:

Families can't move into homes that aren't connected to water or power—they need the proper infrastructure and essential services that make a house, a home. 🏠

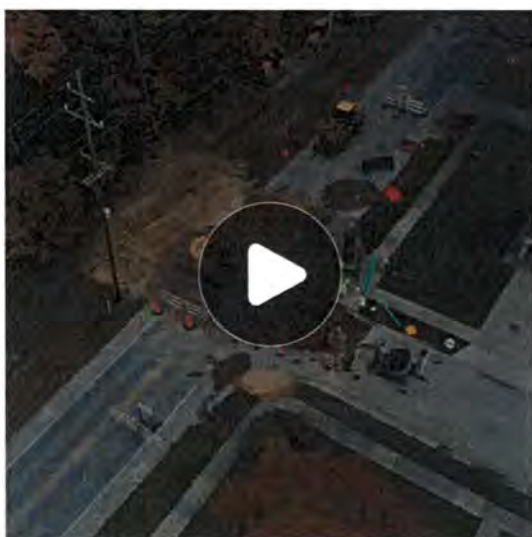
Learn more about our call to the federal government: <https://fcm.ca/en/focus-areas/municipal-growth-framework>

#FCMUpdateRequired #CdnPoli #CdnMuni

### Option #3 –

Download [square video](#)

Download [vertical video](#)



#### Suggested Post Copy:

Our community infrastructure progress is stalled.

All residents need better services and infrastructure they can rely on. It's time to empower municipalities with predictable funding tools to plan for the future.

Learn more: <https://fcm.ca/en/focus-areas/municipal-growth-framework>

#FCMUpdateRequired #cdnpoli

#### X Option:

All communities need better services and infrastructure they can rely on. It's time to empower municipalities with predictable funding tools to plan for the future. Learn more:

<https://fcm.ca/en/focus-areas/municipal-growth-framework>



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#FCMUpdateRequired #CdnPoli #CdnMuni

**Option #4 –**

Download [square graphic](#)

Download [vertical graphic](#)



**Suggested Post Copy:**

Our kids need safe places to be kids – but these community services and amenities come at a cost. With families already feeling financially pinched, municipalities can't keep raising property taxes to pay for them.

The federal government needs to step up.

Learn more: <https://fcm.ca/en/focus-areas/municipal-growth-framework>

#FCMUpdateRequired #cdnpoli

**X Option:**

Our kids need safe places to be kids – but these community services and amenities come at a cost. And municipalities can't keep raising property taxes to pay for them.

The federal government needs to step up.

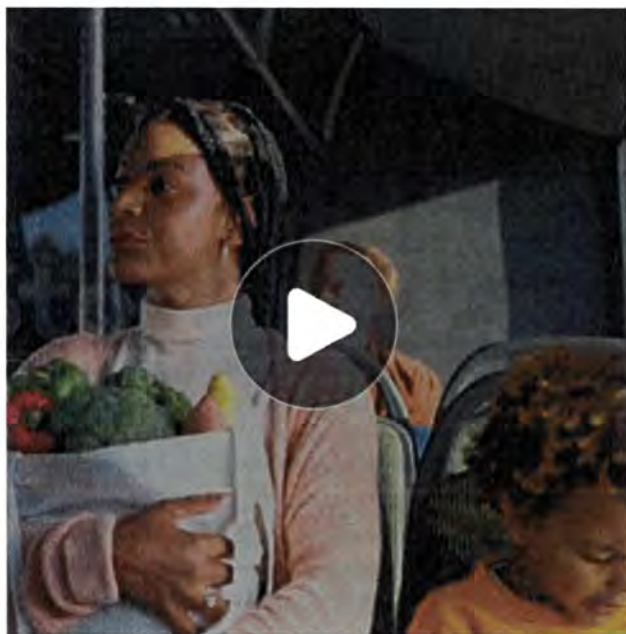
Learn more: <https://fcm.ca/en/focus-areas/municipal-growth-framework>

#FCMUpdateRequired #CdnPoli

### Option #5 –

Download [square video](#)

Download [vertical video](#)



#### Suggested Post Copy:

As our communities grow, the need for quick & reliable public transportation skyrockets – yet funding falls short.

