



The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
Council Correspondence

November 1, 2024

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October 23, 2024

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Algoma Community Room / Videoconference

www.algomapublichealth.com

Meeting Book - October 23, 2024, Board of Health Meeting

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15. Adjournment

Board of Health Meeting

AGENDA

Wednesday, October 23, 2024 - 5:00 pm
SSM Algoma Community Room | Videoconference

BOARD MEMBERS

Deborah Graystone
Sally Hagman - Chair
Julila Hemphill
Donald McConnell - 2nd Vice-Chair
Luc Morrisette - 1st Vice-Chair
Loretta O'Neill
Matthew Shoemaker
Sonia Tassone
Suzanne Trivers
Jody Wildman

APH MEMBERS

Dr. John Tuinema - Acting Medical Officer of Health & CEO
Rick Webb - Director of Corporate Services
Kristy Harper - Director of Health Promotion & Chief Nursing Officer
Leo Vecchio - Manager of Communications
Leslie Dunseath - Manager of Accounting Services
Tania Caputo - Board Secretary

GUESTS: Hilary Gordon - Manager of School Health & Community Wellness, Karen Hooey - PHN, Community Wellness, Jennifer Miller - PHN, Community Wellness

- 1.0 Meeting Called to Order** *S. Hagman*
- a. Land Acknowledgment
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

- 2.0 Adoption of Agenda** *S. Hagman*

RESOLUTION

THAT the Board of Health agenda dated October 23, 2024 be approved as presented.

- 3.0 Delegations / Presentations** *K. Hooey /
J. Miller*
- a. Harm Reduction

- 4.0 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting** *S. Hagman*

RESOLUTION

THAT the Board of Health meeting minutes dated September 25, 2024, be approved as presented.

- 5.0 Business Arising from Minutes**

- 6.0 Reports to the Board** *J. Tuinema*

- a. Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer Reports

MOH Report - October 2024

- Immunization of Children in Schools

RESOLUTION

THAT the report of the Medical Officer of Health and CEO for October 2024 be accepted as presented.

- b. Finance and Audit

- i. Chair Report for the October 16, 2024, Finance and Audit Committee Meeting.

L. Morrisette

RESOLUTION

THAT the Board of Health accepts the Chair Report for the Finance and Audit Committee Meeting as presented.

ii. **Unaudited Financial Statements ending August 31, 2024**

L. Morrisette

RESOLUTION

THAT the Board of Health accepts the Unaudited Financial Statements for the period ending August 31, 2024 as presented.

c. **Governance**

Policy 02-05-002 - Procurement - Addendum

D. McConnell

RESOLUTION

THAT the Board of Health approves **Policy 02-05-002 - Procurement** as presented.

7.0 New Business/General Business

S. Hagman

8.0 Correspondence - requiring action

S. Hagman

9.0 Correspondence - for information

a. **alPHa Information Break - October 2024**

S. Hagman

b. Letter from Public Health Sudbury and District to the Minister of Health regarding maintaining publicly-funded drinking water testing dated October 16, 2024.

10.0 Addendum

S. Hagman

a. **Policy 02-05-002 - Procurement**

11.0 In-Camera

S. Hagman

For discussion of labour relations and employee negotiations, matters about identifiable individuals, **adoption of in camera minutes, security of the property of the board**, litigation or potential litigation.

RESOLUTION

THAT the Board of Health go in-camera.

12.0 Open Meeting

S. Hagman

Resolutions resulting from in-camera meeting.

13.0 Announcements / Next Committee Meetings:

S. Hagman

Finance and Audit Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 6, 2024 @ 5:00 pm
SSM Algoma Community Room | Video Conference

Governance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 @ 5:00 pm
SSM Algoma Community Room | Video Conference

Board of Health

Wednesday, November 27, 2024 @ 5:00 pm
SSM Algoma Community Room | Video Conference

RESOLUTION

THAT the Board of Health meeting adjourns.

Harm Reduction

Presenters: Jennifer Miller and Karen Hooey

Date: October 23, 2024

Overview

Opioid/Toxic
Drug
portfolio

Naloxone
and Harm
Reduction

Next Steps

Strategic Directions



Advance the priority public health needs of Algoma's diverse communities.

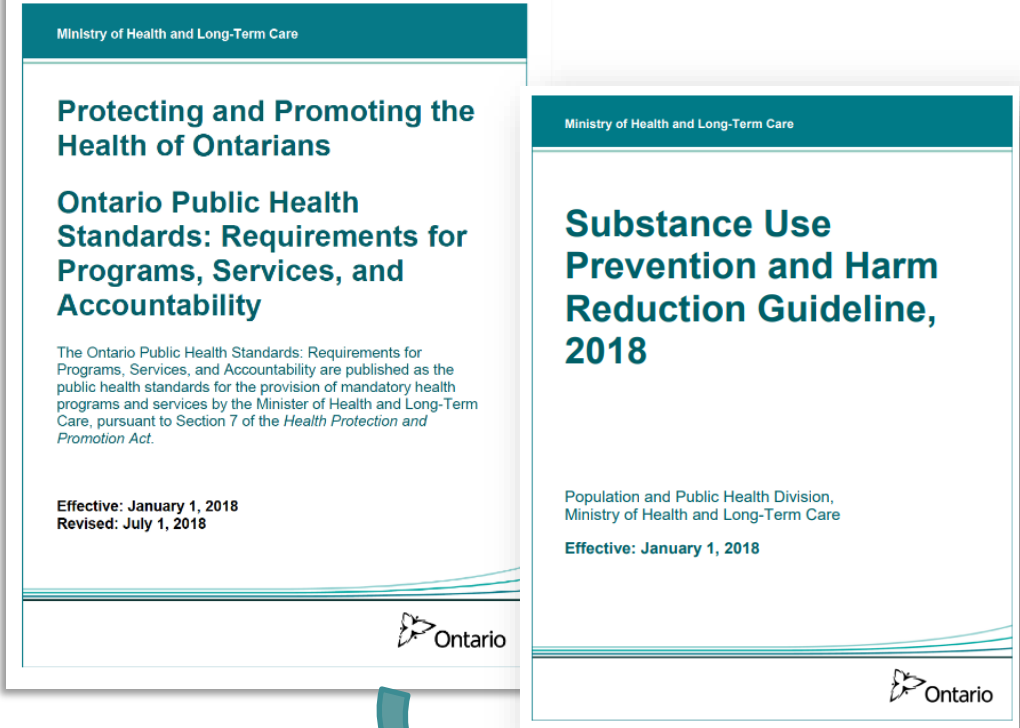


Improve the impact and effectiveness of Algoma Public Health programs.



Grow and celebrate an organizational culture of learning, innovation, and continuous improvement.

Ontario Public Health Standards



Substance Use and Injury Prevention

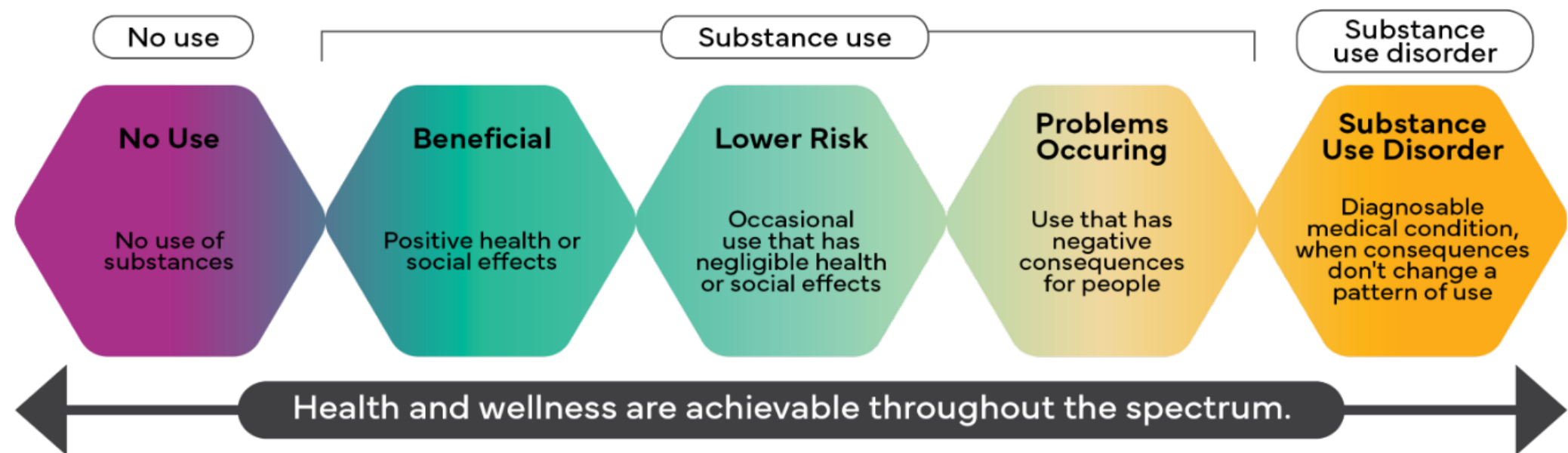
Goal

To reduce the burden of preventable injuries and substance¹⁹ use.

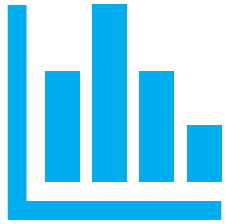
Program Outcomes

- The board of health is aware of and uses data to influence and inform the development of local healthy public policy and its programs and services for preventing injuries, preventing substance use, and reducing harms²⁰ associated with substance use.
- Board of health programs and services are designed to address the identified needs of the community, including priority populations, associated with the prevention of injuries, preventing substance use, and reducing harms associated with substance use.
- Priority populations and health inequities related to injuries and substance use have been identified and relevant data have been communicated to community partners.
- There is a reduction in population health inequities related to injuries and substance use.
- Community partners are aware of healthy behaviours associated with the prevention of injuries and substance use, which includes reducing the harms associated with substance use.
- Community partners have knowledge of and increased capacity to act on the factors associated with the prevention of injuries, including healthy living behaviours, healthy public policy, and creating supportive environments.
- Community partners have knowledge of and increased capacity to act on the factors associated with preventing substance use, and reducing harms associated with substance use, including healthy living behaviours and developing personal skills, healthy public policy, and creating supportive environments.

Harm Reduction

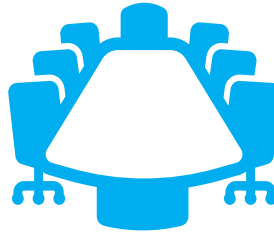


The Public Health Approach



Surveillance

Data & Planning



Community Engagement

Training & Support



Harm Reduction

Prevention and Education

Community Health Profile

Algoma's Community Health Profile

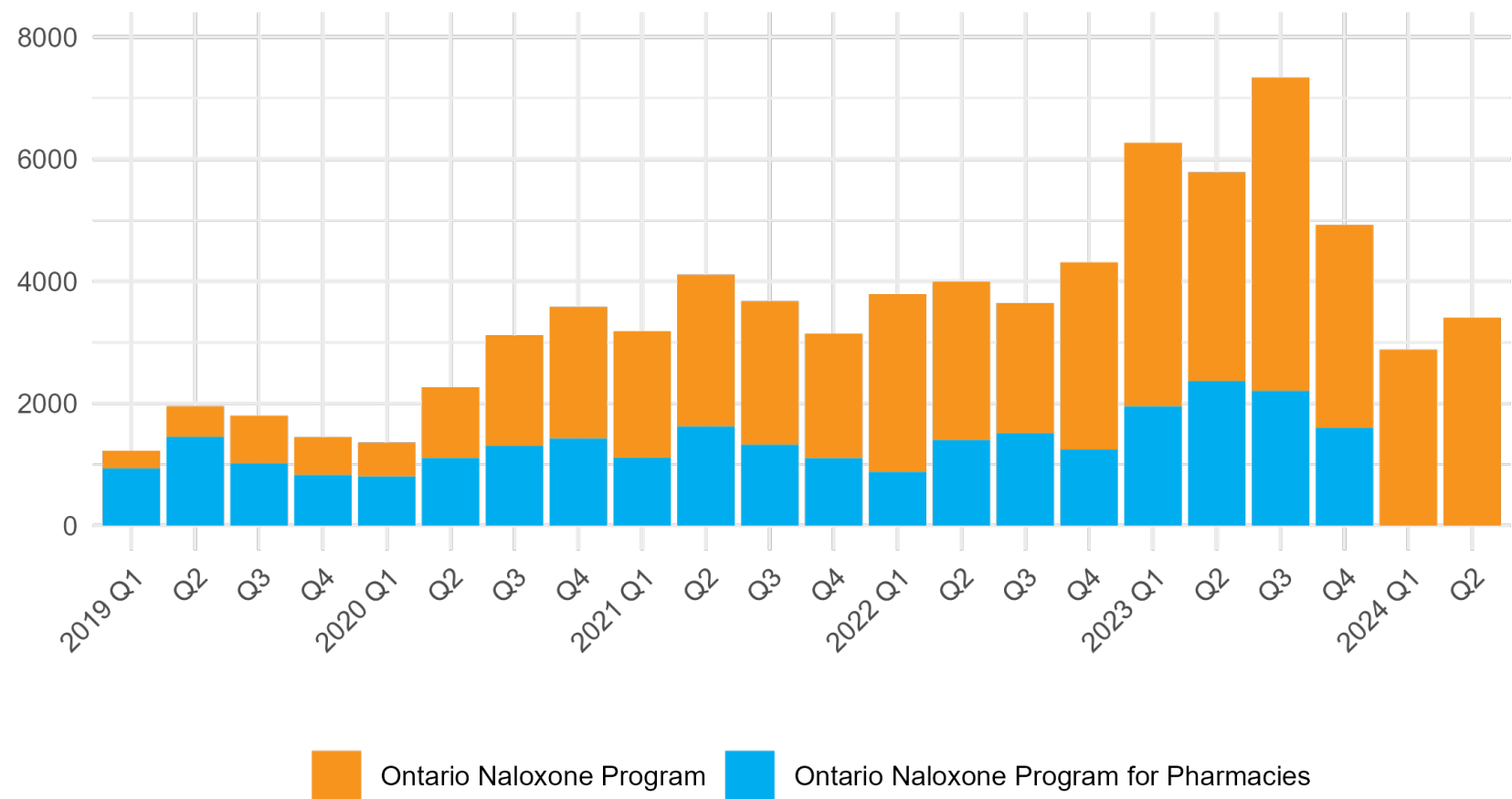


Algoma's rates of opioid related hospitalizations and deaths is three times higher than Ontario

3x ↑

Data and Surveillance

Naloxone doses distributed in Algoma District, by program



Naloxone Distribution



5 STEPS TO RESPOND TO AN OPIOID OVERDOSE

STEP 1		SHOUT & SHAKE their name & their shoulders
STEP 2		CALL 9-1-1 If unresponsive.
STEP 3		GIVE NALOXONE: 1 spray into nostril or inject 1 vial or ampoule into arm or leg.
STEP 4		PERFORM RESCUE BREATHING AND/OR CHEST COMPRESSIONS.
STEP 5		IS IT WORKING? If no improvement after 2-3 minutes, repeat steps 3 & 4. Stay with them.

RECOVERY POSITION

If the person begins breathing on their own, or if you have to leave them alone, put them in the recovery position.

head should be tilted back slightly to open airway

hand supports head

knee drags body from rolling onto stomach

SIGNS OF OPIOID OVERDOSE

- Person can't be woken up
- Breathing is slow or has stopped
- Snoring or gurgling sounds
- Fingernails and lips turn blue or purple
- Pupils are tiny or eyes are rolled back
- Body is limp



Harm Reduction Program



Health
education and
promotion



Safer drug use
equipment and
disposal



Education on
safer sex
practices



Reducing
stigma



Opioid response
training/naloxone
distribution*



Referrals to
services and
supports

Rapid Response Drug Test Strips

Drug Testing with
XYLAZINE TEST STRIPS

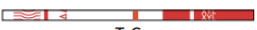
 Add a scoop of drug to the cup.

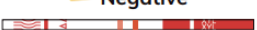
 Add 5 mLs of water to the cup and swirl.

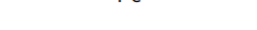
 Take out the strip from the notched end of the package.
Only touch the solid red line.

 Place the strip in the drug solution.
Only cover the wavy lines – don't let the water touch the single solid red line.

 Hold in place for 10–15 seconds.
Remove the test strip and wait 60 seconds for your result.

Positive

T C

Negative

T C

Invalid (Redo test)

T C

Drug Testing with
FENTANYL TEST STRIPS

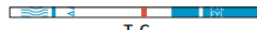
 Add a scoop of drug to the cup.

 Add 5 mLs of water to the cup and swirl.

 Take out the strip from the notched end of the package.
Only touch the solid blue line.

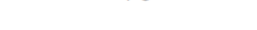
 Place the strip in the drug solution.
Only cover the wavy lines – don't let the water touch the single solid blue line.

 Hold in place for 10–15 seconds.
Remove the test strip and wait 60 seconds for your result.

Positive

T C

Negative

T C

Invalid (Redo test)

T C

Drug Testing with
BENZODIAZEPINE TEST STRIPS

 Add a scoop of drug to the tube.

 Add 5 mLs of water to the tube. Snap the lid closed – shake until drug is dissolved.

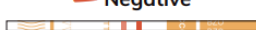
 Take out the strip from the notched end of the package.
Only touch the solid orange line.

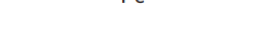
 Place the strip in the drug solution.
Only cover the wavy lines – don't let the water touch the single solid orange line.

 Hold in place for 10–15 seconds.
Remove the test strip and wait 60 seconds for your result.

Positive

T C

Negative

T C

Invalid (Redo test)

T C

Fentanyl Test Strip Kit Supplies



2 drug test strips

2 mic
spool

2 micro
spoons



1 Clear Zip Baggie



1 Drug Test Card Insert



2 mixing cups for
FTS and **XTS**

How's it Going?



- Great engagement tool to use with clients and partners
- All test strips were distributed throughout Algoma
- Behaviour change

Next Steps



ONGOING SUPPORT &
ENGAGEMENT



STIGMA AWARENESS



TOXIC DRUG REPORT



Questions?

Chi-Miigwech. Merci. Thank You.

PUBLIC HEALTH



Algoma
PUBLIC HEALTH
Santé publique Algoma

October 23, 2024

Report of the

Medical Officer of Health / CEO

Prepared by:
Dr. John Tuinema and the
Leadership Team

Presented to:
Algoma Public Health Board of Health

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APH AT-A-GLANCE

Staff Development

In line with strategic direction #3, APH continues to grow and celebrate an organizational culture of learning, innovation, and continuous improvement. Over the last few months, we have held a number of events, teachings, and training sessions related to Truth and Reconciliation. Most recently, Indigenous-led basic cultural safety training for all staff was provided alongside events with Indigenous partners for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Given the importance of written communication in our work, we recently offered writing workshops through Wavelength Training. Individual programs have also completed training to develop our staff capacity and many programs have plans to do so in future. For example, some members of our Foundations and Strategic Support Team (FASST) have completed The Public Health Agency of Canada's 'Epi in Action' course and others will be training in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to further enhance our analytic capabilities.

In addition to building skills and capacity, wellness is central to an effective organizational culture. To facilitate this we have held sessions around managing stress in the workplace and held a recent town hall meeting with all staff where they can hear agency updates and ask questions.

Point-of-Care Syphilis Testing/Treatment – Research Study

Rates of syphilis have risen precipitously in the last few years and APH has responded accordingly. We have enhanced our surveillance of this disease and a comprehensive epidemiologic analysis was completed last year to help inform interventions. We have sent multiple updates to alert and support healthcare providers in testing and treatment.

We are also happy to report that we have partnered with other health units across the province to participate in the Syphilis Point of Care Rapid Testing and Immediate Treatment Evaluation (SPRITE) study examining the use of point-of-care testing of syphilis of individuals at highest-risk in settings that may be more comfortable for them than traditional clinic spaces. We have had three point-of-care clinics so far with plans to expand into the district. We have partnered with the HIV & AIDS Resource Program (HARP) to help deliver this important intervention and are grateful for their help and continued support.

Further Updates

We continue to distribute the findings of the CHP to key partners. This is occurring through many channels including the media and discussions with partners. Our teams have been finding the information valuable and have heard feedback from partners that they also have found it useful.

APH is also continuing our work regarding the ongoing opioid crisis. In addition to our routine work, we have supported the recent HART Hub application and have also met with the Public Health Agency of Canada to explore how federal partnerships can help further address this issue.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – Immunization of Children in Schools

Topic: Immunization of Children in Schools

From: Nick Minardi

Ontario Public Health Standard Requirements⁽¹⁾ addressed in this report:

- OHPS standards – Immunization
- Children have up-to-date immunizations according to the current Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario, and in accordance with the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* and the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*⁽¹⁾

2021-2025 Strategic Priorities addressed in this report:

- [X] Advance the priority public health needs of Algoma's diverse communities.
- [X] Improve the impact and effectiveness of Algoma Public Health programs.
- [] Grow and celebrate an organizational culture of learning, innovation, and continuous improvement.

Key Messages

- The *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)* protects children against nine designated diseases, delivered in the school setting. 2023 and 2024 saw the initial comprehensive review of immunization records of children in the school setting since the Covid-19 pandemic.
- This initiative helps to promote and protect health and prevent disease outbreaks for those who attend school and contributes to overall community health and health equity.

Students Assessed by the Numbers

Starting in July of 2023, the immunization records of students were assessed for compliance with *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)*⁽²⁾ in 48 elementary, 5 intermediate (grade 7-8) and 14 secondary schools across the district of Algoma⁽³⁾. Parents/guardians of students who were found to be overdue received a letter indicating Algoma Public Health (APH) records were not up to date; failure to update the record meant a student could potentially be suspended from school. At that time, there were 7,655⁽³⁾ students with immunization records that were not up to date. Overdue records could be related to factors including immunization records not being reported to Algoma Public Health or that students were not up to date with the publicly funded immunization schedule for their age. Parents/guardians have the responsibility to update Algoma Public Health of their child(ren)'s immunizations.

In January of 2024, notice letters required by ISPA were distributed to students whose records were still not up to date after the initial July 2023 letters were issued. Starting in April of 2024, 3,786 orders for suspension were issued to those students who still had overdue immunization records or were not up to date with immunizations. The vast majority of those receiving suspension orders were able to be immunized or present a plan for immunization prior to commencement of the suspension. Of those who were suspended, many met the requirements during the suspension at which point we immediately lifted the suspension. APH continues to assess immunization records and will continue to inform students and parents/guardians of overdue immunization records in the 2024/2025 school year.

Of the 3,786 suspension orders that were issued, 3,129 students updated their immunization records and/or received the necessary vaccines to bring them into compliance. Currently, only 657 students remain overdue or have incomplete immunization records⁽³⁾. In addition to the ongoing planning and delivery of school-based immunization clinics, APH has been offering catch up vaccine clinics to provide further opportunities for immunization. From January to October 16, 2024, 2,041 clients aged 4 to 18 have attended an immunization appointment at APH⁽³⁾.

As part of ISPA, parents/guardians of students who attend school in Ontario may complete an exemption from immunization for medical or non-medical conscience or religious beliefs. For medical reasons a Statement of Medical Exemption is completed by an authorized medical professional (Physician, Nurse Practitioner). Non-medical exemptions may be submitted utilizing a Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief and requires the parent/guardian to complete an immunization educational session. Exemption numbers in Algoma remain below 100 and are not included in the immunization catch-up numbers.

In addition to the planning and delivery of APH immunization clinics, APH leads local efforts to distribute and administer publicly funded vaccines through multiple channels across the district. Vaccines are delivered to physician offices, family health teams, Nurse Practitioner-led clinics, hospitals and walk-in clinics. The immunization team continues to share messages with the public about how to submit vaccine records to APH, as well as frequently communicates with vaccine administrators to further increase the numbers of records submitted to APH. The ongoing reporting and collection of immunization records supports the efficiency of the ISPA process to avoid suspensions, improve data quality, support analysis and reporting, and strengthen community connections and partnerships.

Next Steps: 2024 and Beyond

- Build on and continue ISPA through the annual monitoring and enforcement of the suspension notices
- Continue collaboration and communication with local health care providers and school boards
- Continue to promote public health information and messages which highlight the value of vaccines for population health

References

1. Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability. Ontario Ministry of Health; 2021. Available from: https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/protocols_guide_lines/Ontario_Public_Health_Standards_2021.pdf
2. Immunization of school pupils act Ontario: 2024. Available from: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90i01>.
3. Algoma Public Health. Program data 2024. [Unpublished].

