

Council Highlights

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February 25, 2026

Key highlights:

Regional Council began with a reading of the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement and the playing of the Canadian National Anthem.

Regional Chair and CEO, John Henry, recognized Pink Shirt Day (February 25), which aims to raise awareness of the issue of bullying, as well as funds to support programs that foster children's healthy self-esteem.

Council received an update from the Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) and Police Service Board, which included the Ontario Civilian Police Commission (OCPC) Investigation Report related to the DRPS, 2026 DRPS budget, Drone as First Responder Pilot Project, Community Safety Data Portal and more.

A motion was endorsed related to the OCPC investigation that asks the DRPS Board for regular progress updates on the recommendations, directs staff to request an unredacted copy of the report from the OCPC through a Freedom of Information Request, and requires action—including removing honours or recognition—for anyone identified as having committed wrongdoing.

Council received a progress update on the Region's Equity Audit, noting that 83 of 86 recommendations have been met. The Region will conduct another staff census and Equity Audit in 2027 and 2028 to assess progress and develop a new Equity Strategy.

Council received an overview of an Auditor General model and Durham's current audit framework, and directed staff to move forward with establishing an independent Office of the Auditor General. Actions include developing terms of reference, outlining authorities and audit scope, and identifying the budget and staffing needed for consideration in the 2027 budget process. See report [2026-F-1](#) for details.

Please note, this is not an official record of Regional Council.

Visit durham.ca for the official minutes.

Council approved an agreement with the Northeast Pickering Landowners Group Inc. for them to complete and fully fund an Environmental Assessment for future water and sewer servicing in Northeast Pickering. The Region and landowners will jointly lead the work. The plan must include meaningful Indigenous engagement and collaboration, and the landowners will cover all related Regional costs. See report [2026-COW-8](#) for details.

A recording of the February 25 Regional Council meeting will be available on durham.ca and on the Region's [YouTube page](#). The next regularly scheduled Regional Council Meeting is March 25, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

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