



The Regional Municipality of Durham

COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

April 28, 2023

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There are no Durham Municipalities Correspondence

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Miscellaneous Correspondence

1. [Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority \(LSRCA\)](#) – re: Nominations for LSRCA's Conservation Awards

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1. Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) minutes [April 13, 2023](#)
2. Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) minutes – [April 11, 2023](#)

Members of Council – Please advise the Regional Clerk at clerks@durham.ca, if you wish to pull an item from this CIP and include on the next regular agenda of the appropriate Standing Committee. Items will be added to the agenda if the Regional Clerk is advised by Wednesday noon the week prior to the meeting, otherwise the item will be included on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the applicable Committee.

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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Finance
Report: [#2023-INFO-31](#)
Date: April 28, 2023

Subject:

Economic Update – Paused Interest Rate Hikes, Reduced Recession Fears but many Struggling with Still Higher Food and Shelter Costs

Recommendation:

Receive for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 This report updates Regional Council on the economic environment, as monitored by the Finance Department, including key economic indicators and their impacts on the local economy and Durham Region programs.

1.2 Noteworthy economic indicators include:

- On April 12, 2023, like the previous March 8th announcement, the Bank of Canada left the overnight interest rate (policy rate) at 4.5 per cent.
- Although the continued pause on further interest rate increases is welcome news for debt holders, recent surveys demonstrate significant financial hardship and worry about the future at the household level, as higher interest rates impact household affordability.
- Even if interest rates remain unchanged, the full effects of the eight previous interest rate increases have not been fully realized and will continue to work their way through the economy throughout 2023.
- The Bank of Canada's economic growth forecasts, based on annual average growth in gross domestic product (GDP), have been adjusted with Canada's GDP now anticipated to grow 1.4 per cent in 2023 (January 2023 projection was one per cent for 2023), 1.3 per cent in 2024 (January projection was 1.8 per cent for 2024) and 2.5 per cent in 2025.
- Price pressures continue, with food and shelter prices still a major concern, although price increases are subsiding across most sectors. The Statistics Canada Consumer Price Index (CPI) all-items Ontario increased 4.3 per cent in

March 2023, compared to March 2022, following a 5.2 per cent increase in February.

- The Bank of Canada in its most recent April 2023 Monetary Policy Report projected overall Canadian inflation to fall to 3.0 per cent by the middle of 2023. The central bank anticipates reaching the two per cent annual inflation target level by the end of 2024.
- Unemployment rates remained low in March 2023 at 5.0 per cent for Canada, 5.1 per cent for Ontario and 4.6 per cent for the Oshawa Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), with continued job vacancies and rising wages.
- Statistics Canada in March 2023 recorded a year-over-year average hourly wage increase of 5.3 per cent across Canada between March 2022 and March 2023 (to \$33.12 per hour).

2. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 2.1 This report updates the March 3, 2023, Report #2023-INFO-19 “An Uncertain Year Ahead with Mixed Projections Around the Possibility and Severity of a 2023 Recession and Subsequent Recovery.”

3. Bank of Canada Interest Rate Unchanged

- 3.1 The Bank of Canada on April 12, 2023, left its target for the overnight rate unchanged at 4.5 per cent, consistent with its March 8, 2023, announcement. The Bank cited easing inflation, United States (US) banking sector stresses and effects on credit conditions, relief in global supply chains, and the Canadian central bank’s own interest rate impacts. The latter, even left unchanged, will cause broader effects as increasing numbers of homeowners renew their previously fixed-rate mortgages at the higher rates. This is anticipated to further blunt consumer spending and inflationary pressures, despite continuing labour market tightness and food and services sector inflation remaining elevated.
- 3.2 Given the lag-time between interest rate hikes and resulting impacts, the Bank of Canada will continue to assess economic indicators and their effects on inflation ahead of the next June 7, 2023, interest rate announcement. The Bank of Canada aims to keep inflation, as measured by the Statistics Canada Consumer Price Index (CPI), within a “control range” of one to three per cent, with a target of two per cent.
- 3.3 On April 17, 2023, RBC Economics noted in their weekly preview “Canadian Inflation Poised to Gear Down Again,” that they “...expect the easing in domestic inflation to persist—and for the Bank of Canada to hold the line on further interest rate increases through this year.”

4. Canadian Economic Growth Outlook

- 4.1 Within its April 12, 2023, Monetary Policy Report, the Bank of Canada expects Canada’s economy, as measured by average annual real GDP, to grow by 1.4 per cent in 2023, 1.3 per cent in 2024 and, 2.5 per cent in 2025. This is compared to

post-covid growth of 3.5 per cent for 2022. The bank notes that "...volatility in financial markets increased sharply after the recent banking sector stress in the US and Europe. Authorities reacted swiftly to limit the effects of this stress on the global financial system. Even so, credit conditions have tightened modestly, and the potential for further stress has increased uncertainty. Global growth is expected to weaken through the second half of 2023 to the first half of 2024, weighed down by restrictive monetary policy in advanced economies."
(Monetary Policy Report, page 2)

5. Consumer Price Index (CPI): Canadian Headline Inflation

- 5.1 The Statistics Canada CPI continues to rise in absolute terms, but in March 2023, the CPI rate of increase fell once more. The year-over-year increase from March 2022 to March 2023 was 4.3 per cent, 0.9 per cent lower than the year-over-year increase reported from February 2022 to February 2023, which was 5.2 per cent.
- 5.2 Food prices are still rising significantly, but Statistics Canada reported a 9.7 per cent increase in prices for food purchased from stores year-over-year in March 2023, compared to the higher 10.6 per cent year-over-year increase reported for February 2023. Food prices remain a public policy concern in terms of food insecurity and overall household financial burden, particularly for lower income and vulnerable populations.
- 5.3 Overall, year-over-year, CPI shelter costs in March 2023 had increased another 5.4 per cent since March 2022. Statistics Canada noted the mortgage interest cost component had increased 26.4 per cent in March, compared to 23.9 per cent in February 2023, March being the highest year-over-year increase in mortgage interest costs on record (due to impacts from household renewals to higher interest rate mortgages as previous fixed rate mortgages expire). Combined, the significant household debt levels, rising shelter and interest rate costs, and ever-rising food prices are causing household financial worries, even for higher income households, depending on individual impacts to disposable income levels and savings.
- 5.4 The Region's material inputs and services are also directly impacted by higher pricing. While price increases are on a downward trend, Statistics Canada notes that the overall price of goods increased by 3.6 per cent year-over-year in March 2023 compared to March 2022, while services' cost increases in Canada increased 5.1 per cent over the same reference period.

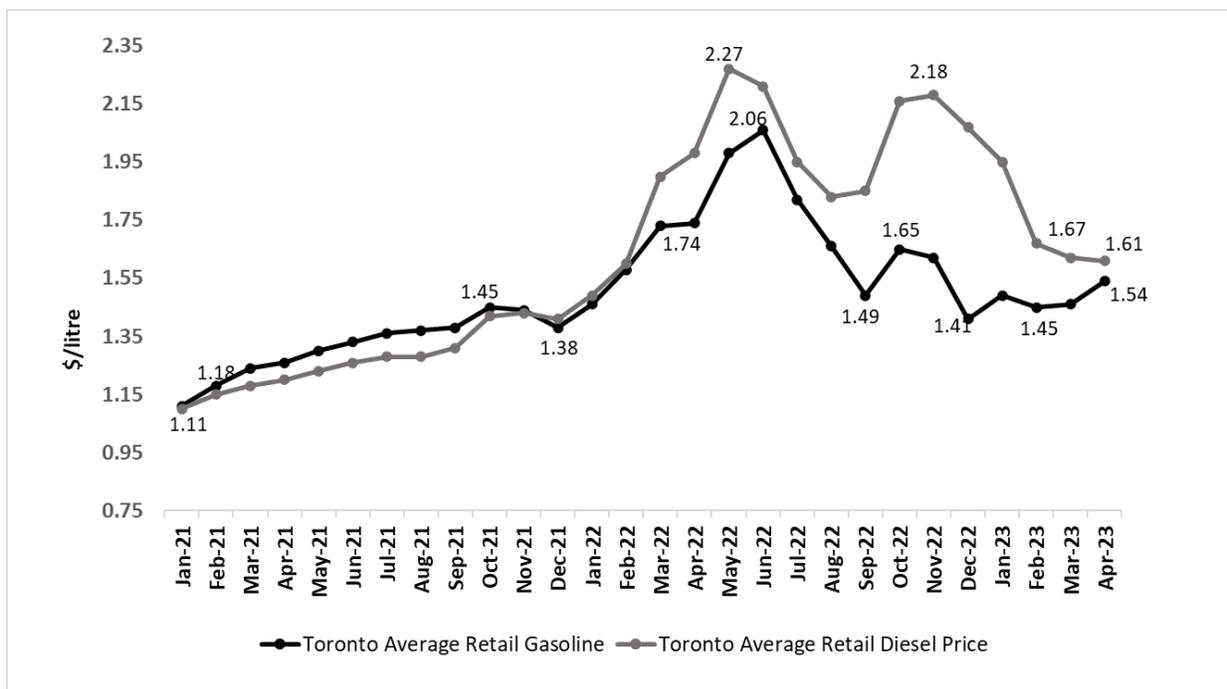
6. Energy Costs

- 6.1 Gasoline is utilized by specialized transit, paramedic, and police fleets, as well as a portion of the Region's depots. Diesel is currently the primary fuel for transit, and supplied from the Works Department's depots, and is a stationary fuel utilized at Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant. Natural gas is the primary fuel for the Region's space and water heating and is also used for waste and wastewater

processing. The following figures demonstrate price implications from fuels utilized by the Region, including diesel, gasoline, and natural gas based on related economic benchmarks.

- 6.2 According to Natural Resources Canada, the Toronto benchmark average monthly retail price of gasoline in April 2023 was 22.2 per cent higher than April 2021 at \$1.54 cents per litre. Toronto diesel prices increased over the same period from \$1.20 per litre to \$1.61 per litre (an increase of 34.2 per cent). While both fuels are well off their 2022 peaks, they remain high compared to a year ago.

