

Council Highlights

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December 17, 2025

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, celebrated Durham Region's Intelligent Community of the Year global achievement, which highlights the Region's innovation, workforce development and commitment to inclusion. Chair Henry also recognized individuals retiring from the Region, and Regional Council received a holiday presentation from children and staff from the Whitby Early Learning and Child Care Centre.

Regional Council approved the 2026 Water and Sanitary Sewer User Rates, reflecting a combined increase of 5 per cent for an average residential customer, or approximately \$5.24 per month. See report [2025-COW-47](#) for details.

Regional Council reviewed the 2026 Business Plans and Budget. Discussions will continue at the January 28 Council meeting on an updated budget that reflects a 4.8 per cent increase on the Regional portion of the property tax bill.

Council endorsed the Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence Action Plan for Durham Region (2025 to 2030), which outlines priorities and actions to improve outcomes for individuals and families affected by Gender-based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence. See report [2025-COW-39](#) for details.

Council also approved the draft At Home In Durham 2025-2035 Housing and Homelessness Plan for submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for feedback on goals and actions. See report [2025-COW-40](#) for details.

A recording of the December 17 Regional Council meeting is available on durham.ca and on the Region's [YouTube page](#). The next regularly scheduled Regional Council Meeting is January 28, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

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

Visit durham.ca for the official minutes.