**Algoma Public Health
(Unaudited) Financial Statements August 31, 2024**

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**Algoma Public Health
Statement of Operations
August 2024**

(Unaudited)

	Actual YTD 2024	Budget YTD 2024	Variance Act. to Bgt. 2024	Annual Budget 2024	Variance % Act. to Bgt. 2024	YTD Actual/ YTD Budget 2024
Public Health Programs (Calendar)						
Revenue						
Municipal Levy - Public Health	\$ 3,330,426	\$ 3,330,427	\$ (1)	\$ 4,440,569	0%	100%
Provincial Grants - Cost Shared Funding	6,680,202	6,680,140	62	10,020,210	0%	100%
Provincial Grants - Public Health 100% Prov. Funded	1,558,031	1,524,533	33,498	2,286,800	2%	102%
Provincial Grants - Mitigation Funding	0	0	-	0	-	-
Fees, other grants and recovery of expenditures	362,338	346,733	15,605	494,600	5%	105%
Total Public Health Revenue	\$ 11,930,997	\$ 11,881,833	\$ 49,164	\$ 17,242,179	0%	100%
Expenditures						
Public Health Cost Shared	\$ 10,115,897	\$ 10,060,066	\$ (55,831)	\$ 14,913,154	1%	101%
Public Health 100% Prov. Funded Programs	1,613,899	1,550,725	(63,174)	2,329,026	4%	104%
Total Public Health Programs Expenditures	\$ 11,729,796	\$ 11,610,790	\$ (119,006)	\$ 17,242,180	1%	101%
Total Rev. over Exp. Public Health	\$ 201,201	\$ 271,043	\$ (69,842)	\$ 0		

Healthy Babies Healthy Children (Fiscal)

Provincial Grants and Recoveries	\$ 445,011	475,313	(30,302)	1,140,750	-6%	94%
Expenditures	465,470	483,470	18,001	1,140,750	-4%	96%
Excess of Rev. over Exp.	(20,459)	(8,158)	(12,301)	-		

Public Health Programs (Fiscal)

Provincial Grants and Recoveries	\$ -	0	-	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Expenditures	266,733	-	(266,733)	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Excess of Rev. over Fiscal Funded	(266,733)	-	(266,733)	-		

Fiscal Programs

Revenue						
Provincial Grants - Community Health	\$ 92,565	\$ 92,564	\$ 1	\$ 262,153	0%	100%
Municipal, Federal, and Other Funding	56,722	56,722	-	114,447	0%	100%
Other Bill for Service Programs	0	0	-	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Total Community Health Revenue	\$ 149,287	\$ 149,286	\$ 1	\$ 376,600	0%	100%
Expenditures						
Brighter Futures for Children	58,692	47,686	(11,006)	114,447	23%	123%
Nurse Practitioner	69,966	68,127	(1,838)	162,153	3%	103%
Stay on Your Feet	35,472	42,301	6,829	100,000	-16%	84%
Total Fiscal Community Health Programs	\$ 164,130	\$ 158,115	\$ (6,015)	\$ 376,600	4%	104%
Total Rev. over Exp. Fiscal Community Health	\$ (14,843)	\$ (8,829)	\$ (6,014)	\$ (0)		

Explanations will be provided for variances of 15% and \$15,000 occurring in the first 6 months
and variances of 10% and \$10,000 occurring in the final 6 months

Algoma Public Health
Revenue Statement

For Eight Months Ending August 31, 2024

(Unaudited)

	Actual YTD 2024	Budget YTD 2024	Variance Bgt. to Act. 2024	Annual Budget 2024	Variance % Act. to Bgt. 2024	YTD Actual/ Annual Budget 2024	Comparison Prior Year:		
							YTD Actual 2023	YTD BGT 2023	Variance 2023
Levies Sault Ste Marie	2,316,356	2,316,356	0	3,088,475	0%	75%	2,185,241	2,185,241	0
Levies District	1,014,070	1,014,071	(1)	1,352,094	0%	75%	956,672	956,671	1
Total Levies	3,330,426	3,330,427	(1)	4,440,569	0%	75%	3,141,913	3,141,912	1
MOH Public Health Funding	6,680,202	6,680,140	62	10,020,210	0%	67%	5,863,473	5,863,467	6
Total Public Health Cost Shared Funding	6,680,202	6,680,140	62	10,020,210	0%	67%	5,863,473	5,863,467	6
MOH Funding - MOH / AMOH Top Up	114,020	105,533	8,487	158,300	8%	72%	121,680	126,200	(4,520)
MOH Funding Northern Ontario Fruits & Veg.	78,267	78,267	0	117,400	0%	67%	78,270	78,267	3
MOH Funding Unorganized	353,600	353,600	0	530,400	0%	67%	353,600	353,600	0
MOH Senior Dental	921,811	921,800	11	1,382,700	0%	67%	835,265	835,267	(2)
MOH Funding Indigenous Communities	65,333	65,333	(0)	98,000	0%	67%	65,330	65,333	(3)
OTF COVID-19 Extraordinary Costs	25,000	0	25,000	0	#DIV/0!	100%	(6,954)	0	(6,954)
Total Public Health 100% Prov. Funded	1,558,031	1,524,533	33,498	2,286,800	2%	68%	1,447,191	1,458,667	(11,475)
Total Public Health Mitigation Funding	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	0%	691,870	691,867	3
Recoveries from Programs	19,906	20,000	(94)	29,600	0%	67%	8,111	26,667	(18,556)
Program Fees	30,869	29,733	1,136	45,000	4%	69%	26,634	39,733	(13,099)
Land Control Fees	143,570	182,000	(38,430)	225,000	-21%	64%	150,000	165,000	(15,000)
Program Fees Immunization	48,945	30,000	18,945	45,000	63%	109%	2,777	60,000	(57,223)
HPV Vaccine Program	9,605	10,000	(395)	20,000	-4%	48%	9,996	0	9,996
Influenza Program	445	0	445	16,000	#DIV/0!	3%	730	0	730
Meningococcal C Program	3,222	5,000	(1,778)	9,000	-36%	36%	1,479	0	1,479
Interest Revenue	97,830	70,000	27,830	105,000	40%	93%	121,425	21,856	99,569
Other Revenues	7,946	0	7,946	0	#DIV/0!	100%	0	10,000	(10,000)
Total Fees and Recoveries	362,338	346,733	15,605	494,600	5%	73%	321,152	323,256	(2,104)
Total Public Health Revenue Annual	11,930,997	11,881,833	49,164	17,242,179	0%	69%	11,465,600	11,479,168	(13,568)
Public Health Fiscal April 2024 - March 2025									
Infection Prevention and Control Hub	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	0%			
Total Provincial Grants Fiscal	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!	0%	0	0	0

Algoma Public Health
Expense Statement- Public Health
 For Eight Months Ending August 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

	Actual YTD 2024	Budget YTD 2024	Variance Act. to Bgt. 2024	Annual Budget 2024	Variance % Act. to Bgt. 2024	YTD Actual/ Budget 2024	Comparison Prior Year:		
							YTD Actual 2023	YTD BGT 2023	Variance 2023
Salaries & Wages	6,773,926	6,826,560	52,634	10,236,247	-1%	66%	\$ 7,074,290	\$ 7,222,042	\$ 147,752
Benefits	1,835,793	1,887,299	51,506	2,665,034	-3%	69%	1,880,522	1,694,253	(186,269)
Travel	104,442	116,350	11,908	174,526	-10%	60%	123,921	105,867	(18,054)
Program	888,438	665,298	(223,140)	1,012,197	34%	88%	1,063,914	824,775	(239,139)
Office	41,874	40,267	(1,607)	60,400	4%	69%	40,636	54,933	14,297
Computer Services	706,905	617,332	(89,573)	926,000	15%	76%	621,112	597,261	(23,851)
Telecommunications	172,544	162,668	(9,876)	244,000	6%	71%	198,343	176,665	(21,678)
Program Promotion	14,493	13,000	(1,493)	19,500	11%	74%	27,813	30,000	2,187
Professional Development	23,333	34,070	10,737	51,105	-32%	46%	39,357	53,616	14,259
Facilities Expenses	594,550	651,332	56,782	977,000	-9%	61%	658,384	616,000	(42,384)
Fees & Insurance	268,550	291,667	23,117	418,750	-8%	64%	343,987	327,333	(16,654)
Debt Management	304,947	304,947	0	457,421	0%	67%	304,947	304,947	0
	\$ 11,729,795	\$ 11,610,790	\$ (119,005)	\$ 17,242,180	1%	68%	\$ 12,377,226	\$ 12,007,692	\$ (369,534)

Notes to Financial Statements – August 2024

Reporting Period

The August 2024 financial reports include eight months of financial results for Public Health programming. All other non-funded public health programs are reporting five months of results from the operating year ending March 31, 2025.

Statement of Operations (see page 1)

Summary – Public Health and Non Public Health Programs

In June 2024, APH received the 2024 Amending Agreement from the Province identifying approved funding allocations for public health programs. Annual allocations for mandatory cost-shared programs and 100% funded public health programs are consistent with that previously communicated by the Province and in line with the Board approved budget, and thus no updates have been made to the annual budget for public health programs.

In July 2024, APH received confirmation that the annual allocation for the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program funded through the Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services has received a \$73K base funding increase, which will be ongoing. This represents a 6.8% increase and is the first received since 2015. The funding increase is provided to help address increasing operational costs and there is no expectation of service level expansion.

As of August 31, 2024, Public Health calendar programs are reporting a \$70K negative variance – which is driven by a \$119K negative variance in expenditures and a \$49K positive variance in revenue.

Public Health Revenue (see page 2)

Our Public Health calendar revenues are within 1% variance to budget for 2024.

Per the 2024 grant and budget schedule of the funding and accountability agreement, provincial base funding allocated to APH has been restored to the level provided under the 2020 cost-share formula, as well as been allocated base funding growth of 1% over 2023 allocations.

In early January 2024 the Ministry requested public health units to forecast anticipated spend on COVID immunization programming for the months of January through March 2024 only. Based on the forecast provided, APH was approved for \$25,000 in one time, program enhancement funding to help address base funding pressures for the first three months of the calendar year. Based on communications to date, there will be no further availability of COVID-19 extraordinary funds or mitigation funding in 2024. One time funding requests to address financial pressures above and beyond what can be supported by the cost shared budget were also not made available via the 2024 Annual Service Plan (which was due to the Ministry on April 2, 2024). As communicated by the Province, opportunities may become available in year based on ongoing assessments.

In March 2024, the Ministry confirmed that IPAC Hub funding will continue in the 2024-25 fiscal year and in the years following, with formal planning and funding meetings with individual hubs to be forthcoming throughout the fiscal year. This funding has been provided to hubs across the Province in

order to enhance IPAC practices in identified congregate care settings. As continued funding has been confirmed, albeit allocations remain pending, APH continues to track activities related to this initiative as a separately 100% funded program outside of base provincial funding. Although formal funding approvals have not yet been received for the 2024/25 fiscal year, planning and discovery meetings with the Ministry remain ongoing.

Public Health Expenses (see page 3)

Travel Expenses

There is a \$12K positive variance associated with travel expenses based on position vacancies, as well as staff continuing to take advantage of virtual options enforced during the pandemic when possible/beneficial.

Program Expenses

There is a \$223K negative variance associated with program expenses. The majority of this identified pressure is driven by demand for our Ontario Senior Dental program (externally sourced professional services for maintenance, preventative and denture services). We note that APH has requested an increase to base funding totaling \$641K for the 100% funded Ontario Senior Dental program alongside the 2024 Annual Service Plan to fund these identified pressures. We await response to this request, however continue to service our communities based on demand considering conversations with the Ministry where APH has been instructed to continue programming as planned, with funding opportunities to continually be made available to address ongoing pressures.

Computer Services

There is a \$90K negative variance associated with computer services based on the purchase of necessary network server equipment as approved by the Board in February 2024.

Professional Development

There is a \$11K positive variance associated with professional development. With various organization wide professional development sessions scheduled for the fall season, this variance is expected to be timing related.

Facilities Expenses

There is a \$57K positive variance associated with facilities expenses based on lower than budgeted utilities expenses and building occupancy costs aligned to the IPAC Hub 100% funded program.

Financial Position - Balance Sheet (see page 7)

APH's liquidity position continues to be stable and the bank has been reconciled as of August 31, 2024. Cash includes \$2.1M in reserve funds.

Long-term debt of \$4.1 million is held by TD Bank @ 1.80% for a 60-month term (amortization period of 120 months) and matures on September 1, 2026. \$239k of the loan relates to the financing of the Elliot Lake office renovations, which occurred in 2015 with the balance, related to the financing of the 294 Willow Avenue facility located in Sault Ste. Marie. There are no material accounts receivable collection concerns.

Algoma Public Health
Statement of Financial Position
(Unaudited)

	August 2024	December 2023
Date: As of August 2024		
Assets		
Current		
Cash & Investments	\$ 5,328,728	\$ 4,663,966
Accounts Receivable	953,073	2,089,635
Receivable from Municipalities	26,212	6,482
Prepaid Expenses	354,611	128,517
<i>Subtotal Current Assets</i>	6,662,624	6,888,600
Financial Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	1,080,229	1,402,404
Payable to Gov't of Ont/Municipalities	3,265,280	3,426,716
Deferred Revenue	280,411	280,411
Employee Future Benefit Obligations	2,835,275	2,835,275
Term Loan	3,308,095	3,308,095
<i>Subtotal Current Liabilities</i>	10,769,290	11,252,901
Net Debt	(4,106,665)	(4,364,301)
Non-Financial Assets:		
Building	23,072,474	23,072,474
Furniture & Fixtures	2,145,864	2,145,864
Leasehold Improvements	1,583,164	1,583,164
IT	3,372,128	3,372,128
Automobile	40,113	40,113
Accumulated Depreciation	-13,300,309	-13,300,309
<i>Subtotal Non-Financial Assets</i>	16,913,434	16,913,434
Accumulated Surplus	12,806,768	12,549,133

Procurement Policy

REFERENCE #: 02-05-002

DATE: Original: Feb 13, 1996
~~Revised: Mar 18, 2018~~
Revised: Jun 26, 2019
Revised: Nov 25, 2020
Revised: Jun 28, 2023
[Revised:](#)

APPROVED BY: Board of Health

SECTION: Policies

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is:

- a. To ensure that Algoma Public Health (APH) utilizes fair, reasonable, and efficient methods to procure quality goods and services required to execute the Board of Health for the District of Algoma Health Unit's (the Board's) programs and services.
- b. To ensure APH aims to be accountable and transparent when procuring goods and services while safeguarding the assets of the agency.
- c. To protect the financial interest of APH while meeting the needs of its programs and services it offers within the District of Algoma.
- d. To promote and ensure the integrity of the procurement process and to ensure the necessary controls are present for a public institution.

2.0 POLICY ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board is accountable to ensure that Algoma Public Health uses fair, reasonable and efficient methods to procure quality goods and services required to execute the Board's programs and services. The Board delegates responsibility to Algoma Public Health employees as outlined below:

Medical Officer of Health (MOH)/Chief Executive Officer (MOH/CEO)

- a. Ensures the Leadership Team is aware of and follows the Procurement policy.
- b. Ensures that an adequate system of internal controls is in place related to APH's Procurement policy.
- c. Ensures changes to the Procurement Policy are implemented.
- d. Reports to the Board on any liability incurred as a result of the policy not being followed.

Leadership Team

1. Ensures all staff know and follow policy directions for the procurement of goods and services.
2. Considers price, quality and timely delivery of the product or service being procured rather than only the lowest invoice price.
3. Considers the total acquisition cost.
4. Monitors expenses on a regular basis to ensure that they are within the approved budget.

3.0 SCOPE OF APH PROCUREMENT POLICY

This policy applies to the procurement of goods and services for APH. ~~Exemptions of this policy include:~~ The following are excluded from this policy except for sections 4, 8 and 9 of the Procurement Policy.

- a. Training and Education
 - i. Registration for conferences, conventions, courses, workshops, and seminars
 - ii. Magazines, subscriptions, books, and periodicals
 - iii. Memberships and association fees
 - iv. Guest speakers for employee development
- b. Refundable Employee Expenses
 - i. Meal allowances
 - ii. Travel expenses
 - iii. Kilometre and other incidental expense reimbursement
- c. Employer's General Expenses
 - i. Payroll and honoraria remittances
 - ii. Government license fees
 - iii. Insurance Premiums
 - iv. Employee benefits
 - v. Damage and insurance deductible claims
 - vi. Petty cash replenishment
 - vii. Tax remittances
 - viii. Loan payments
 - ix. Bank fees and charges
 - ~~x. Grants to agencies and partners~~
 - ~~xi.~~ x. Payments pursuant to agreements approved by the Board

- d. Professional and Special Services
 - i. Special tax, accounting, actuarial and audit services, and advice from the Board-approved auditor
 - ii. Legal fees and other professional services related to litigation, potential litigation or legal matters
 - iii. Clinical Services that are required to meet a community need and for which there are a limited number of professionals willing to provide these services
 - iv. Confidential items (i.e., investigations, forensic audits)
 - v. Honoraria
 - vi. Warranty work resulting from contractual obligations
 - vii. Group Benefits and Employee Assistance Programs
 - viii. Agency Insurance

~~e. Utilities/Communication Infrastructure~~

e. Communication and other utility services

- f. Advertising services required by APH on or in but not limited to radio, television, online, newspaper and magazines
- g. Bailiff or collection agencies
- h. Software licensing renewals
- i. Ongoing maintenance agreements
- j. Vaccine purchases
- k. A situation where APH staff are incurring the cost of a service (i.e., exercise class on APH premises)
- l. Real Property Interests
 - i. All real estate transactions
- m. A situation where a competitive process could interfere with APH's ability to maintain security or order or to protect human, animal or plant life or health
- n. Emergency Goods & Services where an unforeseen situation or urgency exists, and the goods or services cannot be obtained through a competitive process. Purchase of these emergency items must be authorized by the Director of Corporate Services or the MOH/CEO. The Chair of the Board or designate must be notified. An unforeseen situation of emergency does not occur where APH has failed to allow sufficient time to conduct a competitive process.
- o. Goods & services where there is only one supplier available and no alternative or substitute exists.

4.0 FORM OF COMMITMENT BY ROLE/SIGNING AUTHORITY

4.1 Signing Authority to Make Purchases

The delegation of signing authority to make purchases on behalf of the agency is based on the dollar amount of the expenditure and the role which the employee occupies within the agency.

Expenditure \$ Amount	Required Approval
\$0 - \$4,000 <u>\$5,000</u>	Executive Assistants and HR Assistants
\$0 - \$6,000 - <u>\$10,000</u>	Supervisors and Managers
\$0 - \$20,000 <u>\$30,000</u>	Any Director or Associate MOH or Manager of Accounting Services
\$0 – \$60,000	CEO / MOH or <u>Associate MOH or</u> Director of Corporate Services
<u>\$0 - \$100,000</u>	<u>CEO / MOH</u>
Greater than \$60,000 <u>\$100,000</u>	Board of Health

The delegation of signing authority for the Execution of Documents is defined by Algoma Public Health Bylaw 95-1 – To Regulate the Proceedings of the Board of Health, Clause 13, Execution of Documents.

Note: When the Associate MOH is functioning in the capacity of the MOH, the signing authority will reflect that of the MOH noted above.

4.2 General Guidelines

When assessing what dollar value the purchase falls within, the following conditions are considered:

- The spending authorization limits noted above and throughout this policy are before applicable taxes.
- The goods or services purchased must be taken in their entirety and not broken down into component parts in an attempt to circumvent this policy.
- The cumulative value of those goods or services over a calendar year.

- d. The total value of the contract that will be awarded to the same individual/company over the term of that contract, whether for a single or multiple years.

5.0 QUOTATION PROCEDURE

5.1 Requests for Bids/Quotations/Proposals/Tenders and Dollar Thresholds

Requests for bids, quotations and proposals are **mandated** for the purchase of all goods and services according to the following guidelines:

- \$1 – \$6,000: single quote (Purchase Order) **is required**. Multiple quotes **are recommended**.
- \$6,000 – \$20,000: Two (2) written bids, quotations, and/or proposals **are required**.
- \$20,000 to \$60,000: Three (3) written bids, quotations, and/or proposals **are required**.
- For purchases greater than \$60,000, a formal Request for Quotation (Tender/Proposal) must be adhered to. Board approval is required ~~once the successful bidder is chosen~~ [for purchases greater than \\$100,000](#).
- The time frames for soliciting this information are generally done in a timely manner, depending on the complexity and value of the request.

The submission of split requisitions in an attempt to circumvent the bidding policy is not allowed.

Written bids, quotations and/or proposals must go through APH Administration—.

Administration may, at their discretion, secure other competitive bids regardless of the dollar thresholds listed at any time. Furthermore, Administration may, at their discretion, conduct negotiations with more than the apparent low bidder when it is deemed to be in APH's best interest to do so.

5.2 Confidentiality of Proposals

In accordance with fair and best business practice, all information supplied by vendors in their bid, quotation or proposal must be held in strict confidence by the employee(s) evaluating the bid, quotation or proposal and may not be revealed to any other vendor or unauthorized individual. Failure to do so may result in termination.

5.3 Late Proposals

- a. All bids, quotations and proposals are to be date and time-stamped to ensure that they are received prior to the deadline for submission. It is the responsibility of the vendor to ensure that their bids are received by the responsible person no later than the appointed hour of the bid closing date as specified on the request for bid.
- b. Late submissions will not be considered.

5.4 Errors in Bids/Quotations/Proposals

- a. Vendors are responsible for the accuracy of their quoted prices. In the event of an error between a unit price and its extension, the unit price will govern. Quotations may be amended or withdrawn by the bidder up to the bid opening date and time, after which, in the event of an error, bids may not be amended but may be withdrawn prior to the acceptance of the bid.
- b. After an order has been issued, no bid may be withdrawn or amended unless Administration considers the change to be in APH's best interests.

5.5 Sole Source Procurement and Justification

The Director, in consultation with the applicable Manager, shall initiate sole source purchases provided that any of the following conditions apply:

- a. where there is only one known source
- b. where the compatibility of a purchase with existing equipment, facilities, or services is a paramount consideration.
- c. when competition is precluded because of the existence of patent rights, copyrights, trade secrets.
- d. where the procurement is for electric power or energy, gas, water, or other utility services.
- e. where it would not be practical to allow a contractor other than the utility company itself to work upon the system.
- f. where a good is purchased for testing or trial use.

~~g. where it is most cost-effective or beneficial to APH.~~

~~h.g.~~ when the procurement is for technical services in connection with the assembly, installation, or servicing of equipment of a highly technical or specialized nature.

~~i.h.~~ when the procurement is for parts or components to be used as replacements in support of equipment specifically designed by the manufacturer.

~~j.i.~~ the extension or reinstatement of an existing contract would be more cost-effective or beneficial to APH.

6.0 VENDOR SELECTION

As APH strives to provide the best quality of program offerings and services, the lowest price received in the bid and RFQ/RFP process may not always be accepted. In such cases, justification for choosing an alternative bid or RFQ/RFP must accompany the

package of bids or RFQs. In some cases, the required number of formal bids may not be possible (i.e., potential vendors decide not to bid). In such cases, evidence of solicitation of the required number of bids as outlined in this policy must be maintained. ~~Administration reserves the right to exclude an RFQ/RFP if~~ if there is evidence to support that the vendors actions or values are in stark contrast with public health, then APH reserves the right to exclude the vendor from the RFQ/RFP.

Purchasing decisions are based on price, quality, availability, and suitability.

6.1 Vendor of Record

The use of a Vendor of Record (VOR) from the Ministry of Government Services website precludes the need to go to a public bid solicitation process since this process was already done by that Ministry. Examination of the pricing should be done against local/current suppliers of the same product or service to ensure that the Health Unit is obtaining the best price, quality, availability and suitability before engaging a VOR.

6.2 Cooperative Purchasing

The Health Unit shall participate with other government agencies or public authorities in Cooperative Purchasing where it is in the best interests of the Health Unit to do so.

The Director ~~Of~~of Corporate Services, in conjunction with the MOH/CEO, has the authority to participate in arrangements on a cooperative or joint basis for purchases of goods and/or services where there are economic advantages to do so, purchases comply with the principles of this Policy, and the annual expenditures are expected to be less than \$~~60,000~~ \$100,000

If the annual expenditure is expected to be greater than ~~\$60,000~~ \$100,000, Board of Health approval for the purchase will be required.

The policies of the government agencies or public authorities calling the cooperative tender are to be the accepted policy for that particular tender.

Sole sourcing from a vendor of record that has been approved by the Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace (OECM) or a similar government agency is permitted.

7.0 SPECIAL PROCUREMENT POLICIES

7.1 CONTRACTS/LEASES

Signing authority to enter into a contract/lease will follow the limits set out in section 4.1 of this policy. In addition;

The Board must approve contracts where:

- a. Irregularities preclude the award of a contract to the lowest bidder in the Tending and Request for Quotation process, and the 'total acquisition cost' exceeds \$60,000.

- b. A bid solicitation has been restricted to a single source supply, and the 'total acquisition cost' of such goods or services exceeds ~~\$60,000~~ \$100,000.
- c. The contract/lease is for multiple years and exceeds ~~\$60,000~~ \$100,000 per year.

7.2 Consulting Services

Consulting Services are provided by an individual or company with expertise or strategic advice. The individual is working under a contract relationship rather than an employee relationship.

The acquisition of consulting services **must** be sought through a competitive process when the total expenditure for the service is greater than \$20,000. The limits for the competitive process for consulting services are as follows:

- \$0 - \$20,000: negotiation with the prospective consultant to acquire consulting services
- \$20,000 – \$60,000: Three (3) written bids, quotations, and/or proposals **are required**.
- For purchases greater than \$60,000, a formal Request for Proposal must be adhered to.

All contractual agreements with consultants up to ~~\$60,000~~ \$100,000 must be approved by the MOH/CEO **and** Director ~~o~~ f Corporate Services. Consulting Contracts for more than ~~\$60,000~~ \$100,000 requires the approval of the MOH/CEO **and** the Board of Health.

Consulting Services do not include services in which the physical component of an activity would be prevailing. For example, services for the operation and maintenance of a facility.

7.3 Approvals for Construction and Alterations to Physical Space

- a. All requisitions for construction, renovation, or alteration to physical space at Algoma Public Health under ~~\$60,000~~ \$100,000 require the review and prior written approval of the Director of Corporate Services and the Medical Officer of Health/CEO. All requisitions for construction, renovation, or alteration to physical space at Algoma Public Health over ~~\$60,000~~ \$100,000 require authorization of the Board of Health.
- b. Detailed specifications, drawings, and/or blueprints, if appropriate, should accompany the Purchase Requisition. Requisitions submitted to Accounts Payable without prior written approval will not be processed.