Figure 1: Price Escalation of Diesel and Gasoline January 2021 to April 2023
(Monthly Average Toronto Benchmark \$/litre)



Source: Natural Resources Canada

- 6.3 Figure 2 below demonstrates, based on historical data compiled by Sproule Holdings Limited, that natural gas prices have decreased 44.4 per cent since March 2022 to \$0.12 per cubic metre in March 2023 (natural gas supply costs only - excludes pipeline transportation tolls and other distribution charges). March 2023 natural gas prices are almost on par with the \$0.11 price in March 2021.

Figure 2: Natural Gas Prices
(Union Dawn Ontario Price Canadian \$/cubic meter)



Source: Sproule Holdings Limited

7. Business and Consumer Sentiments Worried about the Future and Uncertainty

- 7.1 According to the Bank of Canada's First Quarter 2023 Business Outlook Survey, businesses over the next year see higher interest rates, persistent inflation and continued worry about a potential recession, resulting in lower consumer demands, reduced sales, and investment. However, businesses did see a more balanced labour market with lowered labour shortages and reduced pressure on wages. According to the survey, over half of businesses expect to increase their workforce over the coming year. Most thought inflation above the Bank of Canada's two per cent target would continue.
- 7.2 At the consumer level, the MNP Consumer Debt Index, conducted by MNP Ltd.¹ noted that Ontarians are financially stressed with just 13 per cent thinking the worst is over. Nearly half of those surveyed (in early March) noted "...they are \$200 away or less from not being able to meet all their financial obligations at month's end, including three in 10 who already don't make enough to cover their

¹ MNP Ltd. is a subsidiary of MNP LLP, an accounting firm and Canada's largest insolvency practice. The MNP Consumer Debt Index gauges Canadians' attitudes toward their consumer debt, their ability to pay bills, endure unexpected expenses, and absorb interest-rate fluctuations through a quarterly survey conducted by Ipsos. The MNP document referenced is titled "Ontarians on the Economy: Half Say the Worst is Yet to Come," Toronto, April 11, 2023, page 1) based on MNP's most recent survey March 7th to 14th, 2023.

bills and debt payments...[and] three in five... saying they're concerned about the impact of rising interest rates on their financial situation. (MNP, page 1)

- 7.3 While some relief came to households with the Bank of Canada pausing interest rate hikes at both the March 8, 2023, and April 12, 2023, announcements, the survey demonstrated clear financial worry across the board. Obviously, the impacts of higher interest rates and inflation will affect lower-income households more significantly than higher-income households.
- 7.4 According to Statistics Canada, "Rising Prices and the Impact on the Most Financially Vulnerable: A Profile of Those in the Bottom Family Income Quintile," released on February 8, 2023:
- a. "In April 2022, more than six in ten (63 per cent) Canadians in the lowest household income quintile reported being very concerned about their ability to meet everyday expenses...1.5 times higher than those in the third quintile (42 per cent) and over three times higher than those in the top quintile (19 per cent).
 - b. About one in five (19 per cent) individuals in the bottom household income quintile reported that they had to often borrow money from friends or relatives or take on additional debt to meet day-to-day expenses. This compares to two per cent among people in the top income quintile.
 - c. Living in the bottom income quintile was more common among women, the young and old, lone parents, those who were separated, divorced, widowed, those with lower levels of education, Indigenous people, and recent immigrants.
 - d. In 2019, the median after-tax income for economic families² and unattached individuals in the bottom income quintile stood at \$21,000, much lower than the median for all Canadians of \$62,900.
 - e. For most families in the bottom income quintile (62 per cent), the major source of income was government transfers. Another 27 per cent had wages and salaries as the major source of income and seven per cent of families had their major source of income from self-employment. In comparison, for all other quintiles, the major source of income was wages and salaries (68 per cent), with government transfers representing nine per cent.
 - f. Families in the bottom income quintile are additionally vulnerable due to their low [financial] net worth [defined as the total value of assets held by the family minus its total debt] and high debt-to-asset ratios. In 2019, the median net worth of families in the bottom quintile was \$20,000, compared to the overall median of \$329,900 and the median debt-to-asset ratio was 0.32 compared to 0.24." (Statistics Canada page 1)"
- 7.5 Household disposable income overall in Canada and in Ontario, increased four

² In the study, "economic family" is defined as a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law union, adoption, or a foster relationship. Families include economic families as well as unattached individuals.

per cent from 2020 to 2021 and 5.2 per cent in Canada 2021 to 2022 (Ontario data for 2022 is not yet available). However, when the increase in household consumption costs is considered, significantly driven higher by high inflation, household net savings fell 42 per cent across the nation.

8. Material Input Prices

- 8.1 The Statistics Canada Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) measures price changes for products manufactured in Canada and reflects 22 industrial product price categories. On a year-over-year basis, March 2022 to March 2023, the trend for the IPPI Index overall, is downward with a 1.8 per cent decrease since March 2022. Table 1 below also shows another significant drop in lumber and wood product prices for example, down 39.5 per cent year-over-year in March 2023. Energy and petroleum products are also down 13.4 per cent, while primary non-ferrous metal products are down 10.4 per cent over the same period.
- 8.2 The Overall IPPI for Canada reached a peak of 132.6 in May 2022 and by March 2023 had fallen by 4.4 per cent to 126.7.

Table 1: Statistics Canada Industrial Product Price Index Price Level by Product Category

Product Category	Mar-22	Mar-23	Yr over Yr % Change
Primary Ferrous Metal Products	150.1	148.00	-1.4%
Primary Non-ferrous Metal Products	162.0	145.2	-10.4%
Lumber & Wood Products	207.6	125.6	-39.5%
Fabricated Metal Products & Construction Materials	141.6	144.5	2.0%
Machinery & Equipment	107.9	118.7	10.0%
Chemicals and Chemical Products	131.2	127.5	-2.8%
Packaging Materials and Containers	122.9	129.3	5.2%
Total Industrial Product Price Index	129.00	126.7	-1.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Industrial product price index, by select product, by month

9. Labour market

- 9.1 The Canadian economy added a net 35,000 jobs in March 2023 and a total 383,000 since September 2022. Jobs added in March were most notably in transportation and warehousing and business, building and other support services.
- 9.2 Labour markets have remained tight with continued low unemployment rates (5.0 per cent unemployment for Canada and 5.1 per cent unemployment in Ontario for March 2023). Labour vacancies still exist and will take time to address through re-training, immigration and reduced economic activity as higher interest rates take hold. In January 2023, the job vacancy rate for Canada was 4.9 per

cent and 4.6 per cent in Ontario.

- 9.3 Given a still tight labour market, the average Canadian hourly wage increased 5.3 per cent to \$33.12, year-over-year for March 2023, compared to March 2022.

10. Canada's Housing Market Correction

- 10.1 Canadian home prices eased considerably as eight interest rate hikes between March 2022 and January 25, 2023, had an impact on the housing market. In Durham, the average price for existing home transactions in March 2023 was \$926,142, or 19.4 per cent lower than the March 2022 average price of \$1,148,685 (and significantly off the pricing peak of \$1,175,010 noted for January 2022). This was a more significant average price drop than the rest of the GTA which saw decreases in the range of 11 per cent (York) to 17 per cent (Peel).
- 10.2 However, Durham's average price has edged up marginally since December 2022 with March 2023 up 4.2 per cent compared to the February 2023. Although too early to say with certainty, this Durham uptick may reflect improved sentiment as the Bank of Canada noted its pause in interest rate hikes early in the year, individual market characteristics, and/or the nearing of the spring season when there is generally an uptick in transactions.

Table 2 - Toronto Regional Real Estate Board:
Summary of Select Existing Home Transactions
(All Home Types – Average Price)

	Year-over-Year		Monthly Changes			
	Mar-22	Mar-23	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23
Durham	1,148,685	926,142	874,456	886,849	888,448	926,142
York	1,515,897	1,344,511	1,267,563	1,285,583	1,302,720	1,344,511
Peel	1,269,242	1,053,738	989,873	993,151	1,032,286	1,053,738
Halton	1,515,730	1,267,636	1,188,341	1,122,501	1,222,095	1,267,636
Toronto	1,218,546	1,054,563	1,017,989	987,842	1,071,043	1,054,563

Source: Toronto Regional Real Estate Board

11. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 11.1 This report aligns with the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- **Economic Prosperity:** To build a strong and resilient economy that maximizes opportunities for business and employment growth, innovation, and partnership.

12. Conclusion

- 12.1 Significant concerns remain regarding geopolitical uncertainties and persistent inflation related especially to food and shelter prices, which disproportionately affect lower-income and vulnerable populations as well as more indebted households.
- 12.2 There may not be a return to historical (two per cent) inflation levels until the end of 2024, which will not make the outlook for many households any easier. Although rising employment opportunities and wage growth are positives, these factors have generally not kept up with higher inflationary cost increases, especially for key staples.
- 12.3 Continuing elevated consumer spending in the services sector as well as rising wages across sectors, present some risk to the welcomed pause in Bank of Canada interest rate hikes since January 2023, which could resume, if inflation does not continue its downward trend as anticipated.
- 12.4 There are reasons to believe the tightened monetary policy at central banks in advanced economies are having the desired macroeconomic effects with inflation generally subsiding and consumers responding as intended with reduced spending, especially in the purchase of goods.
- 12.5 Recession fears for 2023, although still present, also appear to have subsided across most economists' outlooks, with the Bank of Canada also strengthening its forecast for real GDP growth in Canada for 2023 from 1.0 per cent to 1.8 per cent.
- 12.6 Despite a generally more positive economic outlook overall for Canada, Ontario, and Durham Region, public policy will likely need to continue its heightened focus on issues related to social policy and especially housing and food insecurities in low income and vulnerable populations.
- 12.7 The Finance Department will continue to monitor the economic environment and key indicators and report on implications as required.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By

Nancy Taylor, BBA, CPA, CA
Commissioner of Finance and Treasurer

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 3743



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Chief Administrative Officer
Report: [#2023-INFO-32](#)
Date: April 28, 2023

Subject:

Advocacy Strategy and Engagement Plan to Address Homelessness and Related Challenges

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Council on the coordinated action to develop a federal and provincial Advocacy Strategy and Engagement Plan (Plan) to address homelessness and related challenges.
- 1.2 This report is part one of the response to the motion from April Health and Social Services Committee requesting that staff develop an engagement plan that encourages the federal government to declare homelessness, mental health, and opioid addiction a national emergency and to work with provinces to ensure that the proper actions are taken to appropriately address the emergency.
- 1.3 A second report which provides the details of the Plan will be submitted to Health and Social Services Committee in June.