Municipalities need funding to keep Canadians moving. 🚊

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Learn more: <https://fcm.ca/en/focus-areas/municipal-growth-framework>

#FCMUpdateRequired #cdnpoli

**X Option:**

As our communities grow, the need for quick & reliable public transportation skyrockets – yet federal funding falls short. Municipalities need funding now to keep Canadians moving. 🚊

Learn more: <https://fcm.ca/en/focus-areas/municipal-growth-framework>

#FCMUpdateRequired #CdnPoli #CdnMuni



## FAQ

1. **Does FCM have a dollar figure on how much additional investment municipalities need from the federal government?**

FCM represents municipalities of every size and from every part of Canada. The needs of our members are as diverse as the membership itself. Trying to put a “one size fits all” figure on municipal needs is not the right approach given the differences between communities. We need to talk about diverse, adequate and predictable sources of municipal funding that address the unique needs of individual communities and a new model that offers municipalities flexibility and agency to meet their own community’s needs.

In 2023, FCM conducted research to determine the level of investment in municipal infrastructure that could be required to unlock 5.8 million new housing units. FCM determined that a housing unit requires an average investment of around \$107,000 in municipally owned capital assets.

2. **The federal government might be less than a month away from delivering its budget, is this request from the FCM coming too late in the process?**

FCM and our members have been consistently advocating for additional funding for infrastructure and service, as well as a discussion on a new growth framework for some time. In November 2022, FCM released a comprehensive set of recommendations for the next generation of federal infrastructure programs. In particular, we are calling for immediate investment in Budget 2024 in municipal water and wastewater infrastructure, climate resilience and adaptation, public transit and a multi-faceted approach to end chronic homelessness. This should not be a surprise to the federal government, with recent weeks being a culmination of long-term advocacy. We will continue to push until this budget is announced to influence federal decisions, notably to convene provinces, territories, and municipalities to negotiate a Municipal Growth Framework.

3. **“Municipalities are legally a responsibility of the provinces.” If they want a new deal or additional funding, shouldn’t the request go to the Premiers first?**

We are talking to the federal government today about new investments, but we intend to convene with provinces as well. Funding the services and infrastructure that municipalities need to grow is a challenge that requires a comprehensive approach. That is why we have asked the federal government to bring all parties together to convene a discussion on new funding models.

4. **The growing population that FCM talks about will also add to the municipalities tax base. Doesn’t that mean that population growth is as much a solution for municipalities as it is a challenge?**

The rapid increase in population growth that we are experiencing is straining municipal budgets and municipalities can’t catch up. We don’t currently have a model where growth pays for growth. That would only be the case if population growth purely added to municipal revenue,

without also adding to the demand for municipal services. If there is a community where a growing number of more residents can pay more property taxes, but don't also need more power and water and wastewater infrastructure, well-maintained roads, more transit, and more parks and services, we have not seen it yet. And municipalities recoup the cost of municipal services over time through property taxes.

**5. What types of revenue tools are municipalities looking for from the federal government, and what funding could those tools bring to municipal budgets?**

We want to sit down with the federal, provincial and territorial governments and talk about a new funding model and the flexibility that new revenue tools could deliver, as well as how we give municipalities the autonomy to decide what's right for them. In Budget 2024 we are looking for new federal investments that will help municipalities better welcome population growth. In the medium-term, we want to co-develop a new growth framework with the federal government, provinces and territories that links municipal revenue to economic growth.

**6. The Canada Community-Building Fund is an existing federal funding program that delivers money to municipalities for infrastructure and services. Why are you not simply asking for additional funding through the CCBF instead of separate investments and new funding models?**

The Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) provides more than \$2 billion in annual capital funding directly to municipalities through a predictable allocation mechanism, and municipalities of all sizes use the CCBF to deliver direct results for Canadians by building and renewing critical core public infrastructure, including water infrastructure, local roads, public transit and community, and cultural and recreational facilities.

In the near-term, FCM is calling on the federal government to renew this critical program and maintain the CCBF as a source of direct, predictable, long-term funding for local infrastructure priorities.

FCM has also been calling on the federal government to leverage this proven funding mechanism as a vehicle to deliver increased funding directly to municipalities.

**7. What is the plan for municipalities if the federal government says no to additional infrastructure funding?**

In that scenario, municipalities will continue to struggle to support growth, which will force many of them to raise property taxes to support new infrastructure and services, causing further hardship for families that are already struggling with affordability. It is important to remember that property taxes have been the dominant source of funding for municipalities for over a century. None of that is good for Canadians or our economy. We believe the federal government has a good understanding of what saying "no" would mean, and why it is in everyone's best interest to find a way to say "yes."



8. **Your release also calls on the federal government to convene a meeting with provinces, territories and municipalities to work out a new funding deal. Do you honestly expect a group with such a diverse view of politics and priorities to reach a consensus?**

FCM's membership is incredibly diverse in their political outlooks, the types of communities that they represent and the places that they all call home. If collectively, our membership can find the common ground to call for new solutions, we are certain that the representatives of the federal, provincial and territorial governments can do the same to support Canada's future.



## RESOLUTION TEMPLATE

[month, day, year]

### Federal infrastructure funding not keeping pace with population growth

**WHEREAS**, Canada is experiencing record population growth, having welcomed 1.25 million new Canadians last year alone; and

**WHEREAS**, According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) we need to build at least 3.5 million additional homes by 2030, and municipalities need to build or expand the infrastructure to accommodate this growth; and

**WHEREAS**, FCM has estimated that the cost of the municipal infrastructure required support housing development is, on average, in the range of \$107,000 per unit; and

**WHEREAS**, According to Statistics Canada the cost of upgrade *existing* municipal infrastructure so that it is in a state of good repair is in the range of \$170 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, Non-residential construction price inflation has risen by 29% since the end of 2020 and municipalities are facing soaring costs for infrastructure project without a corresponding growth in revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, Unlike federal and provincial revenue, municipal tax revenue has not increased in recent years along with inflation, economic growth or population growth; and

**WHEREAS**, Municipalities are facing a gap in federal infrastructure funding as the 10-year Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program has come to an end, the Canada Community-Building Fund is being renegotiated and the Permanent Public Transit Fund is set to start in 2026;

**WHEREAS**, The Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF), which was formerly known as the federal Gas Tax Fund, provides more than \$2billion in annual capital funding directly to municipalities through a predictable allocation mechanism, and municipalities of all sizes use the CCBF to deliver direct results for Canadians by building and renewing critical core public infrastructure, including water infrastructure, local roads, public transit and community, and cultural and recreational facilities; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, That the federal government work with agreement signatories and municipalities to maintain the CCBF as a source of direct, predictable, long-term funding for local infrastructure priorities; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the federal government commit, in Budget 2024, to the next generation of infrastructure programs, including a new program for water and wastewater infrastructure and an increase to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the federal government convene provinces, territories and municipalities to negotiate a “Municipal Growth Framework” to modernize the way that municipalities are funded in order to enable Canada’s long-term growth.

[Municipality of xx, Province (abr.)]

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## SAMPLE LETTER TO YOUR MP

March [xx], 2024

[Mr./Mrs./Ms./Mx. (full name), M.P., or for Ministers: The Honourable (full name), P.C., M.P.]  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

**Subject: Urgent call for federal commitment in infrastructure to sustain growth**

[Dear Minister or Dear Mr./Ms. (last name of MP)]:

I write to you today to bring your urgent attention to an issue of growing concern to our municipality.

On March [xx], 2024, the council of the municipality of [xyz] unanimously resolved to urge the federal government to dedicate funds in the 2024 Budget to the next generation of infrastructure programs, including a new program for water and wastewater infrastructure and an increase to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund.

**The federal government must step up in Budget 2024** and solidify its commitment to new housing by channeling investments into the supporting infrastructure. The housing crisis is not something any single order of government can solve. Our municipality, along with others across the country, has been accelerating housing construction, fast-tracking permit approvals, and coming up with innovative zoning solutions to get more housing built faster.

However, the absence of a comprehensive housing and infrastructure plan brings uncertainty to the lives of individuals, particularly those searching for affordable housing. An immediate housing and homelessness plan is essential, one that extends beyond new housing units to include the infrastructure required to service these units and encompass a renewed commitment to invest in complete neighbourhoods with robust public services.

Moreover, our municipal council is concerned that the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) is currently the only federal infrastructure program on which we can rely on to rehabilitate existing infrastructure and develop new assets to accommodate growth. It is crucial for Canada's growing municipalities to have access to a CCBF that is flexible and predictable as the renegotiation process concludes.



While municipalities are working hard to get housing built, they own and maintain most of the infrastructure that Canadians rely on every day. Yet, they only collect between 8 to 12 cents of every tax dollar. It is time to empower municipalities with the tools they need to support growth. Alongside the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, our municipality is advocating for all orders of government to come together to modernize the way that municipalities are funded to enable Canada's long-term growth, to ensure economic development and to provide a great quality of life for every Canadian.

The municipality of [xyz] looks forward to working with you to ensure a future where Canadians see their communities growing confidently, with scale and ambition that delivers what Canadians need now—more affordable housing, support for the most vulnerable, core infrastructure that can support generations of residents, and reliable, efficient transit we can rely on into the future.

Yours sincerely,

[name of signatory]

[title, municipality, province]

Sarah Corbett

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**Subject:** FW: County Council Highlights - Meeting Held February 13, 2024

**From:** County Of Simcoe Communications <[Communications@simcoe.ca](mailto:Communications@simcoe.ca)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 2:08 PM

**To:** Lisa Lehr <[llehr@essatownship.on.ca](mailto:llehr@essatownship.on.ca)>

**Subject:** County Council Highlights - Meeting Held February 13, 2024



Council Highlights are intended to provide a summary of Council proceedings only. The information contained within the Highlights is based on approved material from within the associated agenda packages, linked at the bottom. These reports were part of the agendas from the **Council Meeting on February 13, 2024** and the **Committee of the Whole Meeting on January 30, 2024**. For more information on any item covered in the Highlights, each article is hyperlinked to the appropriate report, which can be accessed by clicking on the title. Images are also linked to relevant resources.

A recording of these sessions is also available for public viewing on the [County's YouTube channel](#).

- Service Simcoe

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## Simcoe County Historical Association

Presentation by Donna Wice and Deb Crawford from the Simcoe County Historical Association promoting their awards programs for students, businesses, community partners, and individuals across the County for their contributions to the heritage of Simcoe County and making the region a better place to remember.

The Historical Association just hosted their first ever History Conference at the Simcoe County Museum, in addition to many other events across the region. In 2024, they plan to host a new schedule of speakers, both in person and virtually, to educate while celebrating our history.

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Click on the image above to find more information on the County's 10-point plan for homelessness prevention.

## Homelessness Prevention Funding

On March 24, 2023, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) advised the County that an additional \$202 million was being invested through the provincial Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) and the Indigenous Supportive Housing Program (ISHP). The County of Simcoe received an increased investment of \$9,731,400, bringing the annual provincial funding commitment to \$21,084,300 by March 31, 2026.

The County's [10-point Homelessness Prevention Plan](#) includes two primary goals: to reduce chronic homelessness and to provide a data-informed strategy. Proposed 2024-2025 HPP allocations reflect the following commitments:

- A more streamlined and flexible approach to funding and services County-wide
- A commitment to new partnerships, further expanding the network of funded services and supports best to meet the needs of individuals in all our communities
- Building up supportive housing capacity through capital acquisitions and operational allocations

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- Increasing accountability by supporting and incentivizing the funded system to achieve outcomes set through funding contracts
- A continued focus on Coordinated Access to reduce homelessness in our communities.