7.4 Equipment and Equipment Screening

- a. Algoma Public Health has established a policy governing the acquisition, control, and disposition of Algoma Public Health equipment.
- b. It is the policy of Algoma Public Health to ensure that every effort is made to avoid the purchase of unnecessary or duplicate equipment.

- c. The purchasing authorization levels by role defined in the policy will govern equipment purchases.

8.0 PROHIBITIONS

8.1 Conflicts of Interest

a. Employees shall not place themselves into positions where they could be tempted to prefer their own interests or the interest of another over the interest of the public that they are employed to serve. Whenever employees, during the discharge of their duties, become exposed to or involved in actual/or potential Conflicts of Interest, they must disclose the situation to their Manager/Director/MOH/CEO/Board of Health (as may be appropriate) and shall abide by the advice given.

8.2 Gifts, Gratuities, and Kickbacks

Algoma Public Health policy prohibits all employees from accepting gifts, gratuities, or kickbacks of any value from vendors or service providers. Items of a very minimal value which are of an advertising nature only and available to other customers may be accepted (e.g. pens, hats, coffee cups, etc.). Any questions an APH employee may have as to the appropriateness of the value of the item must be communicated to the employee's Manager/ Director/ MOH/CEO/Board of Health (as may be appropriate).

8.3 Personal Purchases

The purchase of any goods or services for personal use by or on behalf of any APH employee for purposes other than the bona fide requirements of APH is strictly prohibited.

8.4 Division of Contracts

The division of a contract to avoid the requirements of this policy is prohibited.

8.5 Local Preference

No local preference shall be shown or taken into account in acquiring goods and services on behalf of APH. Consideration will be given to local/regional products and services which are considered equal in quality and price and have a level of performance acceptable to the Board of Health.

8.6 Prohibited Classes of Vendor

APH shall not acquire goods and/or services from any of the following:

- a. Board of Health Members;
- b. Employees of the Health Unit at or above the level of Supervisor;
- c. Businesses in which the individuals in (a) or (b) above hold a controlling interest.

9.0 General Information

9.1 The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

In deciding to purchase goods or services through the procurement process for the use of itself, its employees or the public, APH, to the extent possible, shall have regard to the accessibility for persons with disabilities to the goods or services, except where it is not practical to do so, APH shall provide, upon request an explanation

9.2 Environmental Considerations

Consideration will be given to recycled and other environmentally responsible products which are considered equal in quality and price and have a level of performance acceptable to the Board of Health. [Potential for indirect savings should also be considered when choosing a product that is environmentally friendly.](#)

The Board of Health will endeavour, whenever possible, to purchase and utilize products that support environmentally sound practices from the manufacturing process through to final delivery and disposal. Priority consideration will be given to products that espouse environmentally friendly sound practices.

9.3 Disposal of Surplus Goods

The disposal of surplus and obsolete equipment shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The Director of Corporate Services, in conjunction with the MOH/CEO, shall have the authority to sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of Goods declared as surplus needs of APH, and where it is cost-effective and in the best interest of APH to do so. Items or groups of items may:

- a. Be offered for sale to other Health Units, affiliates or other government agencies or public authorities; or
- b. Be sold by external advertisement, formal request, auction, or public sale (where it is deemed appropriate, a reserve price may be established); or
- c. Be donated to a not-for-profit agency; or
- d. Be recycled; or
- e. In the event all efforts to dispose of Goods by sale are unsuccessful, these items may be scrapped or destroyed if recycling is unavailable.

No disposition of such Good(s) shall be made to employees, elected officials, or their family members, with the exception of electronic assets that have been fully depreciated. **The disposition of electronic assets would be at the discretion of the Director of Corporate Services in conjunction with the MOH/CEO**

9.4 Purchase of Surplus Goods

As appropriate, the Manager of Accounting Services and/or the Director of Corporate Services shall record the disposition of Tangible Capital Assets.

9.5 Consulting Services Requirements

All consultants working on behalf of APH who will have direct access to APH financial records, bank accounts, or employee records as per the terms of their contract are required to provide a current police information check (PIC). This includes but is not limited to any consultant or licensed professional who will serve in the capacity of APH's Director of Corporate Services, Manager of Accounting Services, Manager ~~Director~~ of Human Resources, or Information Technology support.

All consultants or service providers working on behalf of APH who will interact with children, youth, or vulnerable persons as per the terms of their contract are required to provide a current police vulnerable sector check (PVSC). If the service provider is required to provide a criminal reference check to their Regulatory College as part of the annual licensure process, an attestation from the service provider along with a copy of their current licensure will be accepted.

Provision of the required criminal record search is required prior to commencement of any consulting work with APH. ~~._~~ All offers for consulting services are conditional on receipt of satisfactory criminal reference checks.

All consultants are required to provide the names and contact information of at least two (2) references for which similar services were recently provided ~~._~~.

Positive references are required prior to the commencement of any consulting work with APH. All offers for consulting services are conditional on receipt of satisfactory reference checks.

10.0 Review and Evaluation

The effectiveness of this policy will be evaluated and reviewed every two (2) years by the Board of Health or more frequently as required. This review will include both legislative requirements and best practices.

11.0 PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES

The purchasing cycle includes the following steps to be made within the confines of this policy:

- a. Authority to purchase goods and services through the Board of Health approved budget ~~approval~~ and delegation of purchasing authority by the Board to the MOH/CEO
- b. The MOH/CEO delegates authority to purchase goods and services to other employees based on roles defined within the agency.
- c. Quotation procedure and vendor selection.
- d. A purchase requisition/purchase order approval or executed service contract.
- e. Receipt of goods/services (Bill of Lading) and invoice.
- f. Payment made to vendor.

All goods and services necessary to support APH programs and services must be authorized and follow the appropriate purchasing procedures. Note: any purchase that is noted as an exception in this policy does not require a purchase order (i.e., utility expense).

11.1 Purchase Requisition/Purchase Order.

For the purposes of this Policy, an APH Purchase Order will serve as the request to purchase a good or service (purchase requisition) by staff. Requisitions may be initiated at any level, but only the above-named positions can bind a Purchase Order through the authorization levels as defined by the dollar amounts noted above. A Purchase Order serves as the legal offer to buy products or services from a vendor. Once a vendor accepts a Purchase Order from APH, a contract now exists to purchase the goods or services.

- a. The Purchase Requisition/Purchase Order is used to request a vendor ~~or administration~~ or purchasing authority to acquire materials, parts, supplies, equipment, or services.
- ~~b. The Purchase Requisition / Purchase Order is a three(3) part form with a pre-printed number. One copy is to be forwarded to the vendor via mail or electronic means, an additional copy, is to be forwarded to APH accounts Payable. APH Accounts Payable will use the Purchase Order number to match with the vendor invoice in addition to the receipt documentation, such as a packing slip, in order to execute payment. Once payment is completed, documentation is filed by aPH Accounts Payable department. The electronic copy, along with copies of all documentation should be retained by the requisitioning department for future inquiry.~~
- ~~c.~~
- ~~d. The requisitioning program is responsible for providing the complete account number including account number and program code, and appropriate signature(s) as indicated by Signing Authority established in this policy (e-signatures as accepted as appropriate).~~
- ~~e.~~
- b. All quotations and correspondence from the vendor and supporting documentation (e.g., written bids, letters of justification and/or Sole Source Justification) must be maintained

for a minimum of three years.~~attached by the requisitioning department to the Purchase Order when submitted to APH Accounts Payable.~~

f.

~~g.c.~~ Administration reserves the right to seek additional bids from other qualified sources as it deems appropriate.

~~h. Departments should anticipate their requirements to allow adequate lead time for order processing and product delivery. Item descriptions should be complete and accurate to allow buyers to bid the requirements expeditiously.~~

~~i.d.~~ Petty Cash purchases are not required to provide a Purchase Order.

11.2 Change Order – Cancellation or Modification of a Purchase Order

Changes to Purchase Orders must be amended and returned to the original approvers for review and re-approval. ~~Only Administration is authorized to change a Purchase Order. Changes in previously issued purchase order can be made only by a new Purchase Order marked "Change Order". The changes may refer to price, quantities ordered, terms and conditions, delivery point, etc. Please contact Administration for assistance with Change Orders.~~

11.3 Blanket Purchase Orders

A Blanket Purchase Order is any contract for the purchase of goods or services which will be required frequently or repetitively but where the exact quantity of goods or services required may not be precisely known or the time period during which the goods or services are to be delivered may not be precisely determined. A Blanket Purchase Order is often negotiated to take advantage of predetermined pricing. It is normally used when there is a recurring need for expendable goods (i.e., birth control pills, vaccines, etc.). Blanket Purchase Orders are often used when APH buys large quantities of a particular good and has obtained special discounts as a result of bulk purchasing.

Request to enter into a blanket Purchase Order must be approved by the Director ~~Of~~of Corporate Services or Manager of Accounting Services. A Blanket Purchase Order generally should not exceed one year. The associated Manager and their reporting Director must approve the Blanket Purchase Order.

11.4 Cheque Requisition

For miscellaneous or non-competitive purchases, payment for goods and services may be initiated by completing a Cheque Requisition. A Cheque Requisition is completed by the department making the request and is authorized and signed by the employee's Manager. Cheque Requisitions require the approval of the appropriate signing authority~~.-.~~

11.5 Petty Cash

Petty cash **may be used for immediate needs such as** stationery or miscellaneous program material supply purchases of \$200 and under. Petty cash **may not be used** for travel expenses, ~~business meetings,~~ personal loans, consultant fees or any other type of personal service payments, salary advances or the cashing of personal cheques.

Disbursements from the Petty Cash Fund must be properly documented with original itemized receipts approved by the employees Manager or a Director and include the appropriate cost center [\(including account and program number\)](#) -as to where the charges should be expensed to. Receipts should include a description of the business purpose of the transaction, goods or services purchased and the date. (See petty cash [policy procedures for further guidance](#)).

11.6 Use of Corporate Credit Card

The Board of Health has authorized the use of corporate credit cards to carry out approved business transactions. The MOH/CEO or designate will approve employees who require a corporate credit card to execute needs of the Health Unit. Purchases made via a corporate credit card must follow the guidelines as set out in this policy and the Health Unit's [Corporate Credit Card Policy](#). Specifically, the delegation of signing authority noted above will govern individual credit card purchases. In situations where a credit card has been issued to an employee who has not been designated signing authority, an approved purchase order signed by the appropriate signing authority is required for each purchase. In situations where an employee has been issued a corporate credit card and where the specific expenditure exceeds their signing authority, an approved purchase order signed by the appropriate signing authority is required for each purchase.

11.7 Custody of Documents

The Director ~~Of~~[of](#) Corporate Services, or designate, shall be responsible for the safeguarding of original purchasing and contract documentation for the contracting of goods, services or construction and will retain documentation in accordance with the records retention policy.

Glossary of Roles Noted within Algoma Public Health Procurement Policy

Administration – consists of any position within APH, including and above the role of Supervisor in the following Departments: Finance & Accounting, Human Resource, Payroll, Corporate Services, Communications, and Operations~~—~~.

Board of Health for the District of Algoma Health Unit - is the governing body of Algoma Public Health and is established by the provincial public health legislation, the Health Protection and Promotion Act, RSO 1990 (HPPA) and regulations.

Chair of the Board – is the highest officer of Algoma Public Health. The individual holding this position is elected by members of the Board of Health for the District of Algoma Health Unit.

Consultant – is an individual or company that provides expertise or strategic advice to Algoma Public Health. The individual is working under a contract relationship rather than an employee relationship and is paid through the submission of invoices.

Executive Team – consists of the Medical Officer of Health/CEO, the Associate Medical Officer of Health, and Directors.

Leadership Team – consists of any position within APH, including and above the role of Supervisor.

Staff/Employee – a person who is hired to provide services to a company on a regular basis in exchange for compensation and who does not provide these services as part of an independent business.

Vendor – the party in the supply chain that makes the goods or services available or sells something to Algoma Public Health.



**Public Health
Santé publique**
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

October 16, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Honourable Minister Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M5G 2C8

Michael Sherar
President and Chief Executive Officer
Public Health Ontario
661 University Avenue, Suite 1701
Toronto, ON M5G 1M1

Dear Minister Jones and Mr. Sherar:

Re: Support for Ontario to continue to protect the safety of private drinking water

At its meeting on September 19, 2024, the Board of Health carried the following resolution [#48-24](#):

WHEREAS twenty-two percent of households within the Public Health Sudbury & Districts service area rely on private drinking water systems; and

WHEREAS it is recommended that drinking water be tested frequently to ensure that it is safe for human consumption; and

WHEREAS exposure to contaminated drinking water can lead to severe gastrointestinal illness and in rare cases may result in death; and

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca



WHEREAS anyone can become ill from drinking contaminated water; however, children, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems are at a higher risk of the harmful effects; and

WHEREAS Public Health Ontario's Well Water Testing program is a publicly-funded service that tests water samples from private drinking water sources for indicators of bacterial contamination; and

WHEREAS testing drinking water quality at private laboratories can be cost prohibitive; and

WHEREAS Public Health Ontario in conjunction with the Ministry of Health has proposed joint modernization plans in 2017 and again in January 2023 that proposed discontinuing well water testing as part of a plan to streamline operations; and

WHEREAS the Auditor General of Ontario in its December 6, 2023 [Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario](#), called for Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Health to move forward with streamlining laboratory operations in consideration of the proposed modernization plans; and

WHEREAS Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Health have not yet announced a final plan for streamlining laboratory operations at this time;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts strongly recommends to the Minister of Health and to Public Health Ontario that Ontario's Well Water Testing program be continued in the plan to implement streamlined laboratory operations, and That the Board of Health endorse the resolutions adopted by the Council of the Town of Gore Bay (May 14, 2024), the Council of the Corporation of Northeastern Manitoulin & the Islands (May 23, 2024), and the Council of Central Manitoulin (July 8, 2024) concerning provincial well water testing.

Exposure to contaminated drinking water can cause debilitating gastrointestinal illness, particularly in children, older adults and people with weakened immune systems. Close to one quarter of households within Public Health Sudbury & Districts service area rely on private drinking water systems. For these residents, drinking water testing is the only way to know if their drinking water is safe.

For the well-being of residents, our Board of Health support the continuation of Ontario's publicly funded Well Water Testing program and affirm resolutions adopted by the Council of the Town of Gore Bay (May 14, 2024), the Council of the

Letter

Re: Support for Ontario to continue to protect the safety of private drinking water

October 16, 2024

Page 3

Corporation of Northeastern Manitoulin & the Islands (May 23, 2024), and the Council of Central Manitoulin (July 8, 2024) concerning provincial well water testing.

Maintaining publicly-funded drinking water testing is a needed service that protects many Ontarians utilizing private drinking water systems. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



René Lapierre

Chair, Board of Health

cc: Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Local Municipalities
Ontario Boards of Health
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma – Manitoulin
Association of Local Public Health Agencies



6020 Highway 542, P.O. Box 420
Mindemoya, ON P0P 1S0
Tel: 705-377-5726
Fax: 705-377-5585
Email: ddeforge@centralmanitoulin.ca

July 8, 2024

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

Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford,

RE: PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO PROPOSES PHASING OUT FREE WATER TESTING FOR PRIVATE WELLS

Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of Central Manitoulin adopted the following resolution at their meeting of June 27, 2024, regarding the above noted matter;

Resolution # 200-2024

Moved by: Councillor D. Stephens

Seconded by: Councillor Mitchell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Central Manitoulin Council supports the Township of Archipelago's request to the Province of Ontario to reconsider and ultimately decide against the proposed phasing out of free private drinking water testing services;

FURTHER, this resolution is circulated to all Ontario municipalities, the Minister of Health, and Sudbury District Health Unit...Carried

Please contact our office should you require further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Deforge", is written over a horizontal line.

Ms. Denise Deforge
CAO/Clerk

cc. Minister of Health sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org
Sudbury District Health Unit sutcliffep@phsd.ca
Ontario Municipalities

~ AT THE HEART OF IT ALL ~



May 14, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

Re:Public Health Ontario proposes phasing out free water testing for private wells

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Gore Bay adopted the following resolution at their meeting of May 13, 2024, regarding the above noted matter;

15772

Moved by Kelly Chaytor

Seconded by Rob Dearing

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Gore Bay Council supports the Township of Archipelago's request to the Province of Ontario to reconsider and ultimately decide against the proposed phasing out of free private drinking water testing services;

FURTHER, this resolution is circulated to all Ontario municipalities, the Minister of Health, and Sudbury District Health Unit.

Carried

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully,

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

Stasia Carr
Clerk

Cc:
Minister of Health sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org
Sudbury District Health Unit sutcliffe@phsd.ca
Ontario Municipalities



May 23, 2024

Bradford West Gwillimbury
100 Dissette Street
Units 7 & 8
Box 100
Bradford, Ontario
L3Z 2A7

Thank you for bringing your resolution to our attention. Well water testing is an important need of many of our residents as well.

Council reviewed your resolution and passed the following motion in support with a slight change for our region.

Resolution No. 114-05-2024

Moved by: L. Cook

Seconded by: M. Erskine

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands supports the well water testing resolution put forth by Brandford west Gwillimbury and further that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Manitoulin Sudbury Health Unit.

Carried

Thank you

Pam Myers

Clerk

John Tuinema

From: COMOH <comoh-bounces@lists.alphaweb.org> on behalf of Gordon Fleming
<gordon@alphaweb.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 3:28 PM
To: COMOH LIST (comoh@lists.alphaweb.org)
Subject: [COMOH] October 2024 InfoBreak

This email originated outside of Algoma Public Health. Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

October 15, 2024



October 2024 InfoBreak

This update is a tool to keep alPha's members apprised of the latest news in public health including provincial announcements, legislation, alPha activities, correspondence, and events. Visit us at alphaweb.org.

Leader to Leader - A message from alPha's Chair - October 2024



"Ultimately, leadership is not about glorious crowning acts. It's about keeping your team focused on a goal and motivated to do their best to achieve it, especially when the stakes are high and the consequences really matter, it is about laying the groundwork for others' success and then standing back and letting them shine."

– Chris Hadfield, Canadian Astronaut

In its governance role, your [2024-2025 alPHA Board of Directors](#) team is indeed motivated and focussed on achieving alPHA's strategic goals. September's inaugural board meeting was preceded with an orientation on good governance, guided by alPHA's [Strategic Plan](#). The Board of Directors welcomed guest speakers Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Executive Lead Elizabeth Walker, and Michael Sherar, President and CEO, Public Health Ontario. As well as regular business, board discussions centred on forward planning based on alPHA's strategic goals, legal obligations, and laying the groundwork for further development of the series of [Public Health Matters](#) infographics and videos with availability anticipated in the spring of 2025.

[The Association of Local Public Health Agencies Operating By-law No. 2 \(June 2024\)](#) is compliant with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010. [Loretta Ryan](#), alPHA's Chief Executive Officer, alPHA volunteers, and alPHA's legal counsel are currently conducting a fulsome review and revision of policies and procedures to ensure alignment with the new By-law, and compliance with the legislation. The compendium of policy and procedures will be brought to the alPHA Board of Directors for review and approval. It is a time-consuming process as there are many detailed legal requirements within the Act that must be followed. The membership will be updated at the alPHA 2025 Winter Symposium. Many thanks to the many volunteers, staff and legal counsel for their work on this important initiative.

alPHA continues to provide strategic leadership in building collaborations and partnerships across stakeholder groups, focussing on strengthening Ontario's local public health system. The Board of Directors receives regular updates from its Sections and from the Affiliate member organizations of alPHA. Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, works with the alPHA Executive Committee, Board of Directors, public health agencies, Ministry of Health, and with her leadership counterparts from other partner organizations. Key information for alPHA members is sent out via the monthly edition of *Information Break*, which is alPHA members' information portal with links to the [alPHA website](#), and other pertinent resources. Although alPHA tries to limit inundating

members' email inboxes, if time is of the essence, information is transmitted through email. alPHA's *Information Break* and emails are sent to the administrative key contact at each local public health unit. This is the most efficient, effective and timely way to disseminate information to their local public health senior leadership and board of health members. It ensures that everyone receives the information equitably, especially in the event of leadership and board of health member turnovers.

There is an exciting line-up for [alPHA's 2024 Fall Symposium](#) (click [here](#) to view the flyer). Included in the symposium registration are two free workshops on November 6 and 7. The Symposium's plenary sessions are on Friday, November 8, followed by the afternoon Section meetings. At the Symposium, alPHA is launching [Mentimeter](#) for feedback, surveys, and voting at all future events. On November 5, alPHA is offering the [2024 alPHA Executive Assistant/Administrative Assistant Fall Virtual Workshop](#) as part of support for those who work closely with our members.

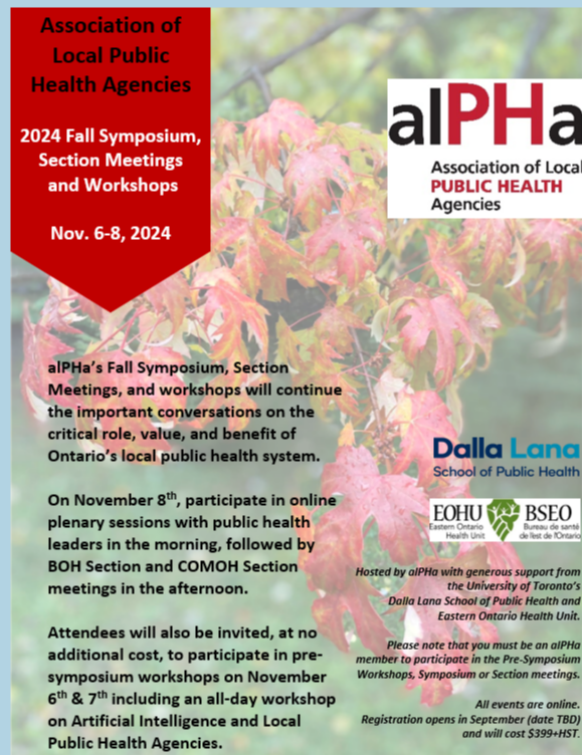
Fall is a time of thoughtful, and appreciative reflection with National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Thanksgiving, and Remembrance Day. This leads to further reflection on the dedicated work, and the significant challenges that you, as Ontario's public health leaders, along with your teams on the ground, face each and every day. I gratefully acknowledge my colleagues on the alPHA Board of Directors, the alPHA staff, and to each and every one of you, for your unwavering commitment to local public health. Thank You! Merci! Maarsii! Miigwech!

With gratitude,

Trudy

Trudy Sachowski
Chair, alPHA Board of Directors

Registration for the alPHA Fall Symposium, Section Meetings, and Workshops closes on October 30!



**Association of
Local Public
Health Agencies**

**2024 Fall Symposium,
Section Meetings
and Workshops**

Nov. 6-8, 2024

alPHA's Fall Symposium, Section Meetings, and workshops will continue the important conversations on the critical role, value, and benefit of Ontario's local public health system.

On November 8th, participate in online plenary sessions with public health leaders in the morning, followed by BOH Section and COMOH Section meetings in the afternoon.

Attendees will also be invited, at no additional cost, to participate in pre-symposium workshops on November 6th & 7th including an all-day workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Local Public Health Agencies.

alPHA
Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

Dalla Lana
School of Public Health

EOHU **BSEO**
Eastern Ontario Health Unit **Bureau de santé de l'est de l'Ontario**

Hosted by alPHA with generous support from the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Eastern Ontario Health Unit.

Please note that you must be an alPHA member to participate in the Pre-Symposium Workshops, Symposium or Section meetings.

All events are online.
Registration opens in September (date TBD)
and will cost \$399+HST.

Thank you to all the members who have registered. We're pleased to see so many of you sign up for this important educational and networking event!

Have you registered for the online [2024 Fall Symposium, Section Meetings, and Workshops](#) that are taking place November 6-8 yet? If not, registration closes at the end of the month. This event will discuss a variety of issues of key importance to public health leaders and you won't want to miss out.

On Friday, November 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., there is an exciting lineup of Symposium and Boards of Health Section meeting speakers and topics. This includes a public health video showcase; welcoming remarks from the alPHA Chair, Trudy Sachowski, and Robin Jones, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario; an *alPHA Update* from Trudy Sachowski, the BOH Section Chair, René Lapierre, the COMOH Section Chair, Dr. Lianne Catton, and the Affiliate Representative, Cynthia St. John, and Dr. Charles Gardner; an *Update from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health*, Executive Lead, Liz Walker; an *Update from Public Health Ontario*, featuring President and Chief Executive Officer, Michael Sherar, and staff; an *Update on Public Health Workforce Burnout: A Canadian Cross-sectional Study* from Dr. Jessica Hopkins, Chief Health Protection and Emergency Preparedness Officer, Public Health Ontario; an *Update on Rapid Review of Public Health Recovery, Renewal, and Resilience Building Post Pandemic: A Thematic Synthesis of Essential Organizational Imperatives* from Julia

Roitenberg, General Manager and Chief Nursing Officer at York Region Public Health; *Public Health Unit Mergers* featuring Dr. Miriam Klassen, Medical Officer of Health and CEO, Huron Perth Public Health, Peter McKenna, Chair, Board of Health, Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit, Amy Martin, Chair, Board of Health, Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit and *So, What's Still Keeping You Up at Night?* from Sabine Matheson and John Perenack, Principals, StrategyCorp, and alPHa Chief Executive Officer, Loretta Ryan.

In conjunction with the Symposium and Section meetings, we are holding two workshops. The first one, *Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Public Health*, is on Wednesday, November 6, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **As an important update, access to this workshop is through an individual and customized Zoom meeting link. You will need to be individually registered and have the passcode in order to access the workshop. This is a vital way to ensure all attendees have paid and are supporting alPHa in doing so.** The workshop objectives are: to assist alPHa members in improving understanding of artificial intelligence and public health; to achieve a shared understanding of the risks and benefits of artificial intelligence in LPHAs, and to learn from academic, government, and industry leaders in artificial intelligence. To view the agenda (last updated on October 9), please click [here](#).