2. Background

- 2.1 Durham Region, along with cities and towns across the country, have seen an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness. The increasing rates of homelessness are outpacing the ability to create new housing units and wrap-around support programs.

- a. In 2022, approximately 42 per 100,000 Durham residents experienced homelessness which is projected to increase to approximately 62 per 100,000 Durham residents who will be experiencing homelessness in 2025.
 - b. Unsheltered homelessness in Durham increased by 67 per cent in 2022 compared to 2021. There are now more than 100 people across Durham experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
- 2.2 In Ontario, the impact of mental health, mental illness, and addictions on life expectancy, quality of life, and health care utilization is more than 1.5 times that of all cancers and more than 7 times that of all infectious diseases.
 - 2.3 Each year, Lakeridge Health has more than 100,000 mental health visits for adults, more than 12,000 visits for children and youth, and more than 14,000 visits to its emergency departments related to mental health and substance use.
 - 2.4 The impacts of the challenges related to homelessness, mental health and addictions are often felt most acutely in downtown neighbourhoods, affecting residents, local businesses and community safety and well-being.
 - 2.5 Homelessness, mental health and substance use are among the seven priority risk factors of the Region's Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan. The development of the provincially mandated CSWB Plan was an opportunity to bring together the community to identify priority risk factors, identify programs and strategies to address these factors; and develop data points as trackable performance indicators.
 - 2.6 To address the CWSB priority risk factors, collaboration with the provincial and federal governments will be critical.
 - 2.7 The 2023 Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budget included expanded Regional investments totalling \$75.5 million in 2023 towards housing and homelessness support programs.
 - 2.8 Despite expanded Regional investments, a restricted municipal revenue stream and senior-government responsibility for healthcare including mental health, the criminal justice system and social supports, limits the effective role that the Region can play on its own.
 - 2.9 Addressing the homelessness, mental health, and addictions crises will require partnership with upper levels of government.
 - a. At its meeting on March 29, 2023, Regional Council [unanimously voted](#) to support the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) motion to call on the provincial government to acknowledge the homelessness crisis, commit to ending homelessness in Ontario and work with the and other partners to develop, resource, and implement an action plan.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 Durham Region Government Relations Update Report [#2023-COW-5](#).
- 3.2 City of Oshawa Request for Cost Sharing for Dedicated Downtown Patrol Enforcement – Regional Response [#2022-COW-23](#). An updated report on this request will come to Council at the May 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting.

4. Upcoming Reports to Health and Social Services Committee

- 4.1 The provincial budget released on March 23, 2023, included an additional investment of \$202 million for the Homelessness Prevention Program and Indigenous Supportive Housing Program. To provide the most up to date information on funding and allow for additional consultation for this new investment, Health and Social Services Committee will be receiving a report in May and a subsequent report in June that represent a full update on Durham's homelessness support and coordinated access system.
- 4.2 There will also be two reports to the May and June Health and Social Services Committee that represent a comprehensive update on the local trends and strategies to address mental health and opioids in Durham Region. The reports will also outline the many local front-line mental health and addictions services offering acute and long-term support for those experiencing mental health issues or requiring crisis intervention, including the services provided by the Region of Durham.

5. Development of the Advocacy Strategy and Engagement Plan (Plan)

- 5.1 The Plan to address homelessness, mental health, opioid addictions and related challenges will consider the information enclosed in the series of reports to Health and Social Services Committee in May and June.
- 5.2 The Plan will clearly define desired advocacy outcomes, recommended approaches to deliver impactful engagement with upper-level government and detailed actions with near-term timelines.
- 5.3 The Plan will consider recent provincial and federal investments including:
 - a. The 2023 Ontario Budget which provided municipalities across Ontario with an additional \$202 million in Homeless Prevention Program funding and \$425 million in mental health programs.
 - Durham Region will receive funding for homelessness prevention programs and the details will be provided in a report to Health and Social Services Committee in June 2023.

- b. The federal Building Safer Communities Fund, which will provide the Region of Durham up to \$4.3 million towards the underlying conditions that give rise to crime.
 - c. The federal Housing Accelerator Fund, available for local municipalities to apply, which may support collaborative affordable housing projects.
- 5.4 The Plan will be focused on the challenges experienced in Durham and will include the following three streams of work:
- a. Policy solutions
 - This stream of work will identify programming that is having a meaningful impact in Durham and identify upper-level government policy initiatives that would improve outcomes.
 - The policy solutions will be identified in a Durham Policy Paper and will identify tactics to promote the Policy Paper with senior-level governments.
 - b. Communications
 - This stream of work will focus on a solutions-first narrative and a public relations plan to share facts, stories of success and proposed policy solutions with the public.
 - c. Stakeholder engagement
 - This stream of work will map a plan to engage stakeholders and leverage existing partnerships and networks to coordinate advocacy to the provincial and federal governments.
 - The Plan will also consider the role of advocacy partners including the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.
 - d. Staff will work with Mayors, CAO's and staff at local area municipalities and community partner organizations in the development and implementation of the Plan.
 - e. Strategy Corp, the lobbyist retained by the Region, will actively support the development and implementation of the Plan.

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- a. Goal 2 Community Vitality: Objective 2.2 Enhance community safety and well-being.
 - b. Goal 5 Service Excellence: Objective 5.1 Optimize resources and partnerships to deliver exceptional quality services and value.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 Staff will develop a federal and provincial Advocacy Strategy and Engagement Plan to address homelessness and related challenges and report back to Health and Social Services Committee in June.
- 7.2 The Plan will clearly define desired advocacy outcomes, recommended approaches to engagement and list specific action items with corresponding near-term timelines.

Prepared by: Bronwyn Hannelas, Policy Advisor Government Relations and Alison Burgess, Director of Communications and Engagement at 289-830-9474.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Elaine Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

From: Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
Report: [#2023-INFO-33](#)
Date: April 28, 2023

Subject:

Mental Health and Opioids in Durham Region

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide an update on local trends and strategies to address mental health and opioids in Durham Region.

2. Background

2.1 On March 27, 2023, the co-chairs of the federal, provincial, and territorial Special Advisory Committee on the Epidemic of Opioid Overdoses [issued a statement](#) on the release of [the latest surveillance data](#) on opioid and stimulant related harms in Canada.

2.2 In Ontario, the impact of mental health, mental illness, and addictions on life expectancy, quality of life, and health care utilization is more than 1.5 times that of all cancers and more than 7 times that of all infectious diseases.

2.3 Public Health Units (PHU's) do not oversee or provide mental illness treatment programs or substance use treatment programs. In Durham Region, mental health and addiction treatment services are funded by Ontario Health and the Ministry of Health (MOH) and delivered by several health professionals within the community, including:

- a. Primary care providers, hospitals, and community agencies such as:
 - Canadian Mental Health Association, Durham (CMHA Durham)

- Durham Mental Health Services (DMHS).
 - Lakeridge Health, including Pinewood Centre.
 - Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences (Ontario Shores).
 - [Rapid Access Addiction Medicine](#) (RAAM) clinics, methadone clinics, private treatment facilities, and service hubs.
- 2.4 There are many local front-line mental health and addictions services offering acute and long-term support for those experiencing mental health issues or requiring crisis intervention (see Attachment #1).
- 2.5 In accordance with the [Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability](#) (OPHS) under the [Health Protection and Promotion Act](#), Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) is mandated to fulfill requirements under the [Mental Health Promotion Guideline](#) and the [Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction Guideline](#).
- a. DRHD delivers services that provide upstream interventions to reduce the burden of mental illnesses and addictions and promote positive mental health, resiliency, and well-being across the lifespan.
 - b. DRHD delivers services using a [comprehensive health promotion approach](#) focused on primary prevention and harm reduction. Substance use related primary prevention aims to prevent or delay substance use. Harm reduction aims to reduce harms associated with use and refers to policies, programs and practices to reduce the adverse health, social and economic consequences of the use of legal and illegal psychoactive drugs without necessarily reducing drug consumption.
- 2.6 In August 2022, the Association of Municipalities in Ontario submitted its recommendations for an integrated response to mental health and addictions to the MOH in [An Integrated Approach to Mental Health and Addictions](#).
- ### 3. Local Trends
- 3.1 According to the [Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System](#), between 2014 to 2018, 69 per cent of Durham residents aged 18+ rated their mental health as excellent or very good.
- a. Less residents in Lakeview (59 per cent), downtown Ajax (55 per cent), and downtown Oshawa (54 per cent) rated their mental health as excellent or very good when compared to Durham Region.
- 3.2 According to the [Canadian Community Health Survey](#), in 2018:
- a. 18 per cent of Durham residents aged 12+ needed help for their mental health, including for alcohol or drug use, compared to 14 per cent in Ontario.
 - b. 62 per cent of Durham residents aged 12+ who needed mental health care reported that their need for care was met (53 per cent in Ontario).