## Unsheltered Homelessness Response Funding

On December 22, 2023, Infrastructure Canada advised the County of Simcoe of a one-time allocation of 2023-2024 Unsheltered Homelessness Response Funding.

Staff outlined recommendations for allocating this one-time Reaching Home top-up funding and details recommendations for leveraging associated savings within the municipal poverty reduction funding envelope as approved within the 2023 and 2024 County of Simcoe budgets.

Recommendations for allocating the \$1,400,952 Reaching Home one-time top-up funding include:

**Capital Investments and Housing Services (\$900,000):**

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- The 2019-2023 Reaching Home Community Plan identified capital investments to increase affordable and supportive housing as a priority. The Reaching Home Community Advisory Board previously endorsed an investment of \$1,336,000 from its approved 2023-2024 funding envelope, and this investment is targeted at the acquisition of modular structures. A Request for Proposals was issued in late fall 2023 to acquire additional modular structures to create more supportive housing. Attributing \$700,000.00 of this one-time Reaching Home funding in addition to the previously approved \$1,336,000 toward the acquisition and site preparation for these modular structures will result in a minimum of 20 net new supportive housing/rapid rehousing units, accommodating 20 to 40 individuals, dependant upon single or double occupancy.
- A future report to Council will outline recommendations for 2024-2025 Reaching Home funding allocations, including funding for operations of the above-noted net new supportive housing units, commencing April 1, 2024. Staff recommends an allocation of \$200,000 from the one-time top-up funding to support operations to April 30, 2024.

**Temporary Accommodations (\$440,952):**

Enhance warming services and the motel voucher program for the period November 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024 to offer alternative options to individuals experiencing homelessness to shelter from inclement weather. Individuals accessing warming services and the motel voucher program will be supported to connect with necessary services and resources.

**Prevention and Shelter Diversion (\$60,000):**

Fund sub-projects addressing emergency food assistance for those at risk of homelessness. Projects will support access to healthy food items and supply grocery vouchers and gift cards to those who are currently housed but at risk of homelessness.

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## Age-Friendly Recognition Program

*Tiny Township was just recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as an Age-Friendly Community. It is an incredible achievement to receive an Age-Friendly Community designation by the WHO. From the County of Simcoe: Our sincerest congratulations to the Township of Tiny!*

The County of Simcoe Positive Aging Strategy includes an Age-Friendly Recognition program. This Recognition Program includes two (2) categories that focus on local businesses as well as individual champions within our community.

### **2023 Business Award Winners**

FOCUS Employment Services, Alliston  
Hearing Life, Bradford  
Hunt Family Movers, Innisfil  
Right at Home Canada, Collingwood  
Sandycove Drug Store, Innisfil  
Seniors at Play, Orillia

### **2023 Individual Award Winners**

Patty McLaughlin, Song Circle, hosted at the Innisfil Library, Innisfil  
Sandra Forth, Seniors at Play, Orillia  
Dave Wetherald, Visiting Library Service, Barrie Public Library, Barrie

Jenna Wickens, CFS Counseling & Wellbeing as the MatureMinds Coordinator, Barrie

The 2023 awards ceremony took place on January 31, 2024 at the Simcoe County Museum. The County recognized the six (6) businesses that have made their operations more accessible for older adults as well as the four (4) individuals that have demonstrated outstanding age-friendly work in their communities.



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Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda - January 30, 2024

Council Meeting Agenda - February 13, 2024

FOLLOW US







**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Warden Statement on the 2026 Provincial Recycling Change**

**Midhurst/February 27, 2024** - As we've been sharing with our residents over the past year, the Provincial Government has moved to make producers of recyclable products (paper products and plastic packaging) fully responsible for the costs associated with the lifecycle of recyclable products (collection, hauling, processing and marketing).

The County will continue to collect garbage and organics long-term, and run landfill programs, although fees will be required for recycling drop-off at our sites as of 2026.

I speak for County Council and our staff, when we share that this is a great thing. If producers bear the full costs, it will hopefully lead to a reduction in the amount of packaging, plastics, and cardboard that we encounter each day.

For this we commend the Provincial Government for their actions. However, as a County Council, we have seen gaps in the program that will potentially leave many of our small local businesses, non-profit organizations and those that we refer to as the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) sector, without convenient recycling options as of January 1, 2026.

Currently, and until January 1, 2026, the County collects curbside recycling from these business, non-profit or IC&I locations, such as family-owned businesses in our downtown cores. Through the legislation, we are not regulated nor mandated to collect any form of waste from the business sector, just residential units. However, this is a "value-added" service that Council felt was important for our communities and to support local small businesses and downtown cores.

As of January 1, 2026, the consortium representing recycling producers are not planning to collect recycling from business locations as this is not a requirement stipulated through the [Provincial Blue Box Regulation 391/21](#).

County Council believes this will not only impact businesses but could potentially have a negative impact on diversion and ultimately the environment.

We have evaluated initial costs to continue to provide the service at the County level; however, under the new regulations, the burden of the costs on our local taxpayers would be too significant, among other logistical challenges once the new program takes effect.

While it is important to emphasize that there is no impact until 2026, we continue to work with our partners at the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to ensure they are aware of this potential issue, and we are hopeful they will reconsider this decision and continue to provide our businesses with recycling collection long-term.

We will do what we can to support our businesses and will be connecting with BIAs, Chambers and other business organizations over the coming weeks.

More details are available at [www.simcoe.ca/2026recyclingchange](http://www.simcoe.ca/2026recyclingchange).

~ Warden Basil Clarke





**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Update on Regional Waste Management Facility**

**Midhurst/February 27, 2024** – Today, County of Simcoe Committee of the Whole preliminarily approved through a unanimous recommendation that the County of Simcoe secure a long-term, external organics processing contract instead of pursuing the development of the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (ERRC) at this time. The recommendation will be further reviewed and potentially endorsed at County Council on March 12, 2024.

If ratified, County Council will direct staff to enter into both short-term and long-term contracts for external vendors outside the County to receive and process the County's organic waste. The contract structures allow the County to have better cost certainty for at least the next 23 years. A key factor in the decision by Council was the potential estimated cost savings of more than \$200 million long-term by not pursuing the ERRC development at this time.

"The ERRC project made financial and operational sense in 2016-17, and we would be in a strong position had it been built on our original schedule," said Warden Basil Clarke. "However, so much has changed within the waste management sector during the appeal process. Organics processing costs have been driven down due to increase supply and processing capacity in Ontario, through new legislation the private sector will soon be managing recycling collection removing the need for us to have a large transfer facility, and inflation has significantly driven up the costs of construction and necessary technologies."

"Given that the landscape is now so different, this is a prudent and responsible decision to change our course and save taxpayers' dollars before any major expenses occur," added Warden Clarke.

"It's been a long process, and I thank staff for having the foresight to bring forward new and alternative solutions," said Deputy Warden Jennifer Coughlin, Mayor of Springwater Township. "This project and its location understandably captured the attention of neighbouring property owners in our Township, and we thank them for their continued engagement through this process. Given rising construction costs and the changes within the waste sector, moving on from the ERRC project is the right thing to do."

### **About the ERRC Project**

Initial review and approvals to pursue the ERRC project were established 2010-2012. The proposed ERRC included an organics processing area, a materials transfer area, vehicle servicing area and a public education space to support waste diversion and awareness, among other operational components. A County-owned location in Springwater Township (2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West) went through an extensive siting, consultation, study, appeal and approval process, and was ultimately rezoned by the Province and County for waste management purposes. With Council's new direction on this project, future use and zoning of the property will be brought to Council at a later date. In the interim, the property will remain part of the County's public forestry program (which is the largest forestry program in Ontario). While significant studies were undertaken on the site, and the lengthy process included both planning and legal efforts, construction had not started and as such the site remains untouched.

Council will review this recommendation at its meeting on March 12, 2024. If approved, all parties, including our community engagement list, will be notified and staff will undertake further procurement and contractual efforts (as per Council direction).

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**About County of Simcoe**

County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at [simcoe.ca](http://simcoe.ca).

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Sarah Corbett

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**Subject:** FW: AMO Policy Update - Advancing Energy, Environmental, Social and Economic Prosperity Advocacy

**From:** AMO Communications <[communicate@amo.on.ca](mailto:communicate@amo.on.ca)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024 12:05 PM

**To:** Lisa Lehr <[llehr@essatownship.on.ca](mailto:llehr@essatownship.on.ca)>

**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Advancing Energy, Environmental, Social and Economic Prosperity Advocacy



## POLICY UPDATE

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# Policy Update – Advancing Energy, Environmental, Social and Economic Prosperity Advocacy

## AMO's Advocacy on IESO Energy Procurements

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) estimates that Ontario's electricity supply capacity needs to increase by more than double over the next 25 years. The Minister of Energy has directed the IESO to conduct competitive procurements for energy generation and storage projects to meet this need. As of February 2024, contracts have been awarded for an expedited round of procurements and applications have closed for the first "long-term" procurement. IESO is seeking feedback from proponents, communities, and other stakeholders on the proposed next long-term procurement.

Energy proponents are required to seek municipal support for their projects. During the previous rounds of procurements, municipalities surfaced questions about proposed projects including difficulty assessing capacity to respond to fires at lithium-ion battery storage facilities, land use planning considerations arising from proposed siting on prime agricultural land, and the future role of gas-fired electricity generation.

AMO has forwarded letters to the [Minister of Energy](#) and to [IESO](#) outlining proposed policy and process changes recommended for implementation before the next round of procurements. The proposed changes would help ensure that municipalities are better able to make informed decisions about energy projects.



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## Updates on Environmental Assessments: Modernizing Individual and Municipal Environmental Assessment Processes

On February 16 the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks announced it will implement the move to a project list approach for projects subject to a comprehensive environmental assessment to expedite building critical infrastructure projects, as it will move all highway, rail, and transmission line projects to a streamlined environmental assessment process. The streamlined processes will continue to have requirements to identify and mitigate environmental impacts and to consult, including with Indigenous communities, prior to implementation. This will be effective February 22.

AMO supports the change as it will help municipalities to build lower-risk infrastructure projects faster by reducing the environmental assessment requirements while allowing municipalities to free up resources for more complex projects.

In addition, the ministry posted for consultation a proposal for a new streamlined environmental assessment regulation for municipal infrastructure that focuses on certain water, shoreline, and sewage system projects. Municipalities and key partners are encouraged to provide comments and feedback on the proposed regulation by March 17, 2024. AMO will submit comments.

## Resolutions Update on Social and Economic Prosperity Review

AMO is pleased to see such a positive response so far to our 2024 pre-budget submission calling on the province to conduct a *Social and Economic Prosperity Review*. Over 50 municipalities have passed a resolution so far!

Municipal councils are encouraged to support ongoing advocacy efforts by:

Highlighting the need for this review when meetings with local MPPs and community members, using key messages included in AMO's pre-budget backgrounder

Passing a council resolution at your next meeting, calling on the province to commit to this review in its upcoming provincial budget

Sharing your support with local media channels using our news release template and social media messaging

Listen to our podcast on social and economic prosperity

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Sarah Corbett

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**Subject:** FW: AMO Policy Update – Get It Done Act, Keeping Energy Costs Down Act, CMHC Housing Data, Seniors Active Living Centres Regulations

**From:** AMO Communications <[communicate@amo.on.ca](mailto:communicate@amo.on.ca)>

**Sent:** Friday, February 23, 2024 12:48:59 PM

**To:** Lisa Lehr <[llehr@essatownship.on.ca](mailto:llehr@essatownship.on.ca)>

**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Get It Done Act, Keeping Energy Costs Down Act, CMHC Housing Data, Seniors Active Living Centres Regulations



## POLICY UPDATE

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### **Policy Update – *Get It Done Act, Keeping Energy Costs Down Act, CMHC Housing Data, Seniors Active Living Centres Regulations***

#### **Bill 162: *Get It Done Act, 2024***

On February 20, the provincial government tabled the *Get it Done Act*, that if passed, would make a number of changes to streamline processes for infrastructure and transportation, notably automate license plate renewals, make changes to official plans and clarify acquiring land as part of the environmental assessment process.

#### **Proposed Changes to Ontario Highway Act**

Under the proposal, eligible vehicle permits will automatically review for fines, outstanding tolls or insurance issues and renew on a one-year basis. Renewal will not proceed automatically if a plate has any issues (e.g., outstanding fines). The proposed new plate renewal process will not change the way municipalities collect unpaid fines.

AMO looks forward to future engagement with MTO on the rollout of this proposed program, including the importance of maintaining address integrity to prevent the disruption of unpaid fines.



## **Proposed Changes to Official Plan Adjustment Act**

The proposed changes follow the *Planning Statute Law Amendment Act* which reversed ministry-initiated changes to Official Plans. These changes are the outcome of the province's consultation with individual municipalities about any Official Plan changes that should be retained, or new ones that are necessary to support ongoing work.

In previous submissions to the province, AMO has urged the government to use Ministerial planning authorities, such as Municipal Zoning Orders (MZOs) only in collaboration with municipalities and in situations of extraordinary urgency. AMO is pleased that the government is making these changes in consultation with municipalities.

## **Proposed Changes to Environmental Assessment Act**

Ontario is proposing a minor change to the *Environmental Assessment Act* that would make it clearer that expropriation is one of the ways property can be acquired for a project before the Environmental Assessment (EA) process is completed.

## **Bill 165: Keeping Energy Costs Down Act, 2024**

On February 22 the provincial government tabled the *Keeping Energy Costs Down Act* which makes amendments to the *Ontario Energy Board Act* to address the cost of new connects to natural gas infrastructure.

The legislation, if passed, would reverse a December 2023 decision by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) that requires consumers to pay the cost of connecting a new home to natural gas infrastructure up front instead of over a period of 40 years. It would also increase the OEB's Leave to Consult threshold from \$2 million to \$10 million, requiring fewer energy projects would need OEB orders to construct a new pipeline. AMO welcomes this development to streamline projects and focus OEB approvals on larger, more complex projects.

AMO has recently called on the province to provide clear leadership on determining and communicating the role of natural gas in Ontario's energy future power grid as part of ongoing energy procurements across Ontario.

## **Understanding CMHC Housing Data**

This week, the province updated its tracker to include additional housing data. Housing performance against provincial targets for the purpose of *Building Faster Fund*



allocations relies primarily on Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) data. To help municipalities better understand CMHC methodology, AMO brought together municipal officials with the CMHC for a webinar. You can find the CMHC's presentation [here](#) and a recording of the webinar [here](#).

There continues to be many questions and concerns regarding the way that housing targets are being measured. AMO is working closely with the province, municipalities and the CMHC to improve data to maximize municipal Building Faster Fund allocations.

## **Consultation on proposed regulations under the *Seniors Active Living Centres Act, 2017***

The Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility is currently [consulting on a proposed regulation](#) that aims to broaden access to its Seniors Active Living Centres (SALC) Program. The SALC program can help build healthier and safe communities while addressing the long-term growth and needs of an aging population. The proposed regulation would prescribe entities that could provide the required 20% contribution (i.e., in addition to municipalities) towards a SALC program's operational costs. This is intended to help reduce barriers for community organizations to run SALC programs.

AMO has worked with the Ministry to hold focus groups that informed the development of this proposed regulation. Municipalities are encouraged to provide comments and feedback on the proposed regulation by March 22, 2024. Please contact [seniorspolicyunit@ontario.ca](mailto:seniorspolicyunit@ontario.ca) for any questions.

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