On the afternoon of Thursday, November 7, from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., we will hold the second workshop with the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction. This workshop, titled *Working for a future with less alcohol harms in Ontario: Public Health's Role*, will provide an opportunity for participants to understand the partnerships, body of work and evidence underpinning Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health (CGAH). Breakout sessions will provide opportunities to discuss how it serves as a key tool across sectors to guide health promotion activities, and inform the work of health care providers and policy development.

These workshops are being offered at no additional cost to Symposium registrants and you will be registered automatically when you sign up for the Fall Symposium. Separate registrations are not available for individual events.

The event flyer can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Please keep your eyes on the main Symposium webpage for regular updates. The Symposium program (last updated on October 2) is available [here](#) and, for the BOH Section Meeting agenda (last updated on October 2), click [here](#). Also posted on the webpage is a call for public health unit videos and a document on Zoom troubleshooting tips.

Registration is for alPHa members only, (please note, you do not need to create an account on the alPHa website in order to register for the event) and the cost is \$399+HST (and is inclusive of the Symposium, Workshops, and Section Meeting. You also only need to register once to attend all of the events). Cancellations and substitutions are permitted until October 30, 2024. Cancellations are subject to a \$50 processing fee and must be received by October 30. No refunds will be issued after that date.

Please note, the best way to pay for your registration is via credit card or Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT). If it is not possible to pay via credit card or EFT, cheques may be sent to:

Association of Local Public Health Agencies
PO Box 73510, RPO Wychwood
Toronto, Ont.
M6C 4A7

If you have any questions regarding these events, please contact alPHa Staff at: info@alphaweb.org.

Please note, after the Fall Symposium, alPHa will collect any presentations shared by the speakers with the membership and will distribute the presentations as soon as these are available.

alPHa would like to thank the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Eastern Ontario Health Unit for their generous event support!

Fall Symposium 2024: Lights, camera, action!



Thank you to the public health units who have submitted videos!

As part of the alPHa Fall 2024 Symposium that is taking place on November 8, there is an opportunity before the official program gets underway and during the breaks to showcase recent videos from public health units from across the province.

Has your PHU posted a short public health video on your website or YouTube that you would like to share with symposium attendees? The Symposium is an opportunity to showcase and share your communications work on key public health issues!

Here's how to submit:

- Send the title and link to your PHU's video(s) to info@alphaweb.org
- Send only the URL(s) and do not send any video files.
- YouTube and Instagram videos are preferred.
- Clips can be live-action or animated.
- Videos should be short and can be no longer than five minutes in length.
- Clips should be recently recorded (2024)/stand the test of time from when the videos were recorded.
- Variety is welcome as we would like to cover a range of public health topics.
- Videos must be from your PHU and not from another organization.

Need some ideas? Here's a classic from Eastern Ontario Health Unit: Hand Hygiene: Germy the Germ Gets Washed Away
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7LUOFKEShU>

The deadline to submit information on your video clip is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30. We look forward to receiving your submissions!

EAs/AAs: There's two weeks to go to register for the fall virtual workshop!



Thank you to all those who have registered already. We are pleased so many EAs/AAs are participating.

Registration for this year's [Executive Assistant/Administrative Assistant Fall Virtual Workshop](#) is closing on **Wednesday, October 30, 2024**! This event, which costs \$149+HST, will be held on Tuesday, November 5 from 1 p.m.-4 p.m., and is an opportunity to connect with colleagues from across Ontario, share ideas, and enhance your skills.

The workshop has three sessions and will cover Artificial Intelligence, Board of Health Governance, and Substance Use and Addiction.

To learn more about this event, you can view the flyer [here](#).

Please note, you do not need to create an account on the alPHa website in order to register for the workshop. However, you must be an Executive Assistant/Administrative Assistant to a medical/associate medical officer of health/board of health at a health unit to participate. Cancellations and substitutions are permitted until October 30.

Cancellations are subject to a \$50 processing fee. No refunds will be issued after that date. The best way to pay for your registration is via credit card or Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT). If it is not possible to pay via credit card or EFT, cheques may be sent to:

Association of Local Public Health Agencies
PO Box 73510, RPO Wychwood
Toronto, Ont.
M6C 4A7

If you have any questions regarding these events, please contact alPHa Staff at: info@alphaweb.org.

We hope to see you online November 5!

Ontario Public Health Directory: September 2024 update



The [*Ontario Public Health Directory*](#) has been updated and is available on the alPHa website. Please ensure you have the latest version, which has been dated as of **September 18, 2024**. To view the file, log into the alPHa website.

National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools

With your team balancing a full workload and the pressure to keep up with evidence-informed decision-making competencies, finding the time to build those skills can seem impossible!

Make the most of the time you have by reaching out to the National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (NCCMT) to set up a custom virtual team assessment to explore your strengths and needs. The NCCMT's experienced Knowledge Brokers help you navigate professional development planning by creating a needs-based, guided learning plan that includes both free and paid recommended learning opportunities. Contact the NCCMT at nccmt@mcmaster.ca to learn more about tailored learning plans.

Public Health Sudbury & Districts: *Unlearning and Undoing White Supremacy and Racism Project*



At the Board of Health for Sudbury & Districts meeting in September, members of the Indigenous Engagement team presented the [Unlearning & Undoing White Supremacy and Racism](#) project. The Board unanimously resolved to join the public health agency's staff in the *Unlearning and Undoing White Supremacy and Racism Project*. This project was originally developed by the Office of the Provincial Health Officer in British Columbia. Public Health is adapting the project, with the permission of the OPHO, to fit the local context. The project addresses colonization, racism, and white supremacy in an 18-month voluntary commitment that allows learners time to read, watch, listen, reflect, and start to understand their role in upholding these harmful systems and how to do better. Since the Board of Health committed to this work, there has been extensive media coverage, including the following interview on [CBC Radio](#).

alPHa Workplace Health and Wellness: GenWell



Join us November 18-24, 2024

This campaign intends to educate, empower, and catalyze Canadians about the many benefits of talking to strangers.

Talk To A Stranger Week is an opportunity to build a sense of connection and community that many need in a post-pandemic world. It is seizing the opportunity that many of us have each day to make a difference in our own lives and the lives of others by simply saying hello, smiling or striking up a conversation with a stranger.

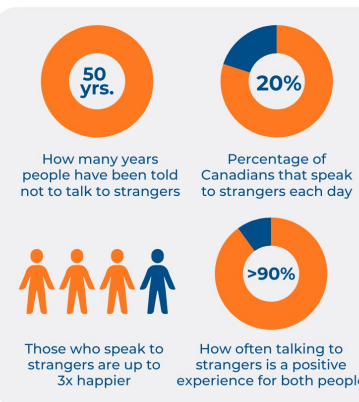
www.TalkToAStrangerWeek.org
[@GenWellProject](https://www.instagram.com/GenWellProject)

THE BENEFITS:

Connecting with strangers can enhance our happiness, optimism, empathy, and sense of belonging, grounding us in the world.

Additionally, several long-term benefits arise from these connections, including:

- Increased well-being
- Greater happiness and optimism
- Stronger empathy and compassion for others
- Better cognitive performance
- Heightened sense of connection
- Higher trust levels
- Decreased feelings of social isolation, disconnection, and loneliness



TIPS TO CONNECT:

- Say hello
- Compliment someone
- Make eye contact and smile
- Celebrate or complain about the weather
- Strike up a conversation in a line-up
- Speak about a current event
- Ask for advice
- Tell a joke or make light of a situation

"A stranger today can be a friend tomorrow."

Proud health partners:




GenWell, alPHA's newest Workplace Health and Wellness partner, is promoting [Talk to a Stranger Week](#), which will be held November 18-24, 2024. This campaign is an opportunity to build a sense of connection and community that many need in a post-pandemic world. It is seizing the opportunity that many of us have each day to make a difference in our own lives and the lives of others by simply saying hello, smiling or striking up a conversation with a stranger. To learn more, click [here](#).

Boards of Health: Shared Resources



A resource [page](#) is available on alPHa's website for Board of Health members to facilitate the sharing of and access to information, orientation materials, best practices, case studies, by-laws, Resolutions, and other resources. **In particular, alPHa is seeking resources to share regarding the province's Strengthening Public Health Initiative, including but not limited to, voluntary mergers and the need for long-term funding for local public health.** If you have a best practice, by-law or any other resource that you would like to make available via the newsletter and/or the website, please send a file or a link with a brief description to gordon@alphaweb.org and for posting in the appropriate library.

Resources available on the alPHa website include:

- [Orientation Manual for Boards of Health](#) (Revised Jan. 2024)
- [Review of Board of Health Liability, 2018](#), ([PowerPoint presentation, Feb. 24, 2023](#))
- [Legal Matters: Updates for Boards of Health](#) (Video, June 8, 2021)
- [Obligations of a Board of Health under the Municipal Act, 2001](#) (Revised 2021)
- [Governance Toolkit](#) (Revised 2022)
- [Risk Management for Health Units](#)
- [The Ontario Public Health Standards](#)
- [Public Appointee Role and Governance Overview](#) (for Provincial Appointees to BOH)
- [Ontario Boards of Health by Region](#)
- [List of Units sorted by Municipality](#)
- [List of Municipalities sorted by Health Unit](#)
- [Map: Boards of Health Types](#)

- [Healthy Rural Communities Toolkit](#)
- [The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction](#)
- [NCCHPP Report: Profile of Ontario's Public Health System \(2021\)](#)
- [The Municipal Role of Public Health \(2022 U of T Report\)](#)
- [Boards of Health and Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act](#)

Affiliates update



Ontario Association of Public Health Nursing Leaders

On October 9, 2024 Nicole Welch assumed the role of OPHNL President and will be the OPHNL Affiliate representative to alPha's Board of Directors starting in the new year. During this transition, OPHNL's priority is to continue to advance the work of the 2024-2027 OPHNL Strategic Plan. High level priorities include: (1) Advancing Public Health Nursing; (2) Providing Meaningful Opportunities for Public Health Nursing Leaders, and (3) Strengthening the Voice of Public Health Nursing Leaders. OPHNL has engaged with members to establish work groups addressing priority work. We wish to thank Jen Vickers-Manzin for her leadership and dedication to public health nursing.

Calling all Ontario Boards of Health: Level up your expertise with our NEW training courses designed just for you!



Don't miss this unique opportunity to enhance your knowledge and strengthen local public health leadership in Ontario.

BOH Governance training course

Master public health governance and Ontario's Public Health Standards. You'll learn all about public health legislation, funding, accountability, roles, structures, and much more. Gain insights into leadership and services that drive excellence in your unit.

Social Determinants of Health training course

Explore the impact of Social Determinants of Health on public health and municipal governments. Understand the context, explore Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, and examine various SDOH diagrams to better serve your communities.

Speakers are Monika Turner and Loretta Ryan.

Reserve your spot for in-person or virtual training now! Visit [our website](#) to learn more about the costs for Public Health Units (PHUs). Let's shape a healthier future together.

Additionally, thank you to all the public health agencies who have shown interest in our BOH courses. alpha staff are currently coordinating the bookings and are pleased to see the uptake.

BrokerLink Insurance





In partnership with alPha, [BrokerLink](#) is proud to offer preferred home and auto insurance rates for members, learn more [here](#). Identity theft is a very real issue across Canada. That is why protecting your personal data is so important. Read about what identity theft is, the different types of identity theft out there, and how you can protect yourself [here](#).

Job postings



For more information on health units that are hiring, and to view all of the postings, please click [here](#).

alPha Correspondence



Through policy analysis, collaboration, and advocacy, alPha's members and staff act to promote public health policies that form a strong foundation for the improvement of health promotion and protection, disease prevention, and surveillance services in all of Ontario's communities. A complete online library of submissions is available [here](#). These documents are publicly available and can be shared widely.

Public Health Ontario



The Ontario Immunization Advisory Committee releases a new position statement: A Provincial Immunization Registry for Ontario

The [Ontario Immunization Advisory Committee](#) (OIAC) has recently released [Position Statement: A Provincial Immunization Registry for Ontario](#), which provides recommendations on developing and implementing a comprehensive immunization registry in Ontario. The Statement is centred on three guiding principles and seven recommendations for a comprehensive provincial immunization registry for Ontario.

The seven recommendations outlined in the Statement focus on:

- Implementing a provincial immunization registry that assesses, maintains and documents immunizations across the lifespan to deliver vaccines efficiently, equitably and appropriately across the health system.
- Engaging with groups who use immunization data to meet the needs of diverse populations and ensure timely and equitable access to individual immunization records.
- Having supportive legislation and policy, as well as leveraging existing technology and standards, to support the real-time collection, use and sharing of confidential immunization data across the health system.
- Capturing real-time individual-level immunization data to monitor the uptake, safety, effectiveness and impact of new and existing vaccine programs as well as for individuals and health care providers to make informed decisions about their health.

The Statement includes a detailed overview of each of the recommendations, as well as a plain language and executive summary.

The OIAC is an external group of experts that provides advice to Public Health Ontario about new and existing vaccines and Ontario's immunization programs.

For more information about the Committee, visit the [OIAC webpage](#).

Additional Resources

- [Family Engagement in Comprehensive School Health Programming](#)
- [Youth Health Trends in Ontario: Sleep Infographic](#)
- [Focus On: Social Environments for Health](#)
- [Electronic Device Use Indicators using Data from the Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth](#)
- [Early Years Risk Indicators using Data from the Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth 2019](#)
- [Early Years Protective Indicators using Data from the Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth 2019](#)

- [Review of “The Impact of the Built Environment and Social Environment on Physical Activity: A Scoping Review”](#)
- [COMPASS: Youth Health Trends in Ontario Infographic](#)

Routine Surveillance Reports

- [Mpox in Ontario](#)
- [Measles in Ontario](#)
- [SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Surveillance in Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool](#)

Events

Be sure to keep an eye on PHO’s [Events page](#) for their upcoming events.

- **Oct 15:** [PHO Rounds: Laboratory Testing Methods & Applications in Bacterial Enteric Case & Outbreak Investigations](#)

Recent Presentations

- [PHO Microbiology Rounds: A Step Toward Understanding Neovaginal Health for Trans Women](#)

Upcoming DLSPH Events and Webinars

Dalla Lana

School of Public Health

- [‘Responding to Complex Needs among Children & Youth in Ontario: Catalyzing System Solutions’](#) (Oct. 18)
 - [Climate, Health & Sustainable Care Inaugural Symposium](#) (Oct. 22)
 - [AI and Infectious Diseases Speakers Series: AI and Crowdsourcing for Resilient Hospitals and Enhanced Patient Care](#) (Oct. 23)
 - [From Discovery to Impact: Celebrating 30 years of BRCA1 and BRCA2](#) (Nov. 4-5)
-

alPHa’s Strategic Plan



alPHA's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan is available [here](#).

alPHA's mailing address



**Please note our mailing address is:
PO Box 73510, RPO Wychwood
Toronto, ON M6C 4A7**

For further information, please contact info@alphaweb.org.

News Releases

The most up to date news releases from the Government of Ontario can be accessed [here](#).



Our mailing address is:
PO Box 73510, RPO Wychwood
Toronto, ON M6C 4A7
Canada

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

Subject: FW: Signals at Queen/Church

Sent: October 21, 2024 9:17 AM

To: Luke Dufour <l.dufour@cityssm.on.ca>

Subject: Fwd: Signals at Queen/Church

Good morning Luke, sorry to bother you again. As suggested, I sent this to the address you provided but apparently I am not a recognized correspondent so it was not delivered. Perhaps you can send it along?

Thanks. Tom

----- Original Message -----

To: citycouncillors@cityssm.on.ca; mayor.shoemaker@cityssm.on.ca

Sent: Saturday, October 19th 2024, 23:19

I am writing as a concerned Ward 2/Queen St East resident, after having corresponded with Councillors Dufour and Vezeau-Allen on this topic. They have informed me that they share my concerns, have argued against removing the signals or at least providing accommodations for pedestrians, and voted against the motion. While the intersection has not been the scene of vehicular accidents such as those witnessed at Albert/Elgin I myself have experienced some nervous crossings of Church as a pedestrian, when vehicles coming off Bay onto Queen at the Algonquin move quickly into the left turn lane to access Church St. while I was in the process of crossing and had to turn back. I have also had a pedestrian (perhaps frustrated with waiting?) walk across Queen right in front of me as I approached Church from the east to make a right turn, forcing me to come to a complete stop. As I'm sure any other regular Queen St drivers will attest you will always see a pedestrian or a group of pedestrians (including seniors) at times with kids and/or dogs waiting to cross at the doctor's building or the hub trail. I'm not sure why the decision to remove the signals wasn't accompanied by directions to staff to look into options to address pedestrian safety? Just because someone hasn't been hit there yet is no reason to wait for it to happen.

Further to the pedestrian risks, on the subject of the "permanent" removal of the signals, I note that this decision was followed soon after by the city's decision to buy the hospital buildings and begin an accelerated demo and development plan. Assuming the city receives a successful proposal I would expect to see increased traffic on Queen to/from those sites associated with imminent demo and construction activities. Not to mention long term traffic from any future developments. So I guess my question now is, should those signals be removed at all? It wouldn't make much sense to take them out only to have to put them back in? Is this something that is or should be under consideration? Are staff reviewing whether signals may be warranted elsewhere in the old hospital area as part of any future development or should the existing signals simply remain?

Regards; Tom Marcolini



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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

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

Delivered via email

Doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
premier@ontario.ca

October 4, 2024

RE: Motion from Mayor Lucas Cleveland regarding Support of Involuntary Care for
Individuals with Severe Mental Health and Addictions Issues

Please be advised that the Town of Cobourg Council, at its meeting held on September 25, 2024, passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has announced the creation of highly secure facilities to provide involuntary care for individuals with severe mental health and addictions issues under the Mental Health Act, including dedicated mental health units in correctional centres and regional secure care facilities; and

WHEREAS the Town of Cobourg, along with municipalities across Ontario, are facing growing challenges in addressing the complex needs of individuals with severe mental health and addictions issues, which place a significant strain on local emergency services, healthcare systems, community resources, and public safety; and

WHEREAS individuals experiencing severe mental health and addictions issues often cannot voluntarily seek the care they need, and involuntary care, provided with compassion and appropriate safeguards, can ensure they receive the necessary treatment to help stabilize their condition and improve community safety.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Cobourg supports the BC government's approach to providing secure, involuntary care for individuals with severe mental health and addictions challenges, as a compassionate and necessary intervention for those unable to seek help on their own; and

FURTHER THAT the Town of Cobourg urges the Province of Ontario to implement similar measures to ensure that individuals with severe mental health and addictions issues in Ontario have access to secure, involuntary care when necessary; and



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

FURTHER THAT this motion be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Premier, Honourable David Piccini, MPP, all other Members of Provincial Parliament and all Ontario municipalities to seek their endorsement and support.

Sincerely,

Kristina Lepik
Deputy Clerk/Manager, Legislative Services

cc. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO);
the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM);
Honourable, David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills
Development and Northumberland – Peterborough South MPP;,
All other Members of Provincial Parliament; and
All Ontario Municipalities

September 20, 2024

BY E-MAIL

Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Khanjin:

Ontario Deposit Return Program

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to formally address the recent discussions surrounding the Ontario Deposit Return Program, particularly regarding our community residents asking us about the recycling of nonalcoholic beverage plastics.

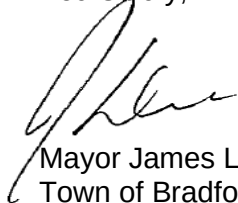
Whereas the Ontario Deposit Return Program has successfully incentivized the recycling of alcoholic beverage containers, resulting in the removal of over 204,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, we recognize the potential for similar success with nonalcoholic beverages.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks highlighted in their June 2023 letter that they are considering the adoption of a deposit-and-return system for nonalcoholic beverages. This initiative presents a unique opportunity to further promote recycling, reduce litter, and encourage sustainable practices among consumers.

Therefore, I am proud to announce that our Council endorses the expansion of the Ontario Deposit Return Program to include nonalcoholic beverage containers. We believe that this expansion will not only enhance environmental stewardship but also foster a culture of sustainability within our community.

We encourage all stakeholders to support this initiative and work collaboratively towards its implementation. Together, we can make a significant impact on our environment and set a positive example for future generations.

Yours truly,



Mayor James Leduc
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

CC:

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Hon. Caroline Mulroney, Member of Provincial Parliament for York-Simcoe
MPP Sandy Shaw, Opposition Environment, Conservation and Parks Critic
Ontario's Municipal Councils and Conservation Authorities



CLEARVIEW
TOWNSHIP

Clerk's Department

Township of Clearview
Box 200, 217 Gideon Street
Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0
clerks@clearview.ca | www.clearview.ca
Phone: 705-428-6230

October 8, 2024

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Paul Calandra

Sent by Email: minister.mah@ontario.ca

RE: Support Resolution – Updates to the Municipal Elections Act

Please be advised at its meeting held on October 7, 2024, Council of the Township of Clearview passed the following resolution supporting AMCTO's advocacy for updates to the Municipal Elections Act:

Moved by Councillor Broderick, Seconded by Councillor Walker, Whereas, election rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections;

Whereas, legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process;

Whereas, the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities;

Whereas, the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026;

Whereas, the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the *Assessment Act, 1990* and the *Education Act, 1990* also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario;

Whereas, with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the *MEA* containing a patchwork of clauses, there are interpretation challenges, inconsistencies, and gaps to fill;

Whereas, the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce;

Whereas, while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today's needs and tomorrow's challenges;

Whereas, to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis/disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities;

Whereas, the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules, and streamlining and simplifying administration;

And Whereas, AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections;

Therefore, Be It Resolved That Council of the Corporation of the Township of Clearview calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer-term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections;

And Be It Further Resolved that this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca), the Minister of Education (minister.edu@ontario.ca), the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca), Minister of Finance (Minister.fin@ontario.ca) the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca), Simcoe-Grey MPP (brian.saunderson@pc.ola.org) and AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com). Motion Carried.

We look forward to hearing of the continued advocacy regarding this matter and updates on when the Ministry will move ahead with amending the Municipal Elections Act.

Sincerely,



Sasha HelmKay-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

cc: Minister of Education
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery
Minister of Finance
Premier of Ontario
Simcoe Grey MPP
AMCTO Advocacy

October 10, 2024

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Via Email

Re: Provincial Updates to the Municipal Elections Act

Please be advised that Council of the Town of Halton Hills at its meeting of Monday, October 7, 2024, adopted Resolution No. 2024-0168 regarding Provincial Updates to the Municipal Elections Act.

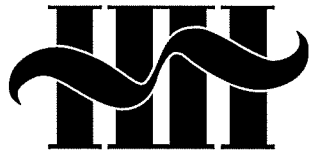
Attached for your information is a copy of Resolution No. 2024-0168.

Respectfully,



Melissa Lawr, AMP
Deputy Clerk – Legislation

cc. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Minister of Education
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery
Minister of Finance
Halton MPPs
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO)
All Ontario Municipalities



TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Resolution No.: 2024-0168

Title: Provincial Updates to the Municipal Elections Act

Date: October 7, 2024

Moved by: Councillor A. Hilson

Seconded by: Mayor A. Lawlor

Item No. 12.1

WHEREAS elections rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections;

AND WHEREAS legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process;

AND WHEREAS the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026;

AND WHEREAS the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the Assessment Act, 1990 and the Education Act, 1990 also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the MEA containing a patchwork of clauses, there are interpretation challenges, inconsistencies and gaps to fill;

AND WHEREAS the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce;

AND WHEREAS while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today's needs and tomorrow's challenges;

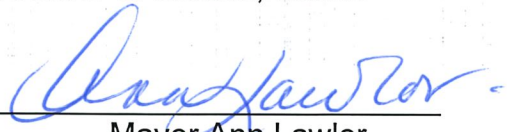
AND WHEREAS to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis-disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules, and streamlining and simplifying administration;

AND WHEREAS AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Town of Halton Hills calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer-term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Public Business Service Delivery, Ministry of Finance, the Premier of Ontario, Halton MPPs, AMO and AMCTO.



Mayor Ann Lawlor



October 8, 2024

Resolution No. 310/2024

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MCGARRY
P.O. BOX 99,
VIRGINIATOWN, ON. P0K 1X0**

MOVED BY *Alaine Fier*

SECONDED BY *Francoise Plante*

WHEREAS elections rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections.

WHEREAS legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process,

WHEREAS the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities.

WHEREAS the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026.

WHEREAS the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the Assessment Act, 1990 and the Education Act, 1990 also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario.

WHEREAS with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the MEA containing a patchwork of clauses, there are interpretation challenges, inconsistencies, and gaps to fill.

WHEREAS the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce.

WHEREAS while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today's needs and tomorrow's challenges.

WHEREAS to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis/disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities.

WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules and streamlining and simplifying administration.

AND WHERAS AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Township of McGarry calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer- term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca), the Minister of Education (minister.edu@ontario.ca) the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca), Minister of Finance (Minister.fin@ontario.ca) the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca) , Sylvia Jones MPP (sylvia.jones@ontario.ca) and AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com)

Defeated _____ / Carried Bonita Culhane
Mayor Mayor

Recorded Vote Requested by _____

YES

NO

Mayor Bonita Culhane
Councillor Louanne Caza
Councillor Elaine Fic
Councillor Annie Keft
Councillor Francine Plante

October 15, 2024

Re: Item for Discussion – AMCTO Recommendations for Updates to the Municipal Elections Act

At its meeting of October 9, 2024, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge ratified motion #24-GC-184, regarding the AMCTO Recommendations for Updates to the Municipal Elections Act, as follows:

“WHEREAS elections rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections;

AND WHEREAS legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process;

AND WHEREAS the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026;

AND WHEREAS the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the Assessment Act, 1990 and the Education Act, 1990 also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the MEA containing a patchwork of clauses, there are interpretation challenges, inconsistencies, and gaps to fill;

AND WHEREAS the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce;

AND WHEREAS while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today’s needs and tomorrow’s challenges;

AND WHEREAS to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis/disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities;

1000 Taylor Court
Bracebridge, ON
P1L 1R6 Canada

telephone: (705) 645-5264
corporate services and finance fax: (705) 645-1262
public works fax: (705) 645-7525
planning & development fax: (705) 645-4209

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules, and streamlining and simplifying administration;

AND WHEREAS AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Bracebridge calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer-term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections.

AND FURTHER THAT that this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of Education; the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery; Minister of Finance; the Premier of Ontario; the Local Member of Provincial Parliament; AMCTO; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and all Ontario Municipalities.”

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

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

Yours truly,

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

Lori McDonald
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

October 15, 2024

sent via email

Minister Paul Calandra
Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street
College Park 17th Floor,
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Calandra:

I am writing to you as the Town Clerk at the Town of Smiths Falls and as the municipal officer responsible for the administration of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* in support of [AMCTO's recommendations](#) calling for the comprehensive changes to *MEA*.

AMCTO members, as municipal leaders, support the interests and well-being of 235,000 municipal employees across all municipalities in this Province.

Local election administrators care about running fair and accessible elections. We care about ensuring that candidates, voters, and third-party advertisers understand their responsibilities. We care that those that may knowingly break the rules are held to account. We care that the *MEA* and the accompanying *Education Act* and *Assessment Act* are complicated pieces of legislation on their own, and more so read together.

That is why AMCTO reviews the *Act* after every local election and why the Province should be making the necessary changes to make election administration easier and the *Act* clearer to follow for candidates and voters within the timelines AMCTO has set out.

Never has there been a more important moment to ensure the *Act* is working well, closes gaps and provides the right enforcement tools and mechanisms to safeguard our local electoral processes from threats of foreign interference, misinformation and bad actors. Local clerks need support and guidance on how to manage these threats and deal with potential events especially considering the federal government's recent legislation on foreign interference (Bill C-70).

AMCTO convened a group of municipal staff with experience and expertise in administering local elections to present you with several recommendations for making improvements to *MEA* and calling for an overhaul of the *Act* in the long-term.



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

I support AMCTO's recommendations and call on you to update the *MEA* with priority and secondary recommendations by mid 2025 ahead of the 2026 election so that I can make the necessary adjustments for planning and implementation well ahead of statutory timelines imposed upon me to administer an election.

There is a provincial interest in ensuring the health of local democracy and the time to act is now – proactively instead of reactively. Election administrators face several uncertainties as we look ahead to 2026. We observe that in other jurisdictions with elections there is an increasing use of artificial intelligence (AI) and other technology to spread misinformation. There are increased levels of electoral interference. Even in Canada, we are seeing reports of more candidates and elected officials stepping back from public life because of concerns for their safety and reputations.

There also is a provincial interest for reducing administrative and operational burdens to help free up staff time to focus on other critical statutory and operational tasks such as those related to planning and development processes, municipal governance, as well as service innovation, in support of provincial priorities.

I look forward to seeing legislation introduced to update the *MEA* in the coming months to address current challenges, streamline processes, and make legislation easier to understand and administer.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and/or concerns.

Yours truly,

Kerry Costello
Town Clerk

cc: Paul Shipway, President, AMCTO president@amcto.com
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
martha.greenberg@ontario.ca
All Municipalities in Ontario
Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Education minister.edu@ontario.ca
Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and
Procurement todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca
Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance Minister.fin@ontario.ca
Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario Premier@ontario.ca
Honourable John Jordan, M.P.P. Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston John.jordan@pc.ola.org

Attachment: Resolution



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

**Resolution passed October 7, 2024:
Provincial Updates to the Municipal Elections Act**

WHEREAS elections rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections.

WHEREAS legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process,

WHEREAS the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities.

WHEREAS the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026.

WHEREAS the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the Assessment Act, 1990 and the Education Act, 1990 also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario.

WHEREAS with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the MEA containing a patchwork of clauses, there are interpretation challenges, inconsistencies, and gaps to fill.

WHEREAS the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce.

WHEREAS while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today's needs and tomorrow's challenges.

WHEREAS to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis/disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities.

WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules, and streamlining and simplifying administration.

AND WHEREAS AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer-term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery, Minister of Finance the Premier of Ontario, our local MPP and AMCTO.



October 17, 2024

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

SENT VIA E-MAIL
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford :

RE: AMCTO RECOMMENDATIONS TO UPDATE THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ACT (MEA)

At its regular meeting held on October 15 2024, Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing passed the following resolution.

<< Resolution: **2024/285**

Moved By: Councillor R. Larabie

Seconded By: Councillor G. Pharand

WHEREAS at the meeting of October 15, 2024, Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing received and supports resolution no. 2024-152 from the Town of Parry Sound;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing calls on the Province of Ontario to update the *Municipal Elections Act* (MEA) with the priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with long-term recommendations ahead of the upcoming elections;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca), the Minister of Education (minister.edu@ontario.ca), the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca), the Minister of Finance (minister.fin@ontario.ca), the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca), John Vanthof (MPP) and AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com)

CARRIED >>

In accordance with Council's direction, the resolution is being forwarded for your reference.

Respectfully,

Janice Dupuis
Deputy Clerk
Municipality of West Nipissing



Council - Committee of the Whole

Resolution # 2024/285
Title: Authorize support of Parry Sound resolution re: AMCTO recommendations to update Municipal Elections Act
Date: October 15, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Roland Larabie
Seconded by: Councillor Georges Pharand

WHEREAS at the meeting of October 15, 2024, Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing received and supports resolution no. 2024-152 from the Town of Parry Sound;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing calls on the Province of Ontario to update the *Municipal Elections Act* (MEA) with the priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with long-term recommendations ahead of the upcoming elections;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca), the Minister of Education (minister.edu@ontario.ca), the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca), the Minister of Finance (minister.fin@ontario.ca), the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontari.ca), John Vanthof (MPP) and AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com)

CARRIED



Council - Committee of the Whole

Résolution #

2024/285

Titre:

Autoriser le soutien de la résolution de Parry Sound concernant les recommandations de l'AMCTO pour la mise à jour de la loi sur les élections municipales

Date:

le 15 octobre 2024

Proposé par:

Councillor Roland Larabie

Appuyé par:

Councillor Georges Pharand

ATTENDU QUE lors de la réunion du 15 octobre 2024, le conseil de la municipalité de Nipissing Ovest a reçu et appuie la résolution no 2024-152 de la ville de Parry Sound ;

IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le conseil de la municipalité de Nipissing Ovest demande à la province de l'Ontario de mettre à jour la Loi sur les élections municipales (LEM) avec les amendements prioritaires tels que décrits par l'AMCTO et de commencer le travail de révision et de réécriture de la LEM avec des recommandations à long terme avant les prochaines élections ;

IL EST EN OUTRE RÉSOLU QU'une copie de cette résolution soit transmise à toutes les municipalités de l'Ontario pour obtenir leur soutien et que chaque appui soit ensuite transmis au ministre des Affaires municipales et du Logement (minister.mah@ontario.ca), au ministre de l'Éducation (minister.edu@ontario.ca), au ministre de la Prestation des services publics et commerciaux (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca), au ministre des Finances (minister.fin@ontario.ca), au premier ministre de l'Ontario (premier@ontario.ca), à John Vanthof (député provincial) et à l'AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com).

ADOPTÉ



52 Seguin Street, Parry Sound, Ontario P2A 1B4
Tel: (705) 746-2101 • Fax: (705) 746-7461 • www.parrysound.ca

October 2, 2024

Minister Paul Calandra
Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street
College Park 17th Floor,
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Via e-mail: minister.mah@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Calandra,

I am writing to you as the Municipal Clerk at the Town of Parry Sound and as the municipal officer responsible for the administration of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* in support of [AMCTO's recommendations](#) calling for the comprehensive changes to *MEA*.

AMCTO members, as municipal leaders, support the interests and well-being of 235,000 municipal employees across all municipalities in this Province.

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That is why AMCTO reviews the *Act* after every local election and why the Province should be making the necessary changes to make election administration easier and the *Act* clearer to follow for candidates and voters within the timelines AMCTO has set out.

Never has there been a more important moment to ensure the *Act* is working well, closes gaps and provides the right enforcement tools and mechanisms to safeguard our local electoral processes from threats of foreign interference, misinformation and bad actors. Local clerks need support and guidance on how to manage these threats and deal with potential events especially considering the federal government's recent legislation on foreign interference (Bill C-70).

AMCTO convened a group of municipal staff with experience and expertise in administering local elections to present you with several recommendations for making improvements to *MEA* and calling for an overhaul of the *Act* in the long-term.

I support AMCTO's recommendations and call on you to update the *MEA* with priority and secondary recommendations by mid 2025 ahead of the 2026 election so that I can make the necessary adjustments for planning and implementation well ahead of statutory timelines imposed upon me to administer an election.

There is a provincial interest in ensuring the health of local democracy and the time to act is now – proactively instead of reactively. Election administrators face several uncertainties as we look ahead to 2026. We observe that in other jurisdictions with elections there is an increasing use of artificial intelligence (AI) and other technology to spread misinformation. There are increased levels of electoral interference. Even in Canada, we are seeing reports of more candidates and elected officials stepping back from public life because of concerns for their safety and reputations.

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I look forward to seeing legislation introduced to update the *MEA* in the coming months to address current challenges, streamline processes, and make legislation easier to understand and administer.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Johnson
Clerk

/rj
Encl.

cc: Paul Shipway, President, AMCTO president@amcto.com
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and
Housing martha.greenberg@ontario.ca
Jill Dunlop, Minister of Education minister.edu@ontario.ca
Todd McCarthy, Minister of Public & Business Service Delivery &
Procurement todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca
Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance Minister.fin@ontario.ca
Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario premier@ontario.ca
Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka Graydon.Smith@pc.ola.org
Ontario Municipal Clerks



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND
RESOLUTION IN COUNCIL

NO. 2024 – 152

DIVISION LIST

YES NO

DATE: October 1, 2024

Councillor **G. ASHFORD**
Councillor **J. BELESKEY**
Councillor **P. BORNEMAN**
Councillor **B. KEITH**
Councillor **D. McCANN**
Councillor **C. McDONALD**
Mayor **J. McGARVEY**

MOVED BY:

P. Borne

SECONDED BY:

[Signature]

CARRIED: ✓ DEFEATED: _____ Postponed to: _____

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Deputy Mayor Chris McDonald



AMCTO
THE MUNICIPAL EXPERTS

**Modernizing the
Municipal Elections Act
for the 21st Century**



Introduction

The *Municipal Elections Act* (MEA) legislates the processes for how local elections operate in Ontario. It provides municipal staff who are also local election administrators with the framework in which to organize and run efficient municipal elections. It provides voters, candidates and third-party advertisers with guidance on qualifications for participating in local democracy. The Act serves as an important tool for local election accountability, ensuring smooth democratic processes for citizens across Ontario, and is key to voter and public trust in local governments.

While public trust has always been [front and centre to democratic processes](#)¹, since the COVID-19 pandemic there has been [commentary, concern and cautions raised](#) about the state of trust in public institutions at all levels of government and the state of the democratic process that empowers those institutions². Applying a continuous improvement mindset to the rules and framework that support local democracy ensures democratic processes are modernized, reflect current circumstances and technology, meet citizen expectations, and continue to be reliable.

As the largest voluntary municipal association in Ontario with members working across the province, the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) takes the position that local governments serve as the most transparent level of government with openness and accountability at the core of operations. To continuously improve public trust, a comprehensive review of the MEA is needed in consultation with the sector. By reviewing and re-writing the MEA to reflect today's challenges in bolstering public trust, improving voter turnout, and improving overall election administration; voters, residents, candidates, third parties, interest groups and election administrators can rely on a modern act that is clear and consistent, while ensuring that processes are accountable and transparent.

To keep public trust and improve safeguards, a review should apply a lens considering the ever-changing landscape that impacts election administration. This includes [threats of foreign interference](#)³,

¹ AMCTO. 2015, *Submission on the Municipal Elections Act*. <https://www.amcto.com/sites/default/files/2023-05/AMCTO-MEA-Submission.pdf>

² Bridgman, A., et al. Mis- and Disinformation During the 2021 Canadian Federal Election. Media Ecosystem Observatory. March 2022. https://www.mcgill.ca/maxbellschool/files/maxbellschool/meo_election_2021_report.pdf

³ For instance, Ball, Stewart. "China tried to influence last two federal elections, says report released by CSIS." *Global News*. 31, Jan. 2024. <https://globalnews.ca/news/10264872/canada-china-foreign-interference-elections-csis-report/>



increased spread of misinformation⁴ and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) that presents both [opportunities](#)⁵ and [challenges](#)⁶ for election administration and for supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation. A fulsome review should also contemplate how to ensure the continued health of our local democracies, something the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is looking at currently through their [Healthy Democracy Project](#)⁷.

While we know this is easier said than done and recognize that the legislation contains a patchwork of provisions which attempts to fill in gaps, this approach has made the overall MEA in its current form, more challenging to read, interpret, comply with, and enforce. With the upcoming 2026 municipal elections, municipalities will be planning earnestly early next year, and a focus on renewing the election frameworks has never been timelier.

This submission has been prepared by AMCTO with a goal to improve and modernize the MEA and its regulations. It highlights the need for revisions as conducted on a line-by-line basis and considers how the proposed amendments would impact other acts such as the *Education Act, 1990* and the *Assessment Act, 1990*. Our recommendations focus on outcomes-based solutions across three broad themes:

1. **Strengthening Public Trust and Electoral Integrity**
2. **Enhancing Accountability and Transparency while Making Compliance and Enforcement Easier**
3. **Permissive Legislation that Reduces Administrative Complexity**

Through this submission, we also identify a proposed timeline to assist the Province in planning for continuous improvements to the *Act*. These recommendations are labelled as:

- **Priority:** those we believe must be implemented through legislative updates ahead of 2026
- **Secondary:** those we believe can and should be implemented through legislative updates ahead of 2026
- **Long-term:** those that may require further investigation, analysis, and collaboration between the Province, AMCTO, municipalities, and other affected stakeholders to get right.*

**It should be noted that these are no less important to AMCTO members and we would encourage the Province to initiate work on them as soon as possible.*

This submission is the result of continuous work by our MEA Working Group, ongoing conversations with members, as well as feedback from clerks following the 2022 municipal elections. Through this submission, we hope to inspire the Province to take action in reviewing the MEA and to inform a broader dialogue around local election administration, the importance of openness and accountability in local government.

⁴ For instance, Thompson, Elizabeth. "Disinformation, foreign interference threatening Canada's electoral system, elections watchdog warns." *CBC News*. 22, June 2022. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-elections-watchdog-cote-1.6497875>; Bridgman, A., et al. Mis- and Disinformation During the 2021 Canadian Federal Election. Media Ecosystem Observatory. Mar. 2022. https://www.mcgill.ca/maxbellschool/files/maxbellschool/meo_election_2021_report.pdf

⁵ Deepack P et al. *AI Magazine*. "AI and core electoral processes: Mapping the horizons." V. 44.3 Fall 2023. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/aaai.12105>

⁶ Leaders. "How worried should you be about AI disrupting elections?" *The Economist*. 31 Aug. 2023. <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2023/08/31/how-artificial-intelligence-will-affect-the-elections-of-2024>

⁷ See <https://www.amo.on.ca/about-us/healthy-democracy-project>





Background

Elections occur in 414 cities, towns, and villages[†] across Ontario to ensure that [2,842](#)⁸ municipal offices and [676](#)⁹ school board trustees are elected through processes that run as efficiently and effectively as possible within the current legislative framework.

While the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the [Assessment Act, 1990](#) and the [Education Act, 1990](#) also contain provisions impacting local elections; adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario.

quality assurance testing
compliance audit post-election reporting
staff training committee recruitment
ward boundary candidate support
election monitoring financial statement reviews
representation reviews overseeing prosecutions
new council orientation stakeholder relationships
vendor procurement supply chain management
voters list updates local scouting
volunteer recruitment

Election administration is a complex endeavour that municipal staff lead and oversee. This includes a multi-year planning and implementation journey that continues up to a year or more past election day. As election administrators, municipal clerks support candidates, third-party advertisers, election workers, and voters by overseeing ballot and technology preparation; coordinating supply chain management and vendor selection;

performing security reviews; preparing election reports; revising voters' lists; overseeing compliance audit committees (CACs); and responding to possible prosecutions. In many Ontario municipalities, this work may be done by one or two people.

Election administrators take pride in executing fair, accountable, transparent, accessible, and reliable local elections and are always looking for ways to continuously improve the delivery of these important services. An updated MEA would allow election administrators to do their jobs more efficiently and effectively while providing needed clarity to local candidates, third-party advertisers, voters and the general public.

To ensure administrators can pivot and implement legislative changes without impacting planning for the 2026 municipal elections, we urge the Province to act swiftly to consult on, then enact the following recommendations and updates to the MEA.

[†] While there are 444 municipalities in Ontario, 414 hold elections. The other municipalities are upper tiers, representatives for which are elected or appointed through lower tiers locally.

⁸ Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). "Analysis of 2022 Municipal Post Election Data", 14 Nov. 2022. <https://www.amo.on.ca/policy/municipal-governance-indigenous-relations/analysis-2022-municipal-post-election-data>

⁹ Ontario Education Services Corporation. "Post Election Data," 1 Nov. 2022. <https://elections.ontarioschooltrustees.org/Resources/pdf/2022Data/Post-Election%20Data%20-%20All%20School%20Boards.pdf>





Overview of the Issues

Strengthening Public Trust & Electoral Integrity

As outlined in the introduction, the *MEA* in its current form needs to be comprehensively reviewed in consultation with the sector and re-written. Processes can be streamlined, rules improved, provisions re-ordered, and clarity brought forward to ensure that voters, residents, candidates, third-parties, interest groups and election administrators have a modern act that is clear and consistent, while ensuring that processes are accountable and transparent.

Enhancing Accountability & Transparency while Making Compliance & Enforcement Easier

Some of the top concerns identified by AMCTO members include the current legislation containing a patchwork of amendments, repealed sections, and transitional provisions that are no longer relevant. On top of this, there are other structural issues in the way the Act is laid out, that make it difficult for voters, candidates, and organizations to understand and manage. Often a clause in one section must be read with a clause in another section, or within another act, which makes reading and complying with the rules difficult to do.

Permissive Legislation that Reduces Administrative Complexity

Another significant issue has been the lack of harmonization of local election rules across the three Acts (*MEA*, *Assessment Act*, *Education Act*) that set out the complex rules for municipal and school board elections. School board trustee candidates and voters must interpret three pieces of legislation to understand their qualifications. Moreover, because school support has two purposes under legislation – election and assessment – outdated legislative requirements make it difficult to match school support to voters which can mean delays at the polling station.

Rules on campaign finance and third-party advertising are also complex and difficult to oversee and enforce. There needs to be a thorough review of both frameworks to streamline rules and introduce mechanisms to make enforcement more efficient. This must include examining enforcement such as the compliance audit process, offences, and penalties.





Recommendations

The *MEA* will be 30 years old when the next scheduled municipal and school board elections take place in October 2026. While there have been a few changes to the *Act* since the last formal review, the current mix of political, environmental, social, technological, and legal factors make this an opportune moment to modernize the *Act*.

A review and re-write of the *Act* should also include a concurrent review of relevant sections of the *Education Act* and *Assessment Act* which contain provisions that add further complexity to the local election picture.

General Recommendations

- 1. Overhaul and update the *Act* to ensure that it is future-proof, addresses current gaps, streamlines rules, and brings added clarity well ahead of the 2030 election.**

While it may not be possible to complete a top-to-bottom re-write and re-design of the *Act* ahead of 2026, AMCTO is calling on the Province to launch consultations and engage our members to begin the process as soon as possible. The goal is to bring forward brand new legislation by 2028 at the latest, ahead of the 2030 municipal elections. The project planning for this endeavour should begin now, informed by discussions with AMCTO, Elections Ontario, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

A new *Act* would breathe new life into local government elections by rebuilding a fulsome statute instead of relying on the current patchwork of fixes that make the legislation more complicated than necessary. A new *Act* would make it easier for voters, candidates, and third-party advertisers to understand, comply with and participate in democratic processes. A review also provides an opportunity to bring innovation to election administration so that Ontario is looked to as a leader in the local democratic process in Canada.



2. Include a legislative requirement to review the Act after every scheduled municipal and school board election year.

While a comprehensive review should ensure the Act does not become quickly outdated, with the pace of technological and societal change, the MEA will continue to need regular review and updating. We are suggesting that the Act be substantially reviewed at least every four years with a specific legislative requirement to do so.

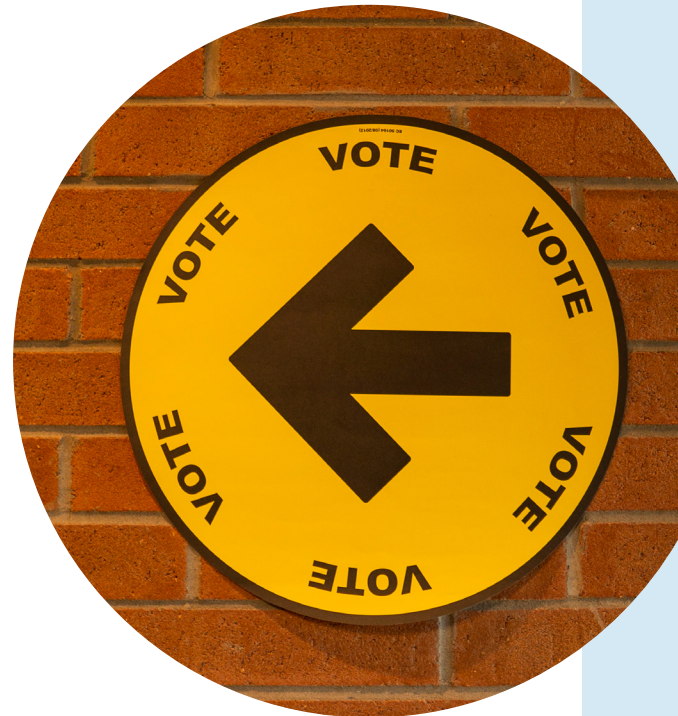
3. Review how the current legislation, regulations, and prescribed forms treat personal information, considering a digital privacy lens.

In the past few years, privacy protection has become increasingly important. With increased vitriol both in-person and in digital public spaces, members of the public, candidates for elected office, and other officials have expressed concern about the protection of personal information. Furthermore, as personal safety concerns have become increasingly alarming, it is essential that steps are taken to protect the privacy of individuals while balancing the need for increased transparency in local elections.

For instance, [several municipalities have passed resolutions](#) calling on the Province to remove requirements to post personal information online including candidate and contributor home addresses¹⁰. Anecdotally, several clerks have noted that they have received requests from those who experienced harassment or violence and consequentially, they do not want their information appearing on the voters' list.

Unlike provincial election legislation, the MEA does not explicitly allow for the redaction of certain information when posting documents online. Section 4.7 of the [Elections Act, 1990](#) gives Elections Ontario, upon request, the authority to redact certain personal information if the Chief Electoral Officer reasonably believes posting the information would endanger the person's life, health, or security. Further, section 4.8 of the *Elections Act* restricts the sharing of names, addresses, and unique identifiers of electors to certain persons.

For municipal election legislation, consider allowing for redaction of personal information or removing the requirement for municipalities to post personal information online while ensuring information is still available to clerks or to any other body to review qualifying addresses for contributions.



¹⁰ See for instance, <https://kitchener.citynews.ca/2023/04/26/region-of-waterloo-asks-province-to-keep-home-addresses-of-local-candidates-donors-private/>



Recommendations to Strengthen Public Trust and Electoral Integrity

Electoral integrity is a core focus of election administration and critical to ensuring public trust. While all recommendations are built on the foundation of electoral integrity, recommendations listed under this theme speak to the need to provide support to electors, residents, and administrators in this endeavour.

Priority Recommendations

- 1. Amend the Act to include a preamble that captures the principles of elections recognized by the court and the intended outcomes of the Act.**

One way to enhance the clarity of the *MEA* is to ensure that the text matches core guiding principles of elections.

As we noted in our [2015 submission](#)¹¹, in *DiBiase v. Vaughan (City)*, 2007, the Honourable Justice Peter Howden of the Ontario Superior Court wrote that in making its finding, the court relied upon the principles articulated in a previous Supreme Court of Canada ruling (*Haig v. Canada*, 1993), specifically that:

- The secrecy and confidentiality of the voting process is paramount;
- The election shall be fair and non-biased;
- The election shall be accessible to the voters;
- The integrity of the voting process shall be maintained throughout the election;
- There is to be certainty that the results of the election reflect the votes cast;
- Voters and candidates shall be treated fairly and consistently; and
- The proper majority vote governs by ensuring that valid votes be counted, and invalid votes be rejected so far as is reasonably possible.

These principles are fundamental to the administration and exercise of elections at all orders of government in Canada. They are in fact, central to the *MEA* itself, and should be embedded in the Act.

- 2. Establish a mechanism that permits the Minister of Municipal Affairs, in consultation with affected communities, to alter municipal and school board election day if it falls on a day of cultural or religious significance.**

The 2022 municipal and school board election day fell during Diwali, an important festival observed by many communities across the province. In future years, it could be the case that election day falls on another culturally or religiously significant festival or event.

While many municipalities provide advance voting opportunities, local elections rely on volunteers as well as municipal staff to support election day activities including running voting locations.

¹¹ See <https://www.amcto.com/sites/default/files/2023-05/AMCTO-MEA-Submission.pdf>



Candidates for office may also be impacted as they may wish to be with family and friends during these special occasions. For residents and staff of the impacted communities it can be a difficult decision to choose between missing personal celebratory commitments or missing an important democratic process. This could be a contributing factor to lower voter turnout and election staffing resources.

Section 9.1 (6) of the [Ontario Election Act, 1990](#)¹² contains a mechanism through which an alternative day can be chosen for provincial elections. A mechanism for selecting an alternative day is needed for local elections, however the selection of a suitable alternate day should not be left to individual clerks as there is a policy imperative that municipal and school board elections must be held on the same day across the province.

Moreover, as clerks need ample time to ensure that they can plan and execute elections, the selection and communication of an alternate date would need to be done well in advance, at least by the January in the year prior to the year of the election, if not earlier.

3. Amend the Act so that, if requested, schools and institutions must allow space for advance polls and voting day free of charge.

To facilitate in-person voting, municipal clerks and their staff require large, central, and accessible locations to host voters on advance voting and election days. Often, the best facilities are local schools. While the MEA allows clerks to use certain buildings, including schools, as voting locations ([section 45\(4\)](#)), health and safety concerns often cited by school administrators make the location selection process less seamless than it should be.

While school boards are required to provide space on election day, clerks often face administrative difficulties in securing these spaces. For example, we have heard from members that some school administrators request that municipalities hire security personnel or may not provide access to facilities such as washrooms, or access to school staff during election day, and some refuse access altogether. This leaves clerks with challenges confirming voting locations and without the enforcement tools to secure these spaces.

Additionally, all electors should have access to voting in multiple locations on all voting days. As per the [definition in section 5 the MEA](#)¹³, “voting day in a regular election is the fourth Monday in October” which does not specifically include advance voting opportunities. For instance, schools can currently say no to advance polls, or can charge a permit fee. The Act should be changed so that schools must allow advance polls if requested, and free of charge.

On election day, institutions like long-term care homes become polling locations for the Province's most vulnerable electors. However, there may be issues with accessing these locations because of outbreaks or other circumstances, which can make casting votes more difficult. Explicitly allowing voting to take place in institutions and schools on advance voting days allows clerks to provide more electors more choice in when and where to cast their ballots.

¹² See the *Election Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.6

¹³ See section 5 in the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996

4. Require school boards to schedule one of the provincially required Professional Activity (PA) days on municipal and school board election day.

Further to the above, enhancing safe schools on voting day is a priority for everyone. This goal can be achieved by reducing the number of people in schools. To do this, one of the mandatory PA days should fall on election day and while some school boards practice this, there remains inconsistency across the province.

AMCTO previously shared an analysis of locally scheduled PA days that showed that moving PA days every four years to coincide with municipal election days is unlikely to be a significant burden for school boards as there is a pattern of October PA days. School boards should be required to schedule one of the provincially mandated PA days on municipal and school board election day to facilitate the election of their own representatives and so that election administrators can focus on providing safe electoral services.

Ahead of the 2022 municipal elections our Association [made formal requests of school boards](#) to schedule one of the mandatory PA days on election day¹⁴. We also asked that these dates be included every four years as part of the annual school year calendar development.

Following this advocacy push, we were pleased to see an increase in the number of school boards that scheduled a PA day in 2022, with [encouragement from the Ministry of Education](#)¹⁵. However, this remains an issue for future elections, requiring a permanent, reoccurring solution.



Secondary Recommendations

5. Remove the requirement for employees of a municipality or local board to provide notice of their intention to stand for election to council.

There are areas where the rules and guidance within the Act should provide more certainty to candidates and to electors to facilitate their participation in local democracy. Potential candidates for municipal office, who happen to work for a municipality or a local board, should be provided the same, equal opportunity as other candidates who are not required to declare their intentions until they submit their paperwork. Municipal staff are responsible to their employer and so should follow established HR protocols for taking leave. By removing the requirement for municipal employees to provide council with notice of their intention to stand for election, all candidates can be treated fairly.

¹⁴ See AMCTO letter, September 2021, to School Board Directors of Education & Board Chairs re PD Days <https://www.amcto.com/letter-to-school-boards-re-PD-days>

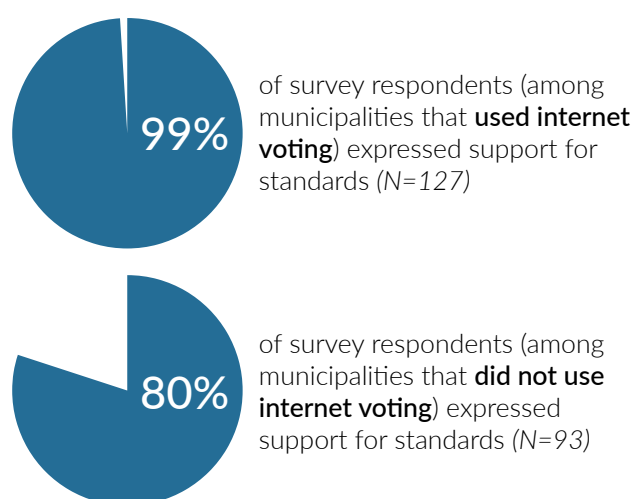
¹⁵ See AMCTO Advocacy Update, September 2022, re Progress on Professional Development (PD) Days on Municipal and School Board Election Day <https://amcto.informz.net/informzdataservice/onlineversion/pub/bWFpbGluZ0luc3RhbmNlSWQ9MTA3NTYwODQ=>



6. Clarify the Act to reflect that a voter's absence from work may be on any day voting is available (i.e. advance voting days).

Like the issue noted above about the definition of voting day in [section 5](#) of the MEA, it should be made explicit that any elector can be absent from work to exercise their right to vote on any day voting is available. The current definition of voting day is limited to election day only and could be read to exclude advance voting days, days that may be more convenient to voters for casting their ballots and participating in the democratic process.

7. In consultation with AMCTO and other municipal stakeholders, consider how the work by the [Digital Governance Standards Institute](#)¹⁶ related to electronic voting may be formalized to support election administration in Ontario.



Survey data collected through AMCTO's 2022 Post-Election Survey

Work is already underway to develop voluntary standards on [voting technology](#)¹⁷ and [electronic voting](#)¹⁸. Municipal professionals from across Ontario have engaged with the committee undertaking this work. With an increasing number of municipalities considering e-voting methods for ease of meeting voters 'where they are', there should be a provincial interest in adopting voting standards.

Overwhelmingly, respondents to our 2022 Post-Election Survey support internet voting standards. The responses also suggest more municipalities would consider this method of voting if there were standards in place. The right training and supports would need to be

What our Members are Saying:

"Standards would ensure consistency in format, security, etc. across vendors."

"[Voting standards] would ensure a province-wide standard for security and operational experience."

"There are standards set out for paper voting in the MEA. There should also be a standard for electronic voting as it is now left to the municipality and vendors. It may provide further confidence in these systems."

¹⁶ See <https://dgc-cgn.org/>

¹⁷ See <https://dgc-cgn.org/standards/find-a-standard/voting-technologies/>

¹⁸ See <https://dgc-cgn.org/can-dgsi-111-public-review-for-online-voting-standard-now-open/>



in place to ensure that municipalities, vendors, and other interested parties fully understand the standards and their responsibilities.

Moreover, decisions about voting methods should always be left to the municipality to decide. Whereas online voting may be beneficial in some regions of the province, it may not be the best method for others given costs, technological support and access to broadband.

Ultimately, voting standards would empower municipalities to select the best voting method(s) for them and their communities. Consider how these standards may be formalized to support election administration in Ontario.

Long-Term Recommendations

- 8. Establish a working group with AMCTO and other municipal stakeholders to inform the development of a regulation for electoral definitions of “tenant”, “spouse of a non-resident” and “occupancy”.**

Municipal elections have unique eligibility rules tied to property and tenancy status that make these terms important and unique. The current definitions provided in the Act are not sufficiently clear, and create potential confusion for electors, candidates, and administrators. We raised this [concern in 2015](#)¹⁹ and legislative changes in [2016](#)²⁰ brought forward regulation-making authority to consider a definition of tenant for electoral purposes. However, regulations are not yet in place.

The lack of definition about occupancy, control, possession and tenancy remains a significant gap municipal clerks must deal with related to voter qualification with many claiming to be eligible based on a lease of “properties” such as parking spots, sheds on land, as well as various seasonal properties such as RV parks and leased cottages. Providing a clearer definition of “occupancy”, “control”, “possession”, “tenancy”, and “spouse of a non-resident” is important to all municipalities, but more so in communities where qualifications based on residency and property are muddled such as in cottage country and rural Ontario. There are unique eligibility rules at the municipal level that make clear terminology important.

¹⁹ See <https://www.amcto.com/sites/default/files/2023-05/AMCTO-MEA-Submission.pdf>

²⁰ See <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-41/session-1/bill-181/debates>



For example, Wollaston Township experienced issues with lack of clarity on qualifications and in 2020 called for the Province to close loopholes on property qualifications and leases in what they called “pay for play schemes”²¹. The resulting council resolution received support from several other municipalities.

Providing this clarification for electoral purposes will help clerks ensure that tenants entitled to vote can do so, and those who believe they may be entitled to vote (but are not under law) can obtain needed clarity. Our Association can be a willing partner to assist in developing these regulations.

Recommendations to Enhance Accountability and Transparency While Making Compliance and Enforcement Easier

This section contains recommendations that speak to fairness, accountability, transparency, and key principles to ensuring the integrity of elections. This section contemplates making compliance with electoral rules easier to follow for candidates and where these rules are deliberately broken, suggests recommendations that allow efficient enforcement of remedies and penalties. As the local “Chief Electoral Officer”, the clerk should have the authority to make decisions about administrative and operational matters. This will ensure that there is no real or apparent conflict for council members who may be standing for election while making decisions about the electoral process. This may also help to improve overall municipal staff-council relations.

Priority Recommendations

1. Remove the 25-signature endorsement requirement.

Everyone has the right to stand as a candidate for election if they meet the qualifications set out in the relevant Acts. However, particularly in larger urban municipalities, candidates often run for office without any intention of campaigning, without setting out policy proposals, or legitimately participating in the democratic process.

The [original intent behind this provision](#) of obtaining a 25-signature endorsement was to try to reduce frivolous candidates from ending up on the ballot which could result in split votes²². Ultimately, requirements for 25 signatures in medium and large municipalities have not addressed this issue as signatures are easy to collect with a declaration that signees are eligible electors. This does not dissuade people from launching non-serious campaigns and adds an administrative burden for election administrators who must review and attempt to check required information on candidate forms and eligibility.

²¹ Wollaston Township. Letter to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing with Council Resolution. Dated September 16, 2020.

²² Ontario. Legislative Assembly, *Hansard*, 41st Leg, 1st Sess, No 158 (11, April 2016) at 1440. <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/house-documents/parliament-41/session-1/2016-04-11/hansard#para577:~:text=Some%20people%20have,than%20100%20votes.>



2. Investigate incentives to support genuine candidacy while addressing frivolous campaigns, including the nomination filing fee refund.

Instead of the 25-signature requirement, the Province should look at other ways to support serious candidates while disincentivizing non-serious candidates. The current process of refunding anyone who files a financial statement is ineffective at dissuading frivolous candidates and there may be better mechanisms to ensure compliance with campaign finance rules.

Potential areas to explore are nomination fee refund eligibility to candidates who receive a certain vote share or removing the right to receive a refund of the nomination filing fee if the financial statement is not filed on time. Consideration should be given to whether certain rules favour incumbents as opposed to their challengers. Overall, there must be a balance between supporting genuine candidacy, reducing administrative burden, and applying penalties to those who deliberately skirt electoral rules.

3. Amend the Act so that no candidate shall accept a contribution over \$1,200 from a single resident.

While we recommend reviewing the campaign finance framework in its entirety (see long-term recommendations in this section), the Province should immediately review the Act to identify and close loopholes in campaign finance rules.

For example, [subsection 88.9](#)²³ prohibits individuals from contributing over \$1,200 to a single candidate, however there is no complementary provision that explicitly prohibits a candidate from accepting such a contribution. Contributors are not necessarily familiar with the Act in the same way candidates are, and with the Act in its current form, the rules around contributions are not easy for residents to understand.

4. Clarify that any resident of Ontario may submit a compliance audit application, consistent with contribution rules.

There is confusion among candidates and the public about who can submit a compliance audit application. Currently, [subsection 88.33](#)²⁴ states that an elector who is entitled to vote may make an application, but it is not clear whether an elector must reside in the municipality in which they are making an application. This has been [raised and challenged most recently](#)²⁵ in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, where an Oakville candidate appealed an elector's request for an audit of their finances, stating that the elector resides in a different ward than them, and is therefore ineligible to file a compliance audit request.

As contributions are open to residents of Ontario (i.e. not limited to electors), there should be a mechanism by which electors as residents of Ontario may seek remedy from the compliance

²³ See ss.88.9 in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*

²⁴ See ss.88.33 in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*

²⁵ See <https://www.oakvillenews.org/local-news/ward-7-councillor-nav-nanda-appeals-decision-to-audit-her-campaign-finances-8482086>



audit process regardless of where they reside. If applications are not frivolous and vexatious, any resident of Ontario with the means of seeing through an application should be able to bring one forward to ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

5. Consider setting one 90-day period for compliance audit applications for initial and supplementary financial statements to simplify the process.

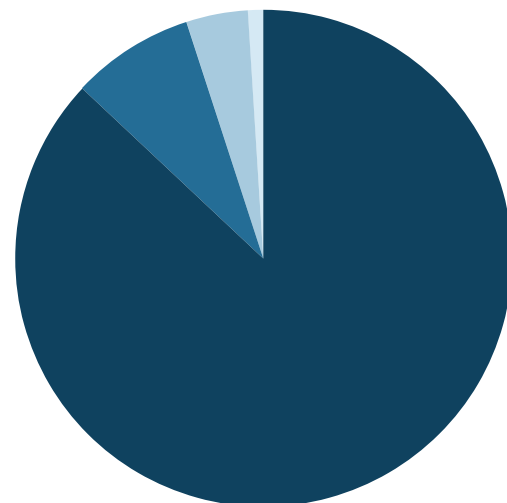
The current structure creates many overlapping deadlines which is challenging to communicate to electors, the public, and for municipalities and school boards to track. This becomes more challenging in larger municipalities with hundreds of candidates. Streamlining application deadlines will make communication, administration, and compliance easier.

6. Roll the review of contributions and over-contributions to candidates and third-party advertisers into the Compliance Audit Committee (CAC) process and permit the committee to decide whether to commence a legal proceeding against a candidate or third-party advertiser for an apparent contravention.

Consistent with our recommendations on [Bill 181 to Standing Committee](#)²⁶ in 2016, having municipal clerks review contributions to candidates and third-party advertisers is problematic for a number of reasons:

- The CAC already exists to review financial statements
- The current process jeopardizes the independence and the impartiality of clerks during elections
- The current process places clerks in potential conflict with members of council
- Most municipalities do not have mature electronic filing systems for candidate and third-party advertiser financial statements
- The current process imposes additional administrative and resource burden on clerks who are already busy running local elections

Rolling the review of contributions into the established mandates of CACs would also allow an elector to make an application and is a more effective way to ensure candidate and contributor accountability.



How does your municipality determine whether any contributors exceed the maximum allowable amount? (N=220)

- Clerk's office fulfilling it (192)
- Finance department fulfilling it (17)
- Other (8)
- Using an external consultant (3)

Survey data collected through AMCTO's 2022 Post-Election Survey

²⁶ See <https://www.amcto.com/sites/default/files/2023-05/AMCTO-Bill-181-Committee-Presentation-Deck.pdf>



The CAC process has traditionally not received much attention. However, the process is an important element of accountability in local elections and is [starting to receive more public discussion](#)²⁷.

Providing the CAC with explicit authority to decide whether to commence a legal proceeding against a candidate or third-party advertiser could reduce applications made to the courts for review of CAC decisions.

Consider improving the CAC process with accountability, transparency, and operations in mind as countless hours are spent on delivering important post-election processes, which can contribute to overall increased audit costs and continue for years after the election with prosecutions and court reviews.

7. Expand decision timelines for CACs in Subsection (8) from 30 days to 45 days.

Further, in the interest of supporting applicants, election administrators and CAC members with carrying out their responsibilities, the decision-timelines for CACs should be expanded from 30 days to 45 days. This additional time is especially helpful where the CAC process may fall around a holiday (especially in cases of by-elections). 45 days would remain a reasonable decision timeframe consistent with references in other statutes for required meetings.

8. Clarify roles with respect to CACs wherein council is responsible for establishing the committee and the clerk is responsible for making appointments.

The MEA assigns responsibility of administering elections, including establishing necessary policies and procedures, to the clerk. However, there are several sections throughout the Act where the responsibility for what are, in effect, administrative decisions, is vaguely distributed between both council and staff. Administrative responsibilities for elections should rest with the clerk.

For instance, section [88.37\(1\)](#)²⁸ gives council responsibility for “establishing” a compliance audit committee to review potential campaign finance violations. In practice, however, this section has been interpreted broadly, giving council a more expansive mandate that includes appointing committee members. It is not appropriate for council to appoint members of a committee that is created to review the election finances of candidates, some of whom may end up filing as candidates and sitting as councillors. To maintain clarity and objectivity, all administrative responsibilities related to CACs should reside with the clerk.



²⁷ Coyne, Andrea and Andrew Lawlor. “Building voter confidence in the municipal electoral process,” *Policy Options*. 21, Feb. 2024. <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/february-2024/municipal-elections-safeguards/>

²⁸ See section 88.37(1) in the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996



Secondary Recommendations

- 9. Clarify the role of scrutineers where alternative (unsupervised or remote) voting is in place and collaborate with AMCTO and others on the definition of scrutineer and what they may or may not do.**

The process of scrutineering is changing in every municipality that incorporates the use of internet voting into their election. As voting in the digital age is no longer neatly contained to recreation centres, school auditoriums or church basements, the rules are not as clear as they once were. The Act provides significant attention to the role of scrutineers during an election, ensuring that candidates are permitted to appoint a scrutineer for each ballot box and voting place. But what happens when there are thousands of polling places and no formal ballot box? There is currently no clarity about how election results can be scrutineered in jurisdictions that use online or alternative voting methods. This is a gap in the current process that needs to be addressed.

- 10. Review the scope of election offences and related penalties to address gaps. Consider providing support and guidance to clerks on best practices for implementation and enforcement of serious offences.**

Offences and related penalties should be reviewed. More specifically, for the coercion or intimidation of an elector, preventing or impeding an elector from voting, and from false representation or aiding a person in committing offences. A review needs to address these gaps - many of which are a result of changes to technology.

In consideration of new offences and related penalties, the Province must of course consider the burden of proof and enforceability of penalties for such offences. The Province should also provide more support and guidance to clerks on best practices for implementation and engaging law enforcement for the more serious offences.

Long-Term Recommendations

Due to gaps in rules and penalties, the lack of standardization of compliance audits, and the [increased use of the courts](#) to review compliance audit committee decisions²⁹, there has been increased frustration among administrators and an inconsistent approach to post-election activities meant to ensure transparency and accountability. As an Association, we have highlighted several of these member concerns about role clarity, conflict of interest and capacity issues.

Not only is the current process frustrating for municipal staff but for candidates who are not clear on their responsibilities. This can also be frustrating for residents and electors who are doing their due diligence in holding candidates accountable for improper activities. If the rules are not clear, and the process becomes convoluted, why would anyone participate in the electoral process?

²⁹ Coyne and Lawlor.



11. Establish a working group with AMCTO and other municipal partners to review and improve the campaign finance framework, including rules, guidance, forms, processes, and penalties.

While we have put forward several recommendations as interim measures to address financial issues, there remain underlying concerns that only a full review of the campaign finance framework can properly address.

Whether it is on the campaign finance framework or the below noted third-party advertising framework, there needs to be a balance struck: any new rules should avoid making it difficult for people to participate in local democracy. Making compliance easier while also ensuring that there is proper accountability, makes the rules and processes easier to enforce and to prosecute where rules have been broken.

Given the complexity of administration, compliance, and enforcement, a wider conversation about these frameworks is needed with our members and other stakeholders to understand the issues, challenges, and opportunities from varying perspectives. Together, we can co-design a framework that benefits everyone.

12. Establish a working group with AMCTO and other municipal stakeholders to review and improve the third-party advertiser regime for ease of compliance and enforcement.

Similarly, the third-party advertiser framework needs to be updated and improved. The [current measures were introduced](#) to regulate third-party advertising, which includes contribution and spending limits, and to help create flexibility for groups doing advocacy work throughout the campaign period³⁰. However, there remains room for improvement, including better defining qualifications for third-party advertisers. Improvements should ensure the regime is less cumbersome and easier for advertisers, administrators, and compliance audit committees to comply with and enforce.

13. Within the campaign finance and third-party advertiser frameworks, review the mechanisms for enforcement, and related penalties to address gaps in accountability and transparency measures.

Related to our secondary recommendation in this section, there are gaps in penalties related to overcontributing to a candidate's own campaign and accepting overcontributions from residents. There are nuances within the legislation that must be considered as well. For instance, there should be assurances that changes to campaign finance rules and penalties are balanced with the ability of candidates to pay off campaign debts.

Ultimately, a review of the campaign finance and third-party advertising frameworks, along with the compliance audit, offences, penalties, and enforcement processes must be looked at holistically as these are intertwined with changes to one section or subsection potentially requiring subsequent changes elsewhere in the Act.

³⁰ Ontario Newsroom. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Backgrounder. June 7, 2016. "Changes to the Municipal Elections Act," Accessed: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/39111/changes-to-the-municipal-elections-act>.



14. Consider increasing maximum campaign spending limits and its related formula to consider inflation outlined in O Reg 101/97.

The Province should consider revising the spending limit formula in [Ontario Regulation 101/97](#)³¹ which has been stagnant since 2018 and does not consider inflationary pressures on campaign costs.

15. Explore establishing an independent office to manage investigation and prosecution of offences under the Act.

Local election administration enforcement is nuanced and often differs municipality to municipality as does capacity and resourcing, whereas federal and provincial elections are administered by one centralized body. In reviewing the campaign finance, third-party advertising and enforcement frameworks in the MEA, the Province should also consider promising practices from election administrators at other levels of government, such as an independent office like the Commissioner of Canada Elections.

Municipalities face challenges proceeding with prosecutions under the MEA. For instance, the conflicting nature of local police governance is responsible for the investigation of criminal activity, and municipal elected officials sit on these police boards. Anecdotally, in instances where local forces are engaged, they have recused themselves and referred matters to the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) who may or may not involve themselves in local matters. Barring a provincially appointed official, more clarity around MEA offences being investigated by the OPP would help address existing concerns.

Similarly, prosecution through the courts is a time-consuming process that can take multiple years to get to trial, the process for which takes up staff time and resources to prepare for, prosecute, and await judgement before applying penalties.

A separate body could allow for an alternative dispute resolution mechanism with procedures that are applied consistently across municipalities. This would remove potential conflicts and friction between municipal staff as election administrators, candidates, and members of council who may have contravened the Act, leading to quicker resolutions. At the provincial-level for instance, the [Election Finances Act, 1990](#)³² includes mechanisms such as referrals to the Ministry of the Attorney General for prosecution and the use of administrative monetary penalties.



³¹ See section 5 of O.Reg 101/97 under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*

³² See the *Elections Finances Act, 1990* <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90e07>



Recommendations to Reduce Administrative Complexity

AMCTO supports modernizing legislative and regulatory environments that enable the work of municipal public servants, while allowing innovation with policies and practices that reflect current needs and focuses on outcomes.

Legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process, while also reducing administrative and operational burden for municipal staff. Local election administrators need to be able to run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities. Thereby, providing the right rules and frameworks for administrators will result in benefits for electors, candidates, advertisers, and others involved in local elections.



Priority Recommendations

- 1. Bring the language of the Act and regulations into the 21st century by removing gendered references and including references to encompass all voting methods.**

To ensure more inclusive language within the Act, the Province should remove gendered references. Clerks receive complaints from non-binary persons about the use of language in the Act which they feel is exclusionary. Moreover, as more municipalities are turning to alternative voting methods to reach voters and run efficient elections, language in the Act across numerous sections and within regulations should encompass all voting methods rather than referring to traditional paper ballots or in-person voting. Changes are required in sections 43, 47, 48, 49, 52, and 89, among others.

- 2. Ensure all definitions that appear in the Act are captured in and limited to Section 1 and update definitions to add clarity.**

One way to improve clarity and interpretation is to ensure that all key terms are captured in the definition section of the Act. There are several instances wherein a definition appears later in the legislation while others are captured in the definition section. Definitions for several terms also require clarity. For instance, municipalities are left to define "retirement homes" resulting in inconsistencies across municipalities. As we have noted elsewhere in this submission, definitions of "tenants" and "occupancy" also lack clarity.

It is also important that language clarifies the definition of "municipality" so that it consistently applies to operational and administrative tasks undertaken by municipal administration, whether by the clerk or other municipal staff.



3. Clarify references to municipal business hours as well as dates that constitute a weekend or holiday as defined pursuant to the *Legislation Act, 2006*.

Candidates, voters, and other interested parties are not familiar with the traditions and nuances of legislation and regulations. Without a reference to other legislation, voters and candidates are unlikely to know that they should refer to the *Legislation Act* for definitions. Moreover, it should be clarified that references to specific deadlines within the *Act* are to reflect regular municipal business hours especially where these hours may fall on weekends and holidays.

4. Move nomination day to July, shortening the campaign period to be more consistent with federal and provincial nomination periods.

As noted previously, local elections are complex multi-year projects often undertaken by a handful of municipal staff who are also responsible for numerous other statutory and operational responsibilities. In 2020, the [nomination period was extended to August from July](#)³³. Extending this period runs contrary to the changes the Province made in 2016 [shortening the nomination period](#)³⁴. Furthermore, the municipal nomination period is longer than those at the provincial and federal levels where this process is managed by agencies whose sole focus is election administration.

Shortening the length of the nomination period would give municipalities more time to prepare ahead of the election. There is significant strain on municipal staff and resources with longer nomination periods, with legislative and business deadlines for printing ballots, quality assurance, security, and testing, among other activities. While this may sound straightforward, municipalities are often working with tight, limited supply chains and vendors, and in larger municipalities, staff are often dealing with multiple ballot types, and in many cases, managing hundreds of candidates. A longer nomination period means there is less time between the close of nominations and the first day of voting to finish the nuanced tasks and activities required of local elections.

Longer elections are more expensive for candidates, harder to run for administrators, and can be a potential cause of fatigue from an already disengaged electorate. Moving the nomination period back to at least July would make the nomination period shorter, while also giving candidates in smaller municipalities—who may still be working full-time jobs with less sophisticated campaign infrastructure—enough time to campaign.

5. Enable clerks to determine what voting method is best as the local chief electoral officer and align timelines related to clerk's procedures.

[Building on the updates made in 2016](#)³⁵ which began to untangle council's role in election administration, the *Act* should be updated to authorize the clerk to choose what voting method is best. Requiring council to pass bylaws on voting methods in section 42 gives council members and the public the impression that council is responsible for election administration issues.

³³ See <https://www.amcto.com/network-community/blog/advocacy-update-bill-218>

³⁴ See <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/39113/ontario-passes-legislation-to-allow-ranked-ballot-option-for-municipal-elections>

³⁵ See section 41(4) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.



[Section 42](#)³⁶ should further be amended to resolve the conflict in timelines between when procedures need to be completed and when they must be provided to candidates. For instance, June 1st is the deadline for the procedures in a regular election year, but 42(3)(b) requires these must be provided when a candidate files their papers, which could be as early as May 1st.

6. Change the timeline for proxy appointment to begin September 1st for a regular election.

A similar timeline alignment issue occurs between making the voters' list available to voters to confirm if they are on the list and/or update their information and the appointment of proxies. In the 2022 election, the first day for proxy appointment was August 22nd. However, the voters' list was not available until September 1st. In this scenario, staff were not able to necessarily confirm whether an individual appeared on the voters' list as a qualified elector until September 1st. Thus, allowing proxy voters to be appointed earlier than receipt of the voters' list is problematic.

In the case of a by-election, consider changing the timing for proxy appointments to when the clerk has made corrections.

7. Expand the timeline for reporting on accessible elections from 90 days to 120 days.

[Section 12.1 \(3\)](#)³⁷ requires the public posting of a report about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities within 90 days of voting day. We recommend that this be extended to 120 days. Providing additional time to municipalities would allow them to look at reporting on the election holistically in one comprehensive post-election report that includes factors impacting accessibility.

8. Consider aligning the spending limit certificate requirements and timelines between candidates and third-party advertisers for consistency.

The Act states that candidates are to receive the certificate of permitted amounts of their own expenses and contributions to their campaigns upon the filing of their nomination forms. The MEA does not require the certificate for maximum amount for parties, etc., after voting day to be issued until or before September 30th along with all final certificates. In comparison, third-party advertisers are to receive the certificate of maximum amount for parties, etc., after voting day upon filing their Notice of Registration. Providing consistent timelines across various participants in the electoral process makes it easier for municipal staff to adhere to legislative requirements and ensure that candidates and parties are adhering to timelines.



³⁶ See section 42 of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996.

³⁷ See section 12.1(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996.



9. Update existing provincial guides and forms and provide additional guidance to voters, candidates, third-party advertisers, and election administrators.

The following points outline areas where we believe further clarification can be provided to ensure continued progress, transparency, and accountability in local election administration.

Voters' Guide

- Include more details on voter identification (ID) requirements to provide clearer information about acceptable ID.

Candidate and Third-Party Advertiser Guides

- Specify the documentation that can be accepted as proof an individual is authorized to act on behalf of a trade union for third-party advertising purposes.
- Clarify whether promoted social media posts count as third-party advertising.
- Provide clarification on whether contributions can be sought via platforms such as GoFundMe that process online payments.
- Add further clarity in candidate guides on how to interpret the Act from a campaign finance perspective (i.e. using personal credit cards to reimburse campaign expenses, setting up and managing banking accounts) and where to seek advice for filling out the required forms.
- Add content to guides related to individuals who are supported by their corporations/organizations and stipulate that in these cases, campaign volunteers could be perceived as 'in-kind' contributions. Any stipends provided to volunteers should be captured in financial documents.



Forms

- Ensure clarity and consistency regarding the use of a single name on the ballot under [section 41 \(2\)](#)³⁸. Nomination forms allow the use of a single name on the ballot while section 41 does not provide guidance on how names should be listed on the ballot.
- Conduct extensive external-to-government systems testing of provincial government forms to ensure they are accessible and useable. Our members advised of candidate challenges with downloading and filling in prescribed forms as they were in a format that was not supported by their computer system. We understand that several municipalities raised this issue with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), but no remedy was applied.
- Update Declaration of Identity - Form 9 so that it can be used to serve voters who have no identification (e.g. those who may be homeless, seniors who have not updated their government-issued identification, etc.)

³⁸ See section 41(2) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996.



Secondary Recommendations

10. Extend the timeline to submit final changes to the voters' list from 30 days to 60 days.

[Section 27\(2\)](#)³⁹ requires that the final changes clerks make to the voters' list be submitted 30 days following election day. In the post-election period, it can be challenging for clerks to meet this deadline given that they are busy managing orientation and onboarding of councillors as well as handling compliance activities. In larger municipalities where thousands of revisions are processed during the election period, it is very challenging to meet the current 30-day timeline. It has never been clear from an operational perspective why this must be done in 30 days. 60 days would provide clerks with a more reasonable post-election timeline to account for and submit final changes.

11. Consider extending discretion to remove a name from the voters' list and the correction of errors to voting day.

The Act should be clear that if the clerk is satisfied, a correction can be made regardless of when that is. A similar mechanism should be included regarding school board support especially where an elector has completed a declaration. This would facilitate a smoother experience on election day for electors whose information may not be correct.

AMCTO's advocacy efforts⁴⁰ to fix the voters' list resulted in Elections Ontario taking over responsibility for a single register of electors, consolidating elector information across the province and removing overall responsibility from MPAC, which retains responsibility for school support data. We are hopeful that in 2026, the first election in which voters' lists will be compiled using Election Ontario's information, there will be a significant improvement in data quality of the voters' list.

Clerks should be extended the authority to make changes to elector information beyond what is currently allowed under [section 22](#)⁴¹ to update voter information, including school support, on election day, if they are satisfied that the information provided by an elector is correct. Without this authority and as the legislation stands currently, an elector may be unable to exercise their right to vote.

Permitting changes to the voters' list on election day should not prevent any improvement to processes for accepting revisions at the single register or at MPAC's level related to school board support. The end goal should always be to have corrections addressed adequately at all levels to ensure voters have a seamless, quick, and overall positive experience on election day.

³⁹ See section 27(2) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

⁴⁰ See <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/local-govt-association-applauds-elections-ontario-report-887387112.html>

⁴¹ See section 22 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.



12. Establish a province-wide registry for MEA offenders, maintained by the MMAH or another provincial body, and provide this registry to election administrators.

The *Act* makes it clear that candidates, contributors, and third-party advertisers are responsible for ensuring that they comply with the *Act*. While the *Act* also requires clerks to certify nomination papers and registrations, clerks do not have the tools or resources such as public and centralized information about electoral histories and sanctions imposed on candidates, contributors, or third-party advertisers. How is a clerk from southwestern Ontario to know whether a candidate or third-party registering in their municipality has been disqualified in northern Ontario?

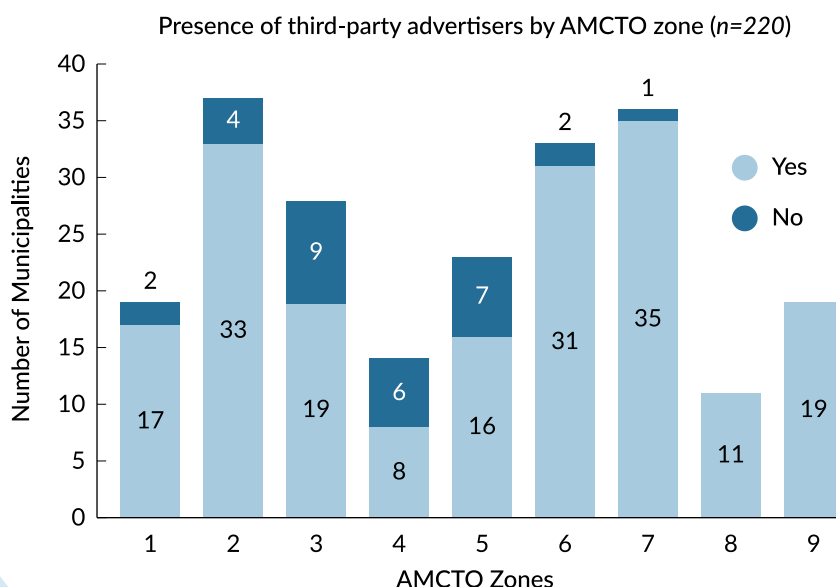
To assist municipalities in completing reviews, there should be a province-wide registry of MEA offenders. Such a central repository kept and maintained by a separate body would include information about qualifications, records of compliance audit and court decisions. Information should be available to ensure clerks, compliance audit committees, and others have access to information about those who have contravened the *Act*.

13. Amend the *Act* to consolidate rules between regular elections and by-elections specifying what must be different.

The *Act* provides that by-elections should be conducted “as far as possible in the same way as regular elections”. However, it does not provide further guidance. Are there ways in which by-elections should not run like regular elections? This is an area where the *Act* can be streamlined to clarify, where necessary, what activities may be different in a by-election. This would ensure municipalities are conducting by-elections consistently across the province.

14. Consider a threshold amount for registering as a third-party advertiser that is in line with provincial and federal thresholds.

Third-party advertiser registration primarily occurs in medium to larger municipalities and few, if any, are registered in smaller municipalities.



The entire process from registration to compliance is cumbersome and may prevent smaller actors from engaging in the political process for fear of being labelled third-party advertisers. If the intent is to retain the current framework, amendments need to be made so that there is a line in the sand for who and when someone becomes a third-party advertiser. For instance, is a 'mom and pop restaurant' a third-party advertiser because they hand out flyers for a



candidate at their restaurant? A threshold amount for registering as a third-party advertiser that is in line with provincial and federal thresholds would help ensure local voices without resources can participate without unnecessarily triggering ad status.

Moreover, calculations for third-party spending limits are cumbersome and lack clarity especially for by-elections. The current wording of section 88.21⁴² suggests that the number of electors in the entire municipality, instead of the ward that is the subject of the by-election, is used to calculate spending limits for third-party advertisers. This gives third-party advertisers a disproportionately higher spending limit than candidates in a by-election.

15. Consider amending the deadline for third-party advertiser registration to be more reasonably in advance of an election.

There are also timeline issues with third-party advertising registration. Allowing third-party advertisers to register up to the Friday before election day is problematic from an operations perspective. At this time, municipal staff's attention should be focused on the successful execution of voting and the electoral process, rather than additional paperwork.

16. Require those who file a Notice of Extension of Campaign Period - Form 6 to also file a Supplementary Financial Statement.

Often candidates and third-party advertisers believe that because they did not campaign, raise or spend money in the extended period, they are not required to file a supplementary financial statement even though they filed a notice of extension. This is the interpretation which inevitably causes confusion. Stronger language should be applied to those who file a Form 6 to specify that a Supplementary Financial Statement is required.



Long-Term Recommendations

17. Clarify the process for removing a name from the voters' list by a relative.

Providing the clerk with more flexibility to determine procedures on how a family member may request to remove someone from the municipality's voters' list (provided the clerk is satisfied that the individual should be removed) would assist in the clean-up of municipal voters' lists.

However, we are hopeful that the single register of electors managed by Elections Ontario will improve the quality of the voters' list given that there is one register and duplications should be reduced. The Province could re-evaluate this post-2026 to determine whether any legislative changes are necessary.

⁴² See section 88.21 of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996.



18. Decouple school board support for electoral purposes from school support for assessment purposes.

Despite Elections Ontario taking responsibility for a single register of electors, under the *Assessment Act*, MPAC remains responsible for collecting information about school board support. This may be attributed to the leading legislative interpretation that school support may have dual purposes: electoral and assessment. However, as the Ombudsman noted in [the 2021-2022 Annual Report](#)⁴³, this data from MPAC is no longer used to determine school board funding but rather who can run and vote in school board elections.

Currently, the single register of electors is not expected to resolve this issue as MPAC remains responsible for collection of school support information. As a result, there are two separate portals through which voters must check and update their information: one from Elections Ontario for qualification and one from MPAC for school support. This dual process will cause confusion for the voter without resolving issues related to incorrect assignment of school support.

Municipalities receive school support information, relying on this data to develop their voters' lists. The problem resides in processes that assume an elector to be an English Public supporter unless a supporter has submitted forms or updated information on an online portal to declare otherwise. This particularly impacts French-language rights holders and separate school supporters who may have moved between wards or between municipalities but did not fill out a form.

This issue continues to blur the electoral picture for candidates, electors, and administrators when it comes to linking electors and the school boards for which they are entitled to cast their ballots. This blurring sometimes results in an elector being assigned an incorrect school board ballot which slows the voting process, frustrates the elector, and means more work for election officials. Making school support for electoral purposes distinctive in legislation and providing Elections Ontario with the authority to collect this information would improve the quality of school support data.

The Province should update candidate and voter guides to make it clear that school support amendments cannot be made by municipalities as a result of Provincial legislative barriers. It is important that candidates and voters are able to direct their concerns to the Province rather than to municipal staff who do not control these processes.

19. Amend the *Education Act* to clarify who is a French-language rights holder and who is a separate school rights holder.

As we noted previously, local elections are complex endeavours, and not only do clerks run municipal elections, but they are also required to run the election for trustees across five school boards. Increasingly, candidates who may not be qualified to run for school trustee (i.e. do not hold the language or religious rights to qualify) are submitting papers to run. This has resulted in

⁴³ Ontario Ombudsman. 2022, *Annual Report 2021-2022*, <https://www.ombudsman.on.ca/resources/reports,-cases-and-submissions/annual-reports/2021-2022-annual-report> p 43



void school board trustee elections. It is no wonder why there is confusion when the *Education Act*, *Assessment Act* and the *MEA* must be read to figure out the nuances of qualification. Clearer rules around language rights qualifications would help people understand whether they qualify as a candidate.

20. Clarify that school board trustee candidates must file their nomination papers in the municipality in which they reside.

Given that school board boundaries cross municipal boundaries, when trustee candidates do not submit their nomination papers in the municipality in which they reside, it complicates the situation. Clerks are left trying to figure out residential qualification in addition to general candidate qualification. This is burdensome for candidates and municipal staff and must be addressed.



21. Consider readjusting school board boundaries to align with municipal boundaries.

Given the complications between jurisdictional boundaries, one consideration may be to better align school board boundaries with municipal boundaries.

22. Conduct a review of identification requirements in the regulation and consider the availability of digital and hard copy identification as well as identification challenges for segments of Ontario voters.

Voters and administrators require more guidance and clarity on what types and forms of acceptable identification can be used in local elections. It is a persistent challenge for municipalities educating members of the public about what can be used, particularly because accepted identification is different than provincial and federal elections due to residency requirements. Moreover, certain voters also lack identification and documentation to be able to exercise their right to vote.

As part of the Province's work on [Digital Identity](#)⁴⁴ under the Ontario Onwards Action Plan, there should be collaboration and consultation with the municipal sector, including AMCTO, on the specific needs of identification for electoral and other local service provision purposes.

⁴⁴ See <https://www.ontario.ca/page/digital-id-ontario>





Trends AMCTO Continues to Monitor

Our Working Group also discussed several trends that may impact electoral administration. While there are no specific recommendations at this time, we want to highlight some of what the group identified to inspire continued conversations about the tools, resources and supports local election administrators may require in the future.

Electoral Participation

Declining voter turnout has been discussed as an indicator of democratic health. Our 2022 Post-Election Survey, which included data from [MMAH's municipal election survey](#), found a 4% decline in overall voter turnout between 2018 and 2022⁴⁵. In 2018 and 2022, electors also voted in a provincial election, and in the fall of 2021, voted in a federal election as well.

[Our 2014 Post-Election Survey](#) found the average turnout was approximately 43%⁴⁶. [As we noted in previous submissions](#), there may be some element of voter fatigue⁴⁷ which is also why we recommend shortening the election period.

While voter turnout has decreased, the number of acclamations has increased. [As AMO noted](#):

with fewer candidates, there are also more positions being acclaimed, especially in smaller, rural municipalities. This year, 548 council positions were acclaimed, including 139 mayors and reeves. Compared to 2018, total acclamations are up 15% over 2018 and up 16% for mayors and reeves (heads of council). A total of 32 councils will be entirely acclaimed this year, 3% more than 2018, when 26 councils were acclaimed. All of [sic] the fully acclaimed municipalities in 2022 have populations of 10,000 residents or less.⁴⁸

⁴⁵ AMCTO. February 2024, *2022 Post Election Survey*, <https://www.amcto.com/about-amcto/news-announcements/2022-municipal-elections-survey-key-findings>

⁴⁶ AMCTO. August 2015, *2014 Post Election Survey* <https://amctopolicy.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/amcto-2014-post-election-survey-results.pdf>

⁴⁷ AMCTO. July 2015, *AMCTO Submission on the Municipal Elections Act* <https://www.amcto.com/sites/default/files/2023-05/AMCTO-MEA-Submission.pdf>

⁴⁸ Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). News Release. September 27 2022, "Municipal elections data available on AMO website" Accessed: <https://www.amo.on.ca/policy/municipal-governance-indigenous-relations/municipal-election-data-available-amo-website>



It is understood that in making voting easier and more accessible, it is possible to increase participation in local democratic processes which is why municipalities have looked at implementing alternative voting methods in their communities.

Digital Identity

As an Association, we continue to be interested in the Province's [Digital Identity](#) project⁴⁹ given the operational implications to local service delivery. Photo identification is used for recreation programming registration, paying property tax, resolving parking offenses, and confirming residency for local elections. The degree to which Ontario follows other jurisdictions in implementing digital identities will determine how local service delivery, including elections*, may benefit or be challenged by such an initiative. Any introduction of digital identities will need to work for elections and be reflected in the MEA.



Misinformation

We are also keeping an eye on more subversive and potentially harmful trends including the spread of misinformation that threatens democratic institutions. This is an increasing concern for election administrators at all orders of government.

For instance, a report from the [Canadian Election Misinformation Project](#)⁵⁰ documents and evaluates misinformation during the 2021 Canada federal election. While there was widespread misinformation during this election, the overall impact was minimal as the campaign period and results were not driven by misinformation. However, there was a rise in misinformation through groups who hold conspiratorial beliefs about various topics. The report also highlights certain vulnerabilities that need to be addressed including the increasing difficulty in detecting what qualifies as misinformation and the continued distrust of democratic institutions by increasing segments of Canadians.

There has also been reporting on distrust and misinformation, among other threats outlined by the [Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections Task Force](#)⁵¹ that are a cause for concern.

While there are tools and resources offered by organizations like the [Canadian Centre for Cybersecurity](#)⁵² to help the public and others identify this pervasive information, decentralized elections such as those run by municipalities, could benefit from more specific resources and supports for managing these threats.

⁴⁹ See <https://www.ontario.ca/page/digital-id-ontario>

* There are a range of identification requirements outlined in regulation that may be accepted as proof of identity.

⁵⁰ See https://www.mcgill.ca/maxbellschool/files/maxbellschool/meo_election_2021_report.pdf

⁵¹ See <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/threats-of-violence-canada-elections-1.7153960>

⁵² See <https://www.cyber.gc.ca/en/guidance/how-identify-misinformation-disinformation-and-malinformation-itsap00300>



Foreign Interference

Misinformation created and distributed by domestic actors is concerning enough but with the threat of foreign interference, the scale of risk is at a magnitude that must be dealt with at a national level. [The Government of Canada](#) consulted with Canadians on foreign interference and potential government action starting in late 2023⁵³. As an Association and to represent our members' interests, [we wrote to the Ministers of Justice Canada and Public Safety](#)⁵⁴ to advise that changes made at the federal level will require complementary provincial legislation. Local election administrators will require support in managing threats and potential incidents.

We also continue to watch with interest the [Public Inquiry](#) into *Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions*⁵⁵ for findings and recommendations.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

While governments are beginning to take measures that provide frameworks and rules around the development and use of AI, there are few sources that deal specifically with elections. Administrators need the right legislative tools and guidance to ensure they can manage the impacts of AI on local democratic processes and ensure there is the right support to enforce such provisions. The Act must provide the rules and frameworks to support election administrators who may choose to leverage these technologies to improve electoral services.



⁵³ CSIS. 2021. *Foreign Interference: Threats to Canada's Democratic Process*. <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/csis-scrs/documents/publications/2021/foreign-interference-threats-to-canada%27s-democratic-process.pdf>; Government of Canada. Public and Emergency Preparedness Canada. News Release. November 24, 2023. "Government of Canada launches consultation on legislative amendments to counter foreign interference in Canada" <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-launches-consultation-on-legislative-amendments-to-counter-foreign-interference-in-canada-868566675.html>

⁵⁴ See AMCTO letter, January 2024 re: AMCTO Letter to Ministers of Justice Canada and Public Safety re Foreign Interference <https://www.amcto.com/letter-to-ministers-re-foreign-interference>

⁵⁵ See <https://foreigninterferencecommission.ca/>





Conclusion

For many reasons, election administrators at all orders of government face several heightened challenges and our clerk members are no different. [Increasing distrust in public institutions](#)⁵⁶ beyond just healthy skepticism⁵⁷ means that democratic processes delivered through election administration are more important than ever. There are decreasing rates of democratic participation reflected in low voter turnout, electoral support, and an increased number of acclamations that [impact the efficacy of elections](#)⁵⁸.

The good news is that there are opportunities as well: voting methods can reach more qualified electors which may result in increased rates of voter participation. Improvements to technology can result in more automated and quicker service delivery if balanced with the necessary security precautions. Clarifying rules can make compliance and enforcement more straightforward, paving the way for more diverse pools of candidates.

The Act should reflect the digital challenges and opportunities of today and tomorrow, and discussions should occur via legislated four-year reviews to ensure clarity, consistency, accountability, transparency, and trust remain top of mind. The legislation should be more enabling while providing important guidance, standards, and support with the right mix of tools to make compliance and enforcement streamlined.

The Province should build on the [MEA modernization work from 2016](#)⁵⁹ by rewriting and restructuring the Act to address existing and new challenges and opportunities. The issues weighing most on the minds of election administrators would be served by transformational change to the Act to provide a better overall framework for local elections. This requires bringing a 21st century mindset to improving service delivery to voters, candidates, and the public, while providing election administrators with more flexibility, certainty, and clarity to do the important work of delivering fair, accountable, and transparent municipal and school board elections.

AMCTO looks forward to discussing our recommendations with the Province and collaborating on priority legislative and regulatory improvements.

⁵⁶ Edelman Canada. May 2023. “2023 Edelman Trust Barometer,” <https://www.edelman.ca/sites/g/files/aatuss376/files/202303/2023%20Edelman%20Trust%20Barometer%20EN.pdf>

⁵⁷ Norris, Pippa. *In Praise of Skepticism: Trust but Verify*. Oxford University Press, 2022.

⁵⁸ See <https://www.amo.on.ca/policy/municipal-governance-indigenous-relations/analysis-2022-municipal-post-election-data>

⁵⁹ See <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-41/session-1/bill-181/debates>



AMCTO MEA Working Group

AMCTO formed the MEA Working Group in 2023 to review, analyze, and discuss a suite of reforms to the *Municipal Elections Act* (MEA). Together, the Group brought forward best practices and lessons learned from municipal and school board elections administration to identify challenges and opportunities for solution-orientated improvements to existing election rules and regulations. Their work informed this submission and continues to support our members and municipal professionals in local election administration.

AMCTO would like to thank the following individuals for their time, contributions, and expertise as part of our MEA Working Group:

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Florence Witherspoon
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Township of Ashfield-
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For more information about this Working Group, the submission and AMCTO advocacy initiatives, please contact advocacy@amcto.com.

The following appendix includes a line-by-line breakdown of our recommendations and the corresponding section of the MEA in its current form. We invite the Province to consult with us, our members and other sector organizations on reviewing and updating the current legislation to better serve local elections administration now and into the future.



Appendix: Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation	Legislative Reference(s) if applicable	Rationale
Overhaul and update the Act to ensure that it is future-proof, addresses current gaps, streamlines rules, and brings added clarity well ahead of the 2030 election.	Act and regulations	The MEA contains a patchwork of amendments, sections, provisions and other structural issues that make it difficult for people to understand and manage.
Include a legislative requirement to review the Act after every scheduled municipal and school board election year.	New section	The Act should be updated on a regular cycle to ensure that it is responsive to new and emerging technology and trends.
Review how the current legislation, regulations, and prescribed forms treat personal information, considering a digital privacy lens.	Act and regulations	Protection of privacy is becoming an increasing concern and is central to ensuring public trust.
Amend the Act to include a preamble that captures the principles of elections recognized by the court and the intended outcomes of the Act.	New preamble	A preamble inclusive of these principles should set out the intended outcomes of the legislation and provide foundational understanding of elections.
Establish a mechanism that permits the Minister of Municipal Affairs, in consultation with affected communities, to alter municipal and school board election day if it falls on a day of cultural or religious significance.	Section 4 Regular elections	In future years, it could be the case that election day falls on another culturally or religiously significant festival or event impacting voter turnout and staffing resources.
Require school boards to schedule one of the provincially required Professional Activity (PA) days on municipal and school board election day.	New sub/section	Confirming availability of school facilities for election day is one less thing for clerks to have to determine and provides voters with a large, central, accessible facility to cast their ballots. Ensures that election administrators can focus on providing electoral services to residents and municipal and school trustee candidates.
Amend the Act so that, if requested, schools and institutions must allow space for advance polls and voting day free of charge.	Section 45 Number and location of voting places	Clerks require a legislative basis to work with heads of institutions to address resident voting requirements providing more opportunities for the most vulnerable to cast their vote.

Recommendation	Legislative Reference(s) if applicable	Rationale
Remove the requirement for employees of a municipality or local board to provide notice of their intention to stand for election to council.	Section 30 Employee of a municipality	Potential candidates for municipal office, who happen to work for a municipality or a local board, should be provided the same, equal opportunity as other candidates who are not required to declare their intentions until they submit their paperwork.
Clarify the Act to reflect that a voter's absence from work may be on any day voting is available (i.e. advance voting days).	Section 50 Electors' absence from work	The current definition of voting day is limited to Election Day only and could be interpreted to not include advance voting days.
In consultation with AMCTO and other municipal stakeholders, consider how the work by the Digital Governance Standards Institute related to electronic voting may be formalized to support election administration in Ontario.	New section	With an increasing number of municipalities considering e-voting methods to make voting easier and be "where the voters are" there should be a provincial interest in adopting some standards.
Establish a working group with AMCTO and other municipal stakeholders to inform the development of a regulation for electoral definitions of "tenant", "spouse of a non-resident" and "occupancy".	Section 17 Qualification of electors (with possible implications for Section 2 Residence)	The current definitions provided in the Act are not sufficiently clear, and create potential confusion for electors, candidates, and administrators.
Remove the 25-signature endorsement requirement.	Section 33 Filing Nomination	Signature requirements in medium and large cities has not addressed its stated intent as signatures are easy to collect with a declaration that signees are eligible electors and adds an administrative burden.
Investigate incentives to support genuine candidacy while addressing frivolous campaigns, including the nomination filing fee refund.	Section 34 Refund	The current process of refunding anyone who files a financial statement does not dissuade frivolous candidacies. Other mechanisms should be investigated.
Amend the Act so that no candidate shall accept a contribution over \$1,200 from a single resident.	Section 88.9 Maximum contributions to candidates	Fill the gap that does not specifically prohibit candidates from accepting a contribution.
Clarify that any resident of Ontario may submit a compliance audit application, consistent with contribution rules.	Section 88.33 Compliance audit of candidate finances	Clarify that any resident in Ontario can file a compliance audit application consistent with rules on contributions.



Recommendation	Legislative Reference(s) if applicable	Rationale
Consider setting one 90-day period for compliance audit applications for initial and supplementary financial statements to simplify the process.	Section 88.33(3)	The current structure creates many overlapping deadlines that is challenging to communicate to electors and candidates and for purposes of tracking.
Roll the review of contributions and over-contributions to candidates and third-party advertisers into the Compliance Audit Committee (CAC) process and permit the committee to decide whether to commence a legal proceeding against a candidate or third-party advertiser for an apparent contravention.	Section 88.34 Review of contributions to candidates	This provision jeopardizes the independence and impartiality of the clerk, places the clerk in conflict with members of council and there already exists a process on the Compliance Audit Committee to review statements.
Expand decision timelines for CACs in Subsection (8) from 30 days to 45 days.	Section 88.34 Review of contributions to candidates	To support applicants, election administrators and CAC members with carrying out an application, moving the decision-timelines from 30 days to 45 days may be more reasonable especially where the CAC process may fall around the holidays and is consistent with references in other statutes for required meetings.
Clarify roles with respect to CACs wherein council is responsible for establishing the committee and the clerk is responsible for making appointments.	Section 88.37 Compliance Audit Committees	The MEA gives the responsibility for administering elections, including establishing necessary policies and procedures, to the clerk. However, there are several sections throughout the Act where the responsibility for what are, in effect, administrative decisions is unclearly distributed between both Council and staff. This is one area where there is a clear conflict in members of council who may be subject to an application are involved in the administration of the committee reviewing that application.
Clarify the role of scrutineers where alternative (unsupervised or remote) voting is in place and collaborate with AMCTO and others on the definition of scrutineer and what they may or may not do.	Section 16 Scrutineers	Qualifications of scrutineers continues to be challenged. Moreover, as alternative voting methods are increasingly used, the role of scrutineering is less understood and should be addressed.
Review the scope of election offences and related penalties to address gaps. Consider providing support and guidance to clerks on best practices for implementation and enforcement of serious offences.	Section 89 Offences	Fill existing and new gaps because of changes to technology. Any changes to offences and penalties would require additional guidance and support for election administrators on how to enforce these matters.



Recommendation	Legislative Reference(s) if applicable	Rationale
Establish a working group with AMCTO and other municipal partners to review and improve the campaign finance framework, including rules, guidance, forms, processes, and penalties.	Section 88.8 Campaign Contributions to Section 94.2 Limitation Period	The campaign finance framework is complex to administer and comply with and should be reviewed to make it easier to follow while ensuring accountability.
Establish a working group with AMCTO and other municipal stakeholders to review and improve the third-party advertiser regime for ease of compliance and enforcement.	Section 88.4 Third Party Advertisers	The third-party advertising framework is complex to administer and comply with and should be reviewed to make it easier to follow and comply with.
Within the campaign finance and third-party advertiser frameworks, review the mechanisms for enforcement, and related penalties to address gaps in accountability and transparency measures.	Section 89- Section 94.2	A holistic review needs to consider enforcement mechanisms, penalties and the prosecution process for candidates and contributors.
Consider increasing maximum campaign spending limits and its related formula to consider inflation outlined in O Reg 101/97.	O Reg 101/97	The Province should consider reviewing and updating the spending limit formula in regulation which has been stagnant and does not consider inflationary pressures on campaign costs.
Explore establishing an independent office to manage investigation and prosecution of offences under the Act.	New section	Municipalities have faced challenges proceeding with investigations and prosecutions due to capacity, resourcing and time-consuming processes through the courts. A separate body would allow for alternate dispute resolution that avoids placing municipal staff in conflict with candidates and members of council.
Bring the language of the Act and regulations into the 21 st century by removing gendered references and including references to encompass all voting methods.	Act and regulations	To ensure more inclusive language within the Act, remove gendered references. Moreover, as more municipalities are turning to voting methods to reach voters and run efficiency elections, language in the Act across numerous sections and within regulations should contain language that encompasses all voting methods rather than referring to paper ballots.
Ensure all definitions that appear in the Act are captured in and limited to Section 1 and update definitions to add clarity.	Section 1	One way to improve clarity and improve interpretation in the Act is to ensure that key terms within the Act are captured in the definition section. There are several areas wherein a definition appears later in the Act and others are captured in the definition section.



Recommendation	Legislative Reference(s) if applicable	Rationale
Clarify references to municipal business hours as well as dates that constitute a weekend or holiday as defined pursuant to the <i>Legislation Act, 2006</i> .	Section 10 Saturdays and Holidays and other sections dealing with filing deadlines.	Inconsistency between business hours and the legislation can lead to frustration for candidates, administrators and others engaging in local democratic processes.
Move nomination day to July, shortening the campaign period to be more consistent with federal and provincial campaign periods.	Section 31 Nomination Day	The municipal nomination period is longer than those at the provincial and federal levels which are run by agencies whose sole focus is election administration while municipal staff are managing day-to-day operations while running elections simultaneously. Revert back to the 2016 nomination deadline of July or earlier.
Enable clerks to determine what voting method is best as the local chief electoral officer and align timelines related to clerk's procedures.	Section 42 Bylaws re voting and vote counting equipment	Clarify areas of responsibility between the clerk as the administrator of elections and council as overseers of the municipality.
Change the timeline for proxy appointment to begin September 1 st for a regular election.	Section 44 Appointment of Proxy	Fix the disconnect between voters' list availability and appointment of proxies, qualifications for which cannot be confirmed as electors until the list is available.
Expand the timeline for reporting on accessible elections from 90 days to 120 days.	Section 12.1 (3)	Extending the timeline would allow more time to compile a comprehensive post-election report which is typical practice.
Consider aligning the spending limit certificate requirements and timelines between candidates and third-party advertisers for consistency.	Section 88.20 Candidate Expenses and s 88.1 Registered Third parties' expenses	Providing consistent timelines across various participants in the electoral process makes it easier for municipal staff to adhere to legislative requirements and ensure that candidates and parties are adhering to timelines.
Update existing provincial guides and forms and provide additional guidance to voters, candidates, third-party advertisers, and election administrators.	Voters' Guide; Third Party Advertisers Guide; Candidate's Guide	There are several opportunities to update and provide more information to support voters, third party advertisers and candidates in Provincial guidance materials. There have also been several challenges with usability of provincial forms and inconsistencies between the legislation and forms that should be addressed.
Extend the timeline to submit final changes to the voters' list from 30 days to 60 days.	Section 27 List of changes	Provide more time for clerks to provide final changes after the election period given the number of activities and tasks required to be completed post-election.



Recommendation	Legislative Reference(s) if applicable	Rationale
Consider extending discretion to remove a name from the voters' list and the correction of errors to voting day.	Section 22 Correction of Errors	Electors who move must fill out forms or go to a portal to update their residency and school support information, and despite improvements made to make this process easier, there will be electors who do not do this. Permitting clerks to remove names to voting day would allow for a cleaner voters' list.
Establish a province-wide registry for <i>MEA</i> offenders, maintained by the MMAH or another provincial body, and provide this registry to election administrators.	Section 35 Examination of nominations	While candidates are ultimately responsible for declaring their eligibility, clerks are required to certify nominations. Providing centrally available information about qualifications of candidates, and of those who may have contravened the <i>MEA</i> available to clerks will support this process.
Amend the <i>Act</i> to consolidate rules between regular elections and by-elections specifying what must be different.	Section 65 By-elections	Should the <i>Act</i> continue to distinguish between regular and by-elections, then there must be more guidance and information on how these elections are run to ensure more consistency in how by-elections are run across the province.
Consider a threshold amount for registering as a third-party advertiser that is in line with provincial and federal thresholds.	Section 88.4 Third Party Advertisers	The process is cumbersome and may prevent smaller actors from engaging in the political process for fear of being labelled as a third-party advertiser.
Consider amending the deadline for third-party advertiser registration to be more reasonably in advance of an election.	Section 88.4 Third Party Advertisers	There are also timeline issues with registration. Allowing third-parties to register up to election day is problematic from an operations perspective when municipal staff's attention has shifted from paperwork to execution of voting.
Clarify the process for removing a name from the voters' list by a relative.	Section 24 Application for Name Change	Electors who move must fill out forms or go to a portal to update their residency and school support information, and despite improvements made to make this process easier, there will be electors who do not do this. Permitting clerks to remove names to voting day would allow for a cleaner voters' list.
Decouple school board support for electoral purposes from school support for assessment purposes.	<i>Education Act, 1990</i> and <i>Assessment Act, 1990</i>	Cumbersome rules across multiple acts can result in an elector being assigned an incorrect school board ballot which slows the voting process, frustrates the elector, and means more work for election officials.
Amend the <i>Education Act</i> to clarify who is a French-language rights holder and who is a separate school rights holder.	<i>Education Act, 1990</i> and <i>Assessment Act, 1990</i>	Clearer language around qualifications would help people understand whether or not they qualify as a candidate.



Recommendation	Legislative Reference(s) if applicable	Rationale
Clarify that school board trustee candidates must file their nomination papers in the municipality in which they reside.	<i>Education Act, 1990 and Municipal Elections Act</i>	School board boundaries cross municipal boundaries, and trustee candidates do not always submit their nomination papers within the municipality in which they reside, meaning clerks are left trying to figure out residential qualification as well. The complexity is burdensome for candidates and for municipal staff and must be addressed. Rules for elections need to be clear and straightforward.
Consider readjusting school board boundaries to align with municipal boundaries.	<i>Education Act, 1990 and Municipal Act</i>	Given the complications between jurisdictional boundaries, one consideration may be to better align school board boundaries with municipal boundaries.
Conduct a review of identification requirements in the regulation and consider the availability of digital and hard copy identification as well as identification challenges for segments of Ontario voters.	O Reg. 304/13 Voter Identification	There are numerous ways people carry identification requirements and there are segments of the population without proper identification. The Province has also been working on digital identity which needs to be accounted for.





The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) represents excellence in local government, management and leadership. Over the past 85 years, AMCTO has provided education, accreditation, leadership, and management expertise for Ontario municipal professionals. With 2,200+ members working in municipalities across the province, AMCTO is Ontario's largest association of local government professionals, and the leading professional development organization for municipal professionals.

Our mission is to deliver professional growth, networks, advocacy, and leadership to support and strengthen the knowledge, skills, and capabilities of municipal professionals now and into the future.

2680 Skymark Avenue, Suite 610
Mississauga, ON L4W 5L6

Telephone: (905) 602-4294
Email: amcto@amcto.com

www.amcto.com



Honourable Premier Doug Ford
Doug.Fordco@pc.ola.org

Sent via electronic mail

October 4, 2024

Dear Honourable Premier Doug Ford

At its Regular meeting on October 2, 2024, the Township of Springwater's Council passed resolution C506-2024 endorsing the AMO and OMA Joint Health Resolution Campaign.

Resolution C506-2024

Moved by: Garwood
Seconded by: Fisher

Whereas the state of health care in Ontario is in crisis, with 2.5 million Ontarians lacking access to a family doctor, emergency room closures across the province, patients being derostered and 40% of family doctors considering retirement over the next five years; and

Whereas it has becoming increasingly challenging to attract and retain an adequate healthcare workforce throughout the health sector across Ontario; and,

Whereas Ontario municipal governments play an integral role in the health care system through responsibilities in public health, long-term care, and paramedicine; and,

Whereas the percentage of family physicians practicing comprehensive family medicine has declined from 77% in 2008 to 65% in 2022; and,

Whereas per capita health-care spending in Ontario is the lowest of all provinces in Canada; and,

Whereas a robust workforce developed through a provincial, sector-wide health human resources strategy would significantly improve access to health services across the Province; and,

Whereas these cracks in Ontario's health care system are impacting economic development, health, and well-being at the local level; and,

Whereas in response, the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) are working collaboratively to advocate for a better healthcare system for Ontario residents and communities.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That, Council of The Corporation of the Township of Springwater urge the Province of Ontario to recognize the physician shortage in Springwater and Ontario, to fund health care appropriately and ensure every Ontarian has access to physician care; and

Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, Hon. Doug Ford; Barrie-Springwater-Oro Medonte Member of Provincial Parliament, Hon. Doug Downey, the Minister of Health, Hon. Sylvia Jones, the Ontario Medical Association (OMA), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried

I can be reached via email at jennifer.coughlin@springwater.ca or by phone at 705-728-4784, Ext. 2020.

Regards,



Jennifer Coughlin
Mayor, Township of Springwater

cc: Hon. Minister of Health Sylvia Jones
Hon. MPP Doug Shipley
Ontario Medical Association
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities



Association of
Municipalities of Ontario
VIA EMAIL:
amo@amo.on.ca

Ontario Medical Association
VIA EMAIL
info@oma.org

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

October 10, 2024

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
823 Albion Road
Etobicoke, ON
M9V 1A3
VIA EMAIL:
premier@ontario.ca

RE: AMO OMA Joint Health Resolution Campaign for the Province to recognize the physician shortage in Ontario

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on September 3, 2024 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2024-268:

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the Consent Agenda item 6.9 list on the September 3, 2024 agenda meeting be received for information; and

Whereas Puslinch Council supports the correspondence provided by AMO and OMA, that staff be directed to prepare correspondence accordingly.

CARRIED



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

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston
Municipal Clerk

CC: All Ontario Municipalities

Justine Brotherston

From: Kimberly Moran and Colin Best <amopresident@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, July 09, 2024 12:00 PM
To: Justine Brotherston
Subject: AMO/OMA Joint Health Resolution Campaign



Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

155 University Ave., Suite 800
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3B7
Telephone: 416.971.9856
Toll-free in Ontario: 1.877.426.6527
Fax: 416.971.6191

Ontario Medical Association

150 Bloor St. West, Suite 900
Toronto, ON M5S 3C1
Canada
TF: 1.800.268.7215
T: 416.599.2580
F: 416.533.9309
E: info@oma.org
oma.org

Dear Heads of Council and Clerks,

Communities across Ontario have been facing critical healthcare challenges, including long waitlists for primary care, shortages of doctors and other healthcare workers; and emergency room closures. These cracks in Ontario's health care system are impacting economic development, health, and well-being at the local level.

In response, the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) are working collaboratively to advocate for a better healthcare system for Ontario's residents and communities.

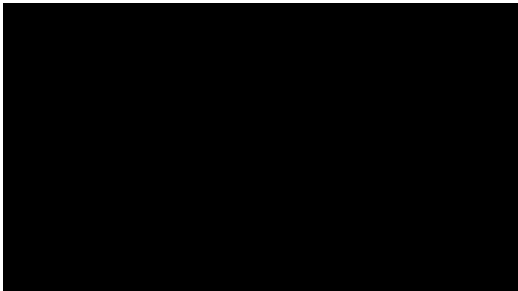
We have jointly developed the attached draft council resolution (Appendix A - Also in [PDF](#) and [Word](#) Versions), urging the provincial government to recognize the physician shortage in your municipality and the rest of Ontario. By adopting this resolution, your municipality can play a crucial role in highlighting the urgent need for more healthcare resources and support.

AMO is excited to welcome everyone to Ottawa for our annual conference from August 18-21, 2024. We are pleased to inform you that the OMA will be participating at this year's conference. Along with sponsoring the Rural Caucus Lunch on August 20, the OMA has reserved meeting room at the Fairmont Château Laurier for both August 20 and 21 to meet directly with municipal leaders. During these meetings, we would like to hear what you are seeing on the ground and discuss opportunities to work closer with you. We believe that collaboration between Ontario's doctors and all 444 municipalities is essential in addressing the healthcare needs of your community.

To set up a meeting with the OMA, please reach out to Tarun.Saroya@OMA.org (Senior Advisor for Government Relations and Advocacy) to book a 15-30 minute time slot at your earliest convenience.

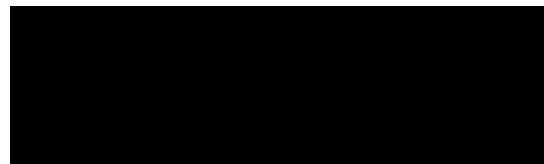
We look forward to your positive response and to working together towards a healthier future for all Ontarians.

Yours sincerely,



Kimberly Moran

CEO, Ontario Medical Association



Colin Best

AMO President

Appendix A:

WHEREAS the state of health care in Ontario is in crisis, with 2.3 million Ontarians lacking access to a family doctor, emergency room closures across the province, patients being de-rostered and 40% of family doctors considering retirement over the next five years; and

WHEREAS it has becoming increasingly challenging to attract and retain an adequate healthcare workforce throughout the health sector across Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University says communities in northern Ontario are short more than 350 physicians, including more than 200 family doctors; and half of the physicians working in northern Ontario expected to retire in the next five years; and (Northern Ontario only)

WHEREAS Ontario municipal governments play an integral role in the health care system through responsibilities in public health, long-term care, and paramedicine.

WHEREAS the percentage of family physicians practicing comprehensive family medicine has declined from 77 in 2008 to 65 percent in 2022; and

WHEREAS per capita health-care spending in Ontario is the lowest of all provinces in Canada, and

WHEREAS a robust workforce developed through a provincial, sector-wide health human resources strategy would significantly improve access to health services across the province;

- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of (the name of municipality) urge the Province of Ontario to recognize the physician shortage in (name of municipality) and Ontario, to fund health care appropriately and ensure every Ontarian has access to physician care.

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155 University Ave Suite 800 | Toronto, ON M5H 3B7 CA

This email was sent to jbrotherston@puslinch.ca.

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Municipal Finance Officers
Association of Ontario
VIA EMAIL:
general@mfoa.on.ca

Association of Municipalities
of Ontario (AMO)
amo@amo.on.ca

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

October 10, 2024

MP Ryan Williams
Bay of Quinte
VIA EMAIL:
ryan.williams@parl.gc.ca

Finance Minister Chrystia
Freeland
200-622 College Street
Toronto, Ontario
M6G 1B4
VIA EMAIL:
chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca

MP Michael Chong
Wellington-Halton Hills
VIA EMAIL:
michael.chong@parl.gc.ca

RE: City of Quinte West Council resolution regarding The Canada Community-Building Fund

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on September 3, 2024 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2024-271:

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and
Seconded by Councillor Goyda

That the Consent Agenda item 6.27 list on the September 3, 2024 agenda meeting be received for information; and

Whereas the Township of Puslinch Council supports the resolution from the City of Quinte West, that Council direct staff to send a support resolution accordingly and that MPP Michael Chong be copied on the correspondence.



CARRIED

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

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston
Municipal Clerk

CC: All Ontario Municipalities

P.O. Box 490
7 Creswell Drive
Trenton, Ontario K8V 5R6
www.quintewest.ca



A Natural Attraction

Tel: 613-392-2841
Toll Free: 1-866-485-2841
virginial@quintewest.ca
clerk@quintewest.ca

Virginia LaTour, Deputy City Clerk

August 15, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Via Email - justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

RE: Notice of Motion – Councillor Stedall – The Canada Community-Building Fund

Dear Prime Minister:

This letter will serve to advise that at a meeting of City of Quinte West Council held on August 14, 2024 Council passed the following resolution:

Motion No 24-366 – Notice of Motion - Councillor Stedall - The Canada Community-Building Fund

Moved by Councillor Stedall

Seconded by Councillor McCue

Whereas the City of Quinte West is entering into an agreement to receive Canada Community-Building Funds, which is administered by the Association of Ontario Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on behalf of the Federal government;

And whereas the funding allocations are less than 2% year over year for the next 5 years;

And whereas the amounts allocated in the past 5 years were less than 2% year over year;

And whereas non-residential construction price inflation has risen by 29% since the end of 2020 and municipalities are facing soaring costs for infrastructure projects without a corresponding growth in revenue;

And whereas there is a requirement for municipalities to complete an asset management plan and a housing needs analysis;

And whereas both of these plans show the large funding gap between infrastructure and housing needs and funds available from property taxation;

And whereas The City of Quinte West has over \$1.5 billion in core infrastructure assets and, like other municipalities, its infrastructure is aging and in need of upgrades and replacement;

And whereas The City's Asset Management Plan requires \$37 million annually to maintain existing assets which, based on current available funding, is resulting in an annual infrastructure deficit of over \$17.1 million;

And whereas municipalities are facing a gap in federal infrastructure funding as the 10-year Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program has come to an end;

Now therefore be it resolved that the City of Quinte West calls on the Federal Government to provide a supplement to the allocations provided to municipalities under the AMO CBBF agreement for 2024 - 2028 for the same amount that was allocated, effectively doubling the allocation for those years;

And further that this resolution be forwarded to MFOA, AMO, MP Ryan Williams, and Federal Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, and all Municipalities in Ontario.
Carried

We trust that you will give favourable consideration to this request.

Yours Truly,

CITY OF QUINTE WEST



Virginia LaTour,
Deputy City Clerk

cc: Donna Herridge, Executive Director, MFOA
Colin Best, President, AMO
Ryan Williams, MP, Bay of Quinte
Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
All Municipalities of Ontario

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.8.

Resolution Number 2024-369

Title: Resolution Stemming from September 18, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 7.1 - Correspondence #11

Date: October 16, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Laframboise

Seconded by: Councillor Pothier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports Motion No. 24-366 passed by the City of Quinte West, regarding the Canada Community-Building Fund;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau; the Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland; the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, Sean Fraser; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Parliament (MP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE

69 Fourth Avenue, Larder Lake, ON

Phone: 705-643-2158 Fax: 705-643-2311



MOVED BY:

☐ Thomas Armstrong

☒ Patricia Hull

☐ Paul Kelly

☐ Lynne Paquette

SECONDED BY:

☐ Thomas Armstrong

☐ Patricia Hull

☒ Paul Kelly

☐ Lynne Paquette

Motion #: 6

Resolution #: 6

Date: October 22, 2024

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Township of Larder Lake hereby supports resolution no. 24-366 passed by the City of Quinte West, regarding a call on the federal government to provide a supplement to the allocations provided to municipalities under the AMO CCBBF agreement for 2024-2028 for the same amount that was allocated, effectively doubling the allocation for those years; And

FURTHER THAT, this resolution be forwarded to MFOA, AMO, MP Charlie Angus, and Federal Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, and all Municipalities in Ontario.

Recorded vote requested: ☐

	For	Against
Tom Armstrong	✓	
Patricia Hull	✓	
Paul Kelly	✓	
Lynne Paquette	✓	
Patty Quinn	✓	

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest*

I declare this motion

☒ Carried
☐ Lost / Defeated
☐ Deferred to: _____ (enter