- c. 11 per cent of Durham residents (approximately 61,000 people) aged 12+ reported they experienced mood disorder, which is comparable to Ontario at 10 per cent.
 - d. 12 per cent of Durham residents (approximately 68,000 people) aged 12+ reported they experienced anxiety disorder, compared to 10 per cent in Ontario.
- 3.3 Each year, Lakeridge Health has more than 100,000 mental health visits for adults, more than 12,000 visits for children and youth, and more than 14,000 visits to its emergency departments related to mental health and substance use.
- 3.4 DRHD has the seventh lowest opioid toxicity mortality rate compared to all 34 Ontario PHUs, as reported in the [Preliminary Patterns in Circumstances Surrounding Opioid-Related Deaths in Ontario during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) report.
- 3.5 Local data available on the [Durham Region Opioid Information System](#) show that:
- a. In 2022, approximately 573 suspected opioid overdose calls were received by Region of Durham Paramedic Services (RDPS), which is a decrease compared to 998 calls in 2021, and 725 calls in 2020. The majority of RDPS calls were in Oshawa.
 - b. There was a general decrease in the monthly number of confirmed opioid overdose emergency department visits by Durham Region residents in 2022.
 - c. There were approximately 78 opioid-related deaths among Durham Region residents from January to December 2022. This is a decrease from 130 deaths in 2021.
 - d. There has been a notable trend locally and provincially related to individuals who use substances shifting away from injection methods and choosing inhalation methods.
- #### 4. Funding
- 4.1 The [2023 Federal Budget](#) included funding allocated towards suicide prevention efforts and a renewed Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy with a focus on combatting the opioid crisis (see Attachment #2).
- 4.2 In 2020, the [Roadmap to Wellness: A Plan to Build Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions System](#) was launched. It is a guide to build a comprehensive and connected mental health and addictions system that is easier to navigate and access.
- a. A new [Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence](#) will support Ontario in building a comprehensive and connected mental health addictions system. It will play a critical role in the provincial oversight of delivery and quality of mental health and addictions services and supports.

- 4.3 The Province announced that the [2023 Ontario Budget](#) will include [an additional \\$425 million](#) over three years towards mental health and addictions programs and services (see Attachment #3).
- 4.4 In June 2022, one time funding was received from the MOH to enhance outreach services for the Needle Syringe Program. The funding supports a pilot project for peer outreach services to provide services, education, and support to those precariously housed or unhoused.

5. Local Highlights and Actions

- 5.1 In 2020, Lakeridge Health and DMHS integrated their operations to better coordinate services. DMHS was able to support Lakeridge Health with a range of mental health services, including three crisis locations and eight group homes across Durham Region.
- 5.2 The [Durham Region Opioid Response Plan](#) was first developed by the [Durham Region Opioid Task Force](#) in 2017 and updated in 2022.
- a. DRHD co-chairs the Task Force which is comprised of members from agencies that provide harm reduction and/or treatment services, first responders, individual residents with lived experience, school boards, and health care professionals.
- 5.3 The current focus of the Opioid Task Force is to leverage existing services to address identified gaps at the local level. In circumstances where it is not feasible to leverage existing services, due to financial and/or resource constraints, advocacy options and other strategies are considered.
- 5.4 DRHD provides the following services and programs related to mental health and opioids:
- a. School services and youth engagement – DRHD staff provides support to all schools within Durham Region. Services include innovative and varied comprehensive strategies to promote mental health, prevent substance use, and address risk and protective factors such as social inclusion and social determinants of health.
 - b. Parenting services and support – DRHD staff provides parenting support, including support to community groups and in-home visits to foster parent/child connectedness, infant and child health, and healthy family dynamics. Public health nurses conduct postnatal depression assessments and future programming will include cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) sessions for new parents/caregivers in a group setting.
 - c. Population health strategies including community assessments, education and awareness raising efforts, skill building activities and community engagement on issues and concerns.

- d. Education on safer drug practices along with the distribution of safer drug use supplies. Efforts also focus on providing a point of access into health and social services for clients who may not otherwise have access to such services.
 - e. Consultation and collaboration with stakeholders in the health, education, municipal, non-governmental, and other relevant sectors, including Ontario Health. Key collaborative groups, networks and organizations include:
 - Lakeridge Health – Integrated Mental Health and Addictions Planning Committee and Emergency Care Working Group.
 - Durham’s Child & Youth Planning Network – [Youth Suicide Prevention Durham](#).
 - Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Perinatal Mood Disorder (PMD) Community of Practice.
 - Durham District School Board – School Mental Health Steering Committee.
- 5.5 In November 2021, the Region of Durham released the [Community Safety and Well-Being \(CSWB\) Plan](#). Mental health and substance use are among the seven priority risk factors of the CSWB Plan. The plan creates a framework to intentionally align existing relationships, plans, and strategies at the regional, area municipal, and community level to make the best use of resources, avoid duplication, learn best practices, and facilitate effective cross-sectoral collaboration. DRHD is actively involved in the work of the CSWB Plan.
- a. The [CSWB Plan Data Dashboard](#) integrates data from many community data sources to provide a thorough, real-time, snapshot of local data including mental health and substance use.
- 5.6 DRHD implemented the ‘People who Use Drugs are Real People’ campaign in the fall of 2022 to reduce stigma and promote harm reduction and treatment services.
- 5.7 Over the past several years, many partnerships and new strategies have formed because of the Opioid Task Force’s work, including:
- a. Enhanced outreach services to Downtown Oshawa, funded by Lakeridge Health and DRHD (2018).
 - b. Implementation of the [On-Point Needle Collection Project](#) which is a partnership between Social Services, DRHD, and John Howard Society (2019).
 - c. [Enhanced public education](#) regarding substance use disorder and problematic substance use.
 - d. Development and launch of the Opioid Alert System to alert front line workers and agencies about a statistically significant increase in paramedic calls for suspected opioid overdoses.

- e. The [Durham Region Opioid Information System](#) which provides the latest local statistics, including paramedic services calls, emergency department visits and opioid related overdoses.
 - f. Completion of a service mapping exercise to clearly identify the service pathways for individuals who have contact with Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) and enter custody, as well as service calls related to a non-criminal offence. As a result of the service mapping exercise, further collaboration has taken place with Durham Region Primary Care Outreach Program (PCOP) and DRPS to identify strategies to address police calls related to non-criminal offences.
 - g. Development and launch of Lakeridge Health's [Together, Best Mental Health: Mental Health and Substance Use Services Strategy \(2022-2025\)](#).
 - The strategy advances mental health and substance use services in Durham Region to create a central point of intake, access, and navigation into all outpatient mental health, Pinewood Centre, and DMHS programs.
 - h. Launch of the [Report Drugs Durham](#) tool that allows the public to anonymously report a bad or unexpected reaction to a street drug.
 - i. Active participation on the Central East Opioid Strategy Table, which influenced the creation and launch of RAAM services in Oshawa, and development of the Opioid Navigator role at Lakeridge Health.
- 5.8 To support enhanced access to opioid addiction treatment, reduce drug related harms, and support long term recovery, DRHD staff will be working with Lakeridge Health and other key stakeholders to promote access to safe supply/opioid agonist therapy.
- 5.9 Durham Region provides [housing-focused street outreach](#) to help people accept offers of help with housing while meeting basic needs to ensure people can move from unsheltered homelessness to housing.
- 5.10 Durham Region is exploring a [Non-Police Led Mental Health Crisis Response Service](#). The service would aim to offer a new approach to crisis intervention, led by mental health professionals. Community engagement activities were planned and are now complete.
- 5.11 [Access MHA](#), funded by the Province, provides regional mental health and addictions service referral and coordination for people that require support in eastern Ontario. Currently the service is available to those in Ottawa, Pembroke, Cornwall, Hawkesbury and surrounding areas. In future years, the service will expand further west and include additional eastern Ontario regions, including Durham Region.

6. Previous Reports

- 6.1 Report [2021-INFO-60](#) provided an update on the report: [Changing Circumstances Surrounding Opioid-Related Deaths in Ontario During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), released on May 19, 2021.
- 6.2 Report [2022-INFO-10](#) provided an update on the report: [Patterns of Medication and Healthcare Use Among People Who Died of Opioid-Related Toxicity During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Ontario](#), released on January 18, 2022.
- 6.3 Report [2022-INFO-67](#) provided an update on the report: [Lives Lost to Opioid Toxicity Among Ontarians Who Worked in the Construction Industry](#), released on July 27, 2022.
- 6.4 Report [2023-INFO-26](#) provided information on the appearance of benzodiazepines and xylazine in the unregulated drug supply.

7. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 7.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
 - a. Goal 2: Community Vitality:
 - Enhance community safety and well-being.
 - Influence the social determinants of health to improve outcomes for vulnerable populations.
 - Support a high quality of life for all through human services delivery.
 - b. Goal 5: Service Excellence:
 - Optimize resources and partnerships to deliver exceptional quality services and value.
 - Collaborate for a seamless service experience.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 DRHD will continue to engage stakeholders and Durham Region Opioid Task Force members to ensure a coordinated, evidence-based strategy is employed at the local level to address drug poisonings.
- 8.2 DRHD will release the Opioid Response Plan Status Report to the public in June 2023.
- 8.3 DRHD will continue to provide programs and services, as per the OPHS.

9. Attachments

Attachment #1: Key Mental Health and Addictions Services in Durham Region

Attachment #2: 2023 Federal Budget Highlights

Attachment #3: 2023 Ontario Budget Highlights

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

R.J. Kyle, BSc, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC, FACPM
Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health

Attachment #1 Key Mental Health and Addictions Services in Durham Region

211 Ontario:

- Connects individuals to social services and community programs including mental health and addiction, homelessness, health care, housing, newcomers, youth, older adults, employment assistance, abuse, emergency/crisis etc.

AIDS Committee of Durham Region:

- Provides naloxone and naloxone training, harm reduction services, fentanyl drug test kits, counselling, outreach, peer support, and equipment/supply clean-up.

Back Door Mission:

- Mission United provides wrap-around support services to individuals in Durham Region who are dealing with homelessness, housing insecurity, mental health and addiction concerns, and food access challenges.

Canadian Mental Health Association Durham:

- Community mental health services including nurse practitioner-led clinic and assertive community treatment team for people 18-65 with serious and persistent mental illnesses.

Carea Community Health Centre:

- Offers services and programs addressing mental health including a walk-in counselling clinic for children and youth ages 3-19 years and their families, and brief counselling services (6-12 sessions) to individuals, families, and couples.

Community Care Durham:

- Community Care Durham (CCD) is a multi-service registered charitable organization providing a broad range of support services for individuals over the age of 16 including mental health supports, food security programming, health and wellness etc.

Connex Ontario:

- Ontario-wide information and referral for people experiencing mental health and/or addiction issues. Service is provided 24/7/365 by toll-free telephone, email, text, or web chat. Funded by the Government of Ontario.

COPE Mental Health | Community Care Durham:

- Community-based program that supports adults with mental health concerns to live in their community. The goal is to assist adults aged 16 and up with emotional or mental health concerns to remain in the community and function as effectively as possible while maximizing their quality of life.

Cornerstone:

- 24-hour emergency shelter to men aged 16 years and above who are currently homeless – max. 7 day stay.
- Services include assistance securing a source of income, housing search, referrals to community resources, mental health support and referral, crisis supports, and identification replacement.

Durham Mental Health Services:

- Short term crisis beds, 24-hour crisis line, residential programs, housing support, community outreach programs including mobile crisis team, justice initiatives, seniors support.
- Services individuals 16+ with a history of mental illness.

Durham Regional Police Service - Mental Health Support Unit (MHSU):

- Consists of five teams, each comprised of a police constable partnered with a registered nurse from Lakeridge Health. MHSU provides daily coverage between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m.
- MHSU is a secondary response unit, providing support to front line officers.

Lakeridge Health:

- Lakeridge Health is one of Ontario's largest hospital systems, and operates the province's second-largest mental health and addictions program.
- Child, Youth and Family Program (CYFP) provides services for children and adolescents, aged 5 to 18, who are struggling with serious mental health issues. Services include crisis intervention, inpatient unit and outpatient services.
- The Adult Mental Health Program at Lakeridge Health provides support for adults 18 and over who are struggling with serious mental health issues. Services include crisis intervention, an inpatient unit and outpatient services at the Lakeridge Health Oshawa site and many community locations.

Lakeridge Health's Pinewood Centre:

- Provides a variety of services to help people with alcohol, drug, concurrent mental health and gambling related concerns. Treatment services include residential withdrawal management services, residential treatment services, structured community-based individual and group services, and walk-in and telephone support.

Lakeridge Health's Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) clinics:

- Offers fast access to quality care for people living with alcohol and opioid-related addictions. Services include medical treatment and counselling services without a doctor's referral.

Distress Centre Ontario:

- Offers 24-hour text/live talk helpline, crisis call-out program, community contact call-out program, suicide survivor support groups, community training/education.

Metis Nation of Ontario:

- Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) offers a 24-hour Mental Health and Addictions Crisis Line.
- Services include culturally specific Métis health and addiction supports for adults, youth, and families in Ontario.

Mental Health Outreach Program (MHOP):

- Offers mobile outreach counselling/psychotherapy across Durham.
- Social worker visits local and north communities including Cannington, Uxbridge, Port Perry & Beaverton once a month to offer community supports and referrals.
- Program within Family Services Durham.

Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences:

- Ontario Shores is a public teaching hospital providing a range of specialized assessment and treatment services to those living with complex and serious mental illness.
- Ontario Shores offers specialized recovery-focused interprofessional programs and services designed to provide successful treatment as interprofessional teams work with patients and families throughout their journey of recovery. Assessment and crisis services are provided, as well as consultation and education.

Primary Care Outreach Program (PCOP) – mobile team across Durham:

- Consists of an advanced care paramedic and a social worker, working with community partners to deliver services to vulnerable populations. Paramedic provides medical assessments, triage and interventions and the social worker provides client engagement and assessment, service navigation and referrals to community supports, such as addiction and mental health agencies, and counselling for crises, depression, substance abuse, attempted suicide, trauma, and other health concerns.
- The PCOP team travels to various priority neighbourhoods providing services Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Attachment #2 2023 Federal Budget Highlights

[988 Suicide Prevention Line](#)

Budget 2023 proposes to provide \$158.4 million over three years, starting in 2023-24, to the Public Health Agency of Canada to support the implementation and operation of 988. As of November 30, 2023, Canadians will be able to call or text 988 at any time to access quality, effective, and immediate suicide prevention and mental health crisis support.

[Renewed Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy](#)

Budget 2023 proposes to provide a total of \$359.2 million over five years, starting in 2023-24, with \$5.7 million ongoing and \$1.3 million in remaining amortization, to support a renewed Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy. This includes:

- \$144 million over five years, starting in 2023-24, to Health Canada for the Substance Use and Addictions Program to fund community-based supports, including safer supply, supervised consumption sites, and other evidence-based health interventions.
- \$20.2 million over five years, starting in 2023-24, to the Public Health Agency of Canada for a new community-based program to prevent substance use among young people.
- \$73.9 million over five years, starting in 2023-24, with \$4.6 million ongoing, to Health Canada to streamline authorizations for supervised consumption sites and drug checking services, scale-up access to safer supply, and evaluate innovative approaches.
- \$50.8 million over five years, starting in 2023-24, with \$1.1 million ongoing and \$1.3 million in remaining amortization, to Health Canada; and \$16 million over five years, starting in 2023-24, to the Public Health Agency of Canada to support vital data collection on substance-related harms and lab-based analysis of the illegal drug supply.
- \$4.6 million over five years, starting in 2023-24, to Public Safety Canada to develop an overdose monitoring app for paramedics and other first responders.
- \$42 million over five years, starting in 2023-24, to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; \$6.2 million over five years, starting in 2023-24, to Public Services and Procurement Canada; and \$1.6 million over five years, starting in 2023-24, sourced from existing resources to Global Affairs Canada to take further action to work with our partners to tackle drug trafficking and stem the global flow of these devastating substances.

Attachment #3 2023 Ontario Budget Highlights

Ontario launched [Roadmap to Wellness](#) to better connect people to mental health services that are convenient for them. Building on this investment of \$3.8 billion over 10 years, the government is providing an additional \$425 million over three years, mainly to:

- Support mental health programs that are community-led and delivered, making it more convenient for people to connect to mental health services closer to home.
- Make a broad range of addictions services available across Ontario that are easy to access and there when needed.
- Support children and youth, by providing access to mental health and addictions services, primary care, and social and community supports to youth aged 12-25 through Youth Wellness Hubs.
- Support for children and youth suffering from eating disorders, including inpatient and specialized outpatient services.
- Identify the data and digital health needs of service providers to deliver better care for clients.
- Maintain supportive housing and services for people living with mental health and addictions challenges as they transition from hospital to the community.
- Work with Indigenous partners and communities to maintain co-developed programs and services that support Indigenous people's access to high-quality, culturally appropriate care.
- Provide community-based mental health and addictions service providers, funded by the MOH, with a five per cent increase in base funding.



Interoffice Memorandum

Date: April 14, 2023

To: Health & Social Services Committee

From: Dr. Robert Kyle

Subject: Health Information Update – April 10, 2023

Health
Department

Please find attached the latest links to health information from the Health Department and other key sources that you may find of interest. Links may need to be copied and pasted directly in your web browser to open, including the link below.

You may also wish to browse the online Health Department Reference Manual available at [Board of Health Manual](#), which is continually updated.

Boards of health are required to “superintend, provide or ensure the provision of the health programs and services required by the [Health Protection and Promotion] Act and the regulations to the persons who reside in the health unit served by the board” (section 4, clause a, HPPA). In addition, medical officers of health are required to “[report] directly to the board of health on issues relating to public health concerns and to public health programs and services under this or any other Act” (sub-section 67.(1), HPPA).

Accordingly, the Health Information Update is a component of the Health Department’s ‘Accountability Framework’, which also may include program and other reports, Health Plans, Quality Enhancement Plans, Durham Health Check-Ups, business plans and budgets; provincial performance indicators and targets, monitoring, compliance audits and assessments; RDPS certification; and accreditation by Accreditation Canada.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

R.J. Kyle, BSc, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC, FACPM
Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health

*“Service Excellence
for our Communities*

UPDATES FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
April 10, 2023

Health Department Media Releases/Publications

tinyurl.com/mv8emu3r

- Testing Changes for Lyme Disease (Mar 29)

tinyurl.com/2df7fbu2

- Lakeridge Health Electronic Referrals via Ocean Platform (Apr 3)

tinyurl.com/y36zx3zn

- Reporting Requirements for Veterinarians (Apr 3)

tinyurl.com/3a8rhtb7

- Multidrug-Resistant Gonorrhoea (Apr 3)

tinyurl.com/2tpf23cu

- New HIV Testing Guidelines (Apr 4)

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

tinyurl.com/2px6m6zk

- Domestic dog tests positive for avian influenza in Canada (Apr 4)

Department of Finance Canada

tinyurl.com/msjkkmba

- Government of Canada releases Budget 2023 (Mar 28)

Employment and Social Development Canada

tinyurl.com/3323wm92

- Minister Khra wraps up her participation in the 13th Session of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (Apr 5)

Health Canada

tinyurl.com/37vkz8f4

- Statement from the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health on the Overdose Crisis (Mar 27)

tinyurl.com/3xveudjx

- Government of Canada Releases the Model Practice Standard for Medical Assistance in Dying to Ensure Consistent and Safe Practice in Canada (Mar 27)

tinyurl.com/mpmzxphx

- Government of Canada highlights \$144 million from Budget 2023 that would help address harms related to substance abuse across Canada (Apr 4)

tinyurl.com/ym8upt9f

- Minister Duclos highlights budget investments to strengthen public health care and support health workers and students (Apr 5)

tinyurl.com/pjnzs3hz

- Statement from the Minister of Health on the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in the Cambie Surgeries case (Apr 6)

tinyurl.com/y3tkmwvb

- Message from the Minister of Health and the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions – World Health Day 2023 (Apr 7)

Natural Resources Canada

tinyurl.com/ye2x6khc

- Government of Canada's Modernized Policy for Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning for Canada (Mar 27)

Prime Minister's Office

tinyurl.com/2p8k6ecm

- Getting Canadians the dental care they need (Mar 31)

tinyurl.com/bdz46tdx

- New support available to make life more affordable for Canadians (Apr 1)

tinyurl.com/mruyh25y

- Building a clean economy with good middle-class jobs (Apr 5)

Public Health Agency of Canada

tinyurl.com/285dfs3j

- Joint Statement from the Co-Chairs of the Special Advisory Committee on the Epidemic of Opioid Overdoses – Latest National Data on Substance-Related Harms (Mar 27)

tinyurl.com/2p9497bb

- Message from the Minister of Health – World Autism Awareness Day (Apr 2)

GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

Ministry of Finance

tinyurl.com/4v8s62he

- Ontario Responds to the Federal Government's Budget 2023 (Mar 28)

Ministry of Health

tinyurl.com/28weae67

- Ontario Government and Association of Ontario Midwives Reach Agreement (Apr 3)

tinyurl.com/e9ynscbh

- COVID-19 Booster Recommended for High-Risk Individuals This Spring (Apr 6)

Premier's Office

tinyurl.com/229cndwy

- Province Helping More Students Become Doctors At Home in Ontario (Mar 30)

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Canadian Academy of Health Sciences

tinyurl.com/mry7brvt

- CAHS Releases Health Human Resources Assessment Report (Apr 4)

Canadian Cancer Society

tinyurl.com/mr3bn6yj

- Canadian Cancer Society announces details of historic research funding program to transform low-survival cancers (Mar 31)

Canadian Ophthalmological Society

tinyurl.com/2p98c3yp

- Vision care is health care: Canada's vision health stakeholders collectively stress the need to support vision care in federal budget (Mar 28)

Celiac Canada

tinyurl.com/mpt6uhuf

- New free celiac blood tests could benefit 128,000 Ontarians and save \$1 billion (Mar 30)

Community Food Centres Canada

tinyurl.com/3mxyj2xr

- A missed opportunity: Community Food Centres Canada responds to Federal Budget (Mar 29)

Council of Canadian Academies

tinyurl.com/5n6wer6t

- Advances in digital technology outpacing efforts to address online harms: expert panel report (Mar 30)

Hydro One

tinyurl.com/muuh3ac8

- Hydro One begins community engagement on proposed transmission line in Clarington to support Ontario's growing energy needs (Mar 27)

LabCANDx

tinyurl.com/yxmvaru5

- Harnessing the Value of Precision Medicine (Apr 5)

Ombudsman Ontario

tinyurl.com/mryrmz6x

- Ombudsman to investigate cases of people with developmental disabilities who are inappropriately housed in hospitals (Mar 27)

Parachute

tinyurl.com/mwn2b77c

- More than half of Canadians say that road safety should be among the top five priorities for government to address in their community (Mar 29)

Public Health Ontario

tinyurl.com/3a8rhtb7

- New: Snapshot on household food insecurity (Apr 3)

Public Policy Forum

tinyurl.com/bdfhpuh2

- Primary care for everyone: Health-care leaders urge policymakers to urgently make fixes that would serve 6.5 million Canadians without primary care (Apr 5)

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario

tinyurl.com/5ez7fwwk

- Nurses urge Ontario government to reverse decision that would end access to funded health-care services for vulnerable people (Mar 28)

tinyurl.com/2wkaf4y5

- Federal government must act as guardian of Canada's universal health system: Nurses say (Mar 28)

World Health Organization

tinyurl.com/ym5kyv8m

- Experts call for action on the commercial determinants of health and health equity (Mar 24)

tinyurl.com/47vj64sx

- Quadripartite call to action for One Health for a safer world (Mar 27)

tinyurl.com/yckp8dux

- SAGE updates COVID-19 guidance (Mar 28)

tinyurl.com/msrytpww

- WHO celebrates 75th anniversary and calls for health equity in face of unprecedented threats (Apr 3)



Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	April 25, 2023 10:53 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Regular Meeting of Council

MOVED BY: Councillor Crabtree

RESOLUTION:92-2023

SECONDED BY: Councillor Kenny

DATE: April 4, 2023

Whereas municipally elected leaders do not have an appropriate accountability structure when it comes to perpetrating violence and harassment in the workplace;
And Whereas a fundamental, underlying principle of broadening diversity, equity and inclusion in politics rests on the assumption that the workplace is safe;
And Whereas Bill 5, the Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act would require Councillors to comply with the workplace violence and harassment policies of the municipality they represent, permit municipalities to direct the Integrity Commissioner to apply to the court to vacate a member's seat for failing to comply with the municipality's workplace violence and harassment policies as well as restrict officials whose seat has been vacated from seeking immediate subsequent re-election;
And Whereas over 20 municipalities have formally endorsed and communicated public support for Bill 5;
And Whereas Bill 5 would both hold accountable and protect all municipal officials;
Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Township of Montague Council express its support for Bill 5, Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act;
Further that this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, John Jordan, MPP for Lanark, Frontenac, Kingston, Scott Reid, MP for Lanark, Frontenac, Kingston, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Municipalities.

CARRIED

DEFEATED

REEVE



April 24, 2023

Area Members of Provincial Parliament
Sent via email

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	April 25, 2023 10:50 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Dear Area Members of Provincial Parliament:

Re: Councillor J. Erb Notice of Motion

Please be advised that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo at their regular meeting held on April 19, 2023, approved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Municipal Elections Act requires all individuals wishing to be a candidate in a municipal or school board election to file Nomination Paper - Form 1 with the municipal clerk;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Elections Act requires all candidates who sought election to a municipal council or school board to file Financial Statement – Auditor’s Report Candidate – Form 4 with the municipal clerk;

AND WHEREAS Form 1 requires candidates to provide their qualifying address;

AND WHEREAS Form 4 requires candidates to list the name and home address of any donor contributing over \$100.00

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Elections Act specifies that these documents are not protected by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and requires the municipal clerk to make Form 4 available on a website;

AND WHEREAS there has been concern expressed about those who hold public office and those who support them that they have been the subject of unnecessary attention and excessive scrutiny;

AND WHEREAS the requirement to publish the personal home address of donors to specific candidates may discourage individuals from

engaging in the democratic process to elect municipal and school board politicians.

THEREFORE, BE RESOVLED THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo calls on the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for the Province of Ontario to protect the privacy of candidates and donors by removing the requirement for their street name, number and postal code to be listed on publicly available forms.

AND FURTHER THAT for verification purposes, the addresses of all candidates and all donors over \$100 be submitted to the municipal clerk on separate forms that are protected by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will not be published.

AND FINALLY, that this resolution be forwarded to the Area Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association, and all Ontario municipalities.

Please accept this letter for information purposes only. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Rebekah Harris, Research/Administrative Assistant to Council, at RHarris@regionofwaterloo.ca or 519-575-4581.

Regards,



William Short

Regional Clerk/Director, Council and Administrative Services

WS/hk

cc: Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario
Ontario Public School Boards' Association
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association
Ontario municipalities



Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	April 26, 2023 8:40 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

**The Corporation of The Township of The Archipelago
Council Meeting**

Agenda Number: 15.1.
Resolution Number 23-058
Title: Road Management Action on Invasive Phragmites
Date: Friday, April 21, 2023

Moved by: Councillor Barton
Seconded by: Councillor Lundy

WHEREAS *Phragmites australis (Phragmites)* is an invasive perennial grass that continues to cause severe damage to wetlands and beaches in areas around the Great Lakes including Georgian Bay; and

WHEREAS *Phragmites australis* grows and spreads rapidly, allowing the plant to invade new areas and grow into large monoculture stands in a short amount of time, and is an allelopathic plant that secretes toxins from its roots into the soil which impede the growth of neighboring plant species; and

WHEREAS *Phragmites australis* results in loss of biodiversity and species richness, loss of habitat, changes in hydrology due to its high metabolic rate, changes in nutrient cycling as it is slow to decompose, an increased fire hazard due to the combustibility of its dead stalks, and can have an adverse impact on agriculture, particularly in drainage ditches; and

WHEREAS invasive *Phragmites* has been identified as Canada's worst invasive plant species by Agriculture and Agrifood Canada; and

WHEREAS the Ontario government has made it illegal to import, deposit, release, breed/grow, buy, sell, lease or trade invasive *Phragmites* under the Invasive Species Act; and

WHEREAS *Phragmites* occupy over 4,800 hectares of land around Lake St. Clair alone, while 212 hectares of *Phragmites* occupy land along the St. Lawrence River. The Georgian Bay Area is particularly affected by *Phragmites australis*, with more than 700 stands along the shorelines and multiple visible stands on the highways and roads that threaten valuable infrastructure and wetland areas; and

WHEREAS volunteers, non-governmental organizations, and various municipalities have invested tens of thousands of dollars in investments and labour annually for more than eight years in executing managements plans to control invasive *Phragmites* on roads, coasts, shorelines and in wetlands; and

WHEREAS roads and highways where *Phragmites* that are left untreated become spread vectors that continually risk new and treated wetlands and coastal shoreline areas; and

WHEREAS according to “Smart Practices for the Control of Invasive *Phragmites* along Ontario’s Roads” by the Ontario *Phragmites* Working Group, best road management practices for *Phragmites australis* include early detection, herbicide application, and cutting; and

WHEREAS these best management practices are most effective when used in a multi-pronged approach as opposed to when used as stand-alone control measures; and

WHEREAS Mother Nature does not recognize political boundaries. Therefore, it is imperative that Municipalities, Districts, the Province, and the Federal government work together in collaboration to eradicate Canada’s worst invasive plant species *Phragmites australis*.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Township of The Archipelago directs its staff to implement best management practices to promote early detection of invasive *Phragmites*, and to implement best management practices for invasive *Phragmites*, and to join the Ontario *Phragmites* Working Group to collaborate on the eradication of *Phragmites* in Ontario.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council for the Township of The Archipelago directs staff to insert clean equipment protocols into tenders and that there is oversight that the protocols are followed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council for the Township of The Archipelago requests the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to map and treat invasive *Phragmites* annually on all its highways.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) communicates the strategy on mapping (detecting sites) and controlling invasive *Phragmites* on provincial highways, the specific highway management plans and results by each MTO region and each highway in the region and work in coordination with Township of The Archipelago.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council for the Township of The Archipelago directs its staff to send this resolution to all municipalities that are part of the Georgian Bay watershed, to the Minister of Transportation, Christopher Balasa the Manager, Maintenance Management, and MPP (the Municipality’s local MPP).

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Council for the Township of The Archipelago requests all levels of government to consider funding support to aid the Township of The Archipelago in managing invasive *Phragmites*; and directs staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Carried

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COCHRANE

REGULAR COUNCIL

DATE:

April 11, 2023

RESOLUTION NO.:

204-2023

AGENDA ITEM NO.:

13.4

MOVED BY SUSAN NELSON

SECONDED BY DANIEL BRUNET

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	April 26, 2023 8:44 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

WHEREAS Council has received several communications regarding the historical challenge for woman in politics.

AND WHEREAS Council wishes to support the call for action by going beyond making political statements and constructively add to inspiring positive, meaningful change to this instead.

AND WHEREAS Council recognizes and is proud of the Town of Cochrane’s historical and inspiring accomplishments toward this important initiative that has seen our community commit to adopting meaningful change by:

- ✓ Adopting employment equity in 2011
- ✓ Making senior positions of control and power available to woman, such as:
 - o Having the one of only of two female CAO’s in the region.
 - o Having the fourteen positions in the Town Hall composed of eleven woman.
- ✓ And by having forty-three percent of it’s council composed of woman.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVE THAT: the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Cochrane, Ontario, wishes to support the call out to recognize the challenges woman face in politics, while also recognizing the efforts made by its municipality, and all other municipalities, to meaningfully create the change being sought through leading by example.

AND THAT: the Council inspire continued meaningful change by encouraging all municipalities to first recognize (thereby validating) the positive changes they have made, while remaining diligent in continuing to make and inspire the kind of actual change that will lead to even more woman becoming actively engaged in politics.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COCHRANE

DECLARED THE MOTION

CARRIED

DEFEATED

DEFERRED

REFERRED TO: _____

RECORDED VOTE - Requested by: _____

PETER POLITIS

Mayor (Deputy Mayor)

RECORDED VOTE	FOR	AGAINST	CONFLICT	ABSENT
France Bouvier				
Daniel Brunet				
Sylvie Charron – Lemieux				
Rodney Hoogenhoud				
Susan Nelson				
Peter Politis				
Marck Recoskie				

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

DISCLOSED HIS/HER INTEREST(S)

VACATED HIS/HER SEAT

ABSTAINED FROM DISCUSSION AND DID NOT VOTE ON THIS QUESTION.



**Corporate Services Department
Clerk's Office**

CITY of STRATFORD
City Hall, P.O. Box 818
Stratford ON N5A 6W1

519-271-0250 Ext. 5237
Fax: 519-273-5041
www.stratford.ca

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	April 26, 2023 8:48 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

November 28, 2022

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Resolution – Funding and Support for VIA Rail Services

At their November 14, 2022, Regular Council meeting, Stratford City Council adopted a resolution petitioning the federal government to adequately fund and fully support VIA Rail Canada in increasing the frequency, reliability and speed of VIA Rail service.

A copy of the resolution is attached for your consideration. We kindly request your support and endorsement.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Dafoe
Clerk

Encl.
/ja

cc: Premier Doug Ford
MPP Matthew Rae
MP John Nater
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
All Ontario municipalities



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF STRATFORD
Resolution: Funding and Support for VIA Rail Service

WHEREAS The Corporation of the City of Stratford supports the National Transportation Policy and Section 5 of the *Canada Transportation Act*, S.C. 1996, c. 10 (as amended), which states in part:

"a competitive, economic and efficient national transportation system that meets the highest practicable safety and security standards and contributes to a sustainable environment, makes best use of all modes of transportation at the lowest cost is essential to serve the needs of its users, advance the well-being of Canadians, enable competitiveness and economic growth in both urban and rural areas throughout Canada. Those objectives are achieved when:

(a) competition and market forces among modes of transportation, are prime agents in providing viable and effective transportation services;

(b) regulation and strategic public intervention are used to achieve economic, safety, security, environmental or social outcomes

(c) rates and conditions do not constitute an undue obstacle to the movement of traffic within Canada or to the export of goods from Canada;

(d) the transportation system is accessible without undue obstacle to the mobility of persons, including persons with disabilities; and

(e) governments and the private sector work together for an integrated transportation system."

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has stated: "*we are serious about climate change*" and "*smart investments in transit help connection communities We will continue to work with communities and invest in the infrastructure they need today and into the future*";

WHEREAS Abacus data has indicated that Canadians are focused on building transit to reduce congestion and connect communities;

WHEREAS the Canadian Transport Commission main finding at public hearings in 1977 was that there should be no further reductions to passenger rail services;

WHEREAS the frequency of VIA trains running in Canada has been reduced significantly since 1977, causing a subsequent significant drop in ridership;

WHEREAS there is a need for balanced transportation with more using transit and less using automobiles;

WHEREAS the changing demographic relating to house prices, housing affordability will require further expansions of transit;

WHEREAS there is a need to visit tourist sites located along rail lines;

WHEREAS the annual cost of congestion to the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area economy alone is between \$7.5 and \$11 billion;

WHEREAS there are 10 million more vehicles on the road today than there were in 2000; and

WHEREAS the City of Stratford requests the support of this resolution from all communities served by VIA;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of The City of Stratford recommends to the Government of Canada to adequately fund and fully support VIA Rail Canada in increasing the frequency, reliability and speed of VIA rail service in 2022 and successive years.

Adopted by City Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford on November 14, 2022

The Corporation of the City of Stratford, P.O. Box 818, Stratford ON N5A 6W1
Attention: City Clerk, 519-271-0250 extension 5329, clerks@stratford.ca



Corporate Services Department
Legislative Services Division

Date & Time Received:	April 25, 2023 4:35 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

From: Trish Barnett <T.Barnett@lsrca.on.ca>

Sent: April 25, 2023 3:17 PM

To: Clerks <Clerks@durham.ca>; Aurora Clerks Department <clerks@aurora.ca>; Becky Jamieson (Scugog) <bjamieson@scugog.ca>; BWG Clerks (Bradford West Gwillimbury) <clerk@townofbwg.com>; Cathie Ritchie (Kawartha Lakes) <critchie@kawarthalakes.ca>; Christopher Raynor (York Region) <christopher.raynor@york.ca>; Debbie Leroux <dleroux@uxbridge.ca>; Denny Timm (King) <dtimm@king.ca>; Gillian Angus-Traill <gillian.angus-trail@townofws.ca>; Janette Teeter (Oro-Medonte) <jteeter@oro-medonte.ca>; Jennifer Connor (Ramara) <jconnor@ramara.ca>; John Daly (Simcoe) <john.daly@simcoe.ca>; Karen Shea (kshea@innisfil.ca) <kshea@innisfil.ca>; Kiran Saini (Newmarket) <ksaini@newmarket.ca>; Kristine Preston <kpreston@orillia.ca>; Lisa Lyons (Newmarket) <llyons@newmarket.ca>; Maralee Drake <Maralee.Drake@brock.ca>; Mike Derond (Aurora) <mderond@aurora.ca>; Pam Fettes (New Tecumseth) <pfettes@newtecumseth.ca>; Patty Thoma <pthoma@innisfil.ca>; Rachel Dillabough (Georgina) <rdillabough@georgina.ca>; Robin Cadeau (Orillia) <rcadeau@orillia.ca>; Tara Lajevardi (East Gwillimbury) <tlajevardi@eastgwillimbury.ca>; Tara Reynolds (Bradford West Gwillimbury) <treynolds@townofbwg.com>; Wendy Cooke (Barrie) <wendy.cooke@barrie.ca>; Yvonne Aubichon (Oro-Medonte) <yaubichon@oro-medonte.ca>

Subject: Do you know an environmental champion?

Good afternoon Regional and Municipal Clerks:

We would be so pleased if you could share this message with your Members of Council....thank you !

We are very pleased to announce that nominations are now open for our Annual Conservation Awards!

[**Nominate an environmental champion for a Conservation Award today!**](#)

Eligible nominations for our Conservation Awards are based on significant conservation projects completed by individuals, groups, or businesses, within the Lake Simcoe Watershed between July 2022 and June 2023 in the following categories:

1. [Healthy Water](#)
2. [Healthy Land](#)
3. [Healthy Community](#)
4. [Ernie Crossland Young Conservationist Award](#)
5. [George R. Richardson Award of Honour](#)

Projects happening between now and the end of June may still be eligible for an award!

Thank you for taking the time to acknowledge the countless residents of all ages who demonstrate their commitment to our region's natural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. Please help us recognize their efforts and [If you have any questions about the nomination process or need assistance submitting a nomination](#). please do not hesitate to reach out

k.zeppieri@LSRCA.on.ca. Katarina is happy to work with you to collect the pertinent details for ~~submission and to determine~~ if a project is eligible.

The deadline to submit nominations is Friday June 2nd, 2023.

Thank you for supporting our Conservation Awards program.

Best regards,
Trish

Trish Barnett

Chief of Staff

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

120 Bayview Parkway,

Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 3W3

905-895-1281, ext. 223 | 1-800-465-0437 |

t.barnett@LSRCA.on.ca | www.LSRCA.on.ca

Twitter: [@LSRCA](#)

Facebook: [LakeSimcoeConservation](#)

The information in this message (including attachments) is directed in confidence solely to the person(s) named above and may not be otherwise distributed, copied or disclosed. The message may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and by the Personal Information Protection Electronic Documents Act. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the message without making a copy. Thank you.

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

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 11, 2023

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:30 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair
T. Barrie, Clarington
N. Guthrie, Member at Large
G. O'Connor, Member at Large
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
H. Schillings, Whitby
B. Smith*, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair
G. Taylor, Pickering
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair

*** denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: B. Howsam, Member at Large
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
W. Wotten, Regional Councillor

Staff

Present: S. Jibb, Manager, Agricultural & Rural Economic Development, Department of Planning and Economic Development
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
M. Scott, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
R. Trewin, Senior Project Manager, Works Department
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by G.L. O'Connor, Seconded by H. Schillings,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting
held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. **Presentations**

A) Ron Trewin, Senior Project Manager, Durham Region Works Department – Update on Regional Roads and Infrastructure Projects

Ron Trewin, Senior Project Manager, Durham Region Works Department,
provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to an Update on Regional
Roads and Infrastructure Projects.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Overview of Presentation
- Budget Overview Roads & Infrastructure
- 2022 Accomplishments
 - Service Improvements
 - Vision Zero (Works Measures)
 - Awards and Achievements
- 2023 Proposed Expenditures & Financing
- 2023 Strategic Highlights
- 2023 Roads Capital Planning Framework
- Rehabilitation Projects
- 2023 Roads Projects
- Proposed 2023 Structures Replacement/Rehabilitation Projects
- Proposed 2023 Traffic Programs
- Proposed 2023 Vision Zero Program
- Proposed 2023 ICIP BRT Projects
- 2023 Business Plans and Budgets
- Scope Flattening for Road Safety Improvements
- Excess Soils Filling Sites Adjacent to the Road
- Excess Soils to Fill a Low Area to Improve Farming
- Roundabouts – More Coming to Durham
- Road Standards
- More Road Standard Improvements

R. Trewin responded to questions with regards to the definition of community safety zone; tickets being issued through Vision Zero; how development charges

are utilized; the paving of the shoulders of roads; excess soil filling site project details; salt content in soil due winter maintenance of roads; whether roundabouts are a viable option; how much of farm driveways are being paved; and how the electric vehicle charging stations work.

Discussion ensued with regards to speed limit changes on regional roads; construction plans for Regional Road 13, Concession Road 7, Winchester Road (Regional Road 3), and the Burketon CPR Bridge in Clarington; and re-landscaping farms.

5. Discussion Items

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

S. Jibb advised there is no rural and agricultural economic development update at this time.

B) Avian Influenza and Backyard Chickens

S. Jibb advised that Durham Region has posted information on avian influenza on its website. She also advised there have been discussions around backyard chicken by-laws and that the City of Pickering recently passed a resolution directing staff to investigate implementing a back-yard chicken by law.

S. Jibb advised that staff from the City of Pickering will be attending a future meeting to seek the Committee's input on this matter.

C) ROPA 2023-003 – Gowanlea Ltd., Township of Brock

M. Scott advised that an application to amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Michael Smith Planning Consultants Development Coordinators Ltd., on behalf of Gowanlea Ltd., to permit the severance of a farm dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm properties, in the Township of Brock, File: OPA 2023-003, was received.

M. Scott advised that the applicant purchased the subject site in 2022 and the lands are used for crop rotation. He also advised that it is a private farm business that owns 22 agricultural properties totalling 833 hectares in the Township of Brock. He added that the house located on the subject site is not utilized by farm employees and is surplus to the farm operation.

M. Scott provided a brief overview of the application and discussion ensued regarding the subject site.

Moved by T. Barrie, Seconded by T. Watpool,
That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee has no objection to the severance of land.

CARRIED

D) 2023 Farm Tour Sub-Committee Report

D. Risebrough advised there is no 2023 farm tour sub-committee report update at this time.

6. Information Items

A) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Membership Appointments

Report #2023-P-11 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Membership Appointments was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda and received.

B) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, re: Impacts on Food Prices and Opportunities for Advocacy to Improve Financial Viability for the Agri-food Sector

Correspondence to The Honourable Justin Trudeau with regards to Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, re: Impacts on Food Prices and Opportunities for Advocacy to Improve Financial Viability for the Agri-food Sector was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda and received.

C) Motion Regarding Bill C-234: An Act to Amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act

Correspondence to The Honourable Justin Trudeau with regards to Motion Regarding Bill C-234: An Act to Amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda and received.

7. Other Business

A) Review of Proposed Policies Adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to Form a New Provincial Planning Policy Instrument

M. Scott advised that on April 6, 2023, the Province of Ontario released a review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument and that the proposal is open for consultation and comment until June 5, 2023.

Discussion ensued with regards to retirement homes on farms; additional residences being allowed on properties; the rules for water and septic on the properties; changes to policies governing the expansion of municipal urban boundaries; and mapping of prime agricultural lands in Ontario.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 starting at 7:30 PM.

9. Adjournment

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by H. Schillings,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham Agricultural Advisory
Committee

K. Smith, Committee Clerk

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

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 13, 2023

A meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee was held on Thursday, April 13, 2023 in Room 1A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:00 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: R. Lalonde, Whitby, Chair
B. Astley, Oshawa
A. Heywood, Pickering*
C. Houston, Clarington
Councillor Kerr attended the meeting at 7:10 PM
K. Mirani, Brock attended the meeting at 7:23 PM
P. Smith, Uxbridge
T. Van Helsdingen, Ajax
***denotes members participating electronically**

Absent: M. Gibbons, Scugog

Also
Present: Councillor Shahid (alternate)

Staff
Present: A. Caruso, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT S. Kemp, Manager, Traffic Engineering and Operations, Works Department
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development
A. Tulloch, Planning Analyst, Transportation Planning, Planning & Economic Development
S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Elections

A) Election of the Chair

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC).

Moved by B. Astley, Seconded by P. Smith,
That R. Lalonde be nominated for the position of Chair of the
Durham Active Transportation Committee.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by B. Astley,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

S. Ciani asked if R. Lalonde would stand. R. Lalonde indicated he would stand.

R. Lalonde was acclaimed to the position of Chair of the DATC.

B) Election of the Vice-Chair

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Durham Active Transportation Committee.

Moved by B. Astley, Seconded by R. Lalonde,
That C. Houston be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the
Durham Active Transportation Committee.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by R. Lalonde,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

S. Ciani asked if C. Houston would stand. C. Houston indicated he would stand.

C. Houston was acclaimed to the position of Vice-Chair of the DATC.

R. Lalonde assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by C. Houston,
That the minutes of the Durham Active Transportation Committee
meeting held on September 26, 2022, be adopted.

CARRIED

At this time Councillor Kerr attended the meeting as Regional Councils' representative.

5. Presentations

A) Anthony Caruso, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning, re: Welcome Presentation to the Durham Active Transportation Committee

Anthony Caruso, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding a welcome to the Durham Active Transportation Committee.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Overview
- Why Are We Here?
- Introductions
- Overview of the Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC)
- Terms of Reference/Annual Workplan/Annual Report
- Administrative Items
- Questions and Answers

A. Caruso, Senior Planner, welcomed the new and returning committee members who were then given the opportunity to provide some of their background; what they hope to achieve in the next four years; and their interest in the DATC.

B) Danielle Culp, Project Planner, Transportation Planning, re: Pedal for Patients Charity Bike Ride

Greg Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Pedal for Patients Charity Bike Ride.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Overview
- Opportunity
- Fees and Fundraising Goals
- Additional Details
- Promotion and Branding
- Proposed Route
 - Intermediate
 - Advanced
- Event Site Plan
- Next Steps

G. Pereira responded to questions from the Committee regarding how the Pedal for Patients Charity Bike Ride is being promoted; whether the event is open for everyone; and what could a resident do if they wanted to participate but couldn't afford the registration fee.

C) Alia Tulloch, Planning Analyst, Transportation Planning, re: Durham Meadoway Visioning Study

Alia Tulloch, Planning Analyst, Transportation Planning, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Durham Meadoway Visioning Study.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- What is the Durham Meadoway?
- Durham Transportation Master Plan 2017
- Visioning Study Overview
- Project Timeline
- What We've Completed So Far
 - Phase 1
 - What We Heard in Phase 1
 - Community Engagement – Key Themes
 - Route Options
 - Study Area Boundary Change
 - Route Evaluation Criteria
 - Key Evaluation Areas
- What We've Been Working On
 - Beyond the Multi-Use Path
 - Pickering Focal Point
 - Visualizations
- What's Next
 - Next Steps

Staff responded to questions from the Committee regarding when the Durham Meadoway path will be opened to the public; the interim route options, and whether there will be connectivity to the waterfront trail; the possibility of a community garden; and the sources of funding for the Durham Meadoway.

6. Delegations

There were no delegations heard.

7. Discussion Items

A) DATC Workplan 2023

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by K. Mirani,
That we recommend to the Planning & Economic Development
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to
Regional Council:

That the proposed 2023 Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC)
Work Plan be approved.

CARRIED

B) Future Meeting Format

Discussion ensued regarding the preferred meeting format for future DATC meetings. It was the consensus of the Committee to meet in a hybrid meeting format to allow for both virtual and in-person participation at meetings

8. **Information Items**

There were no information items discussed.

9. **Other Business**

A) Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve

Discussion ensued regarding whether the removal of the protected area known as the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve, if approved, would impact the Regional Cycling Plan, the Regional Trail Network, the Durham Meadoway, and any other initiatives DATC and the Region may be involved in.

B) June Bike Month Update

A. Tulloch advised that staff are currently working with Corporate Communications staff regarding June Bike Month social media activities, that will include posters and many of the same activities as last year, such as bike BINGO. In response to a question from the Committee regarding whether there would be any in-person events or activities, A. Tulloch advised that the events would be virtual but that the Region is available to co-brand with local municipalities.

R. Lalonde provided an overview of last years' activities.

Moved by P. Smith, Seconded by C. Houston,
That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to
Regional Council:

Whereas June is Bike Month;

And whereas Durham Regional Planning Staff have organized numerous bike friendly activities annually for over a decade to educate residents about cycling safety, promote the benefits of cycling, and encourage residents to bike more by participating in Bike Month throughout the month of June;

And whereas the Durham Active Transportation Committee fully supports the Region's planned Bike Month activities;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Durham Active Transportation Committee request Regional Council's support of the planned Regional Bike

Month activities and proclaim the month of June as Bike Month in the Region of Durham.

CARRIED

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee will be held on June 8, 2023 in Room 1A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 7:00 PM.

11. Adjournment

Moved by B. Astley, Seconded by P. Smith,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM

R. Lalonde, Chair
Durham Active Transportation Committee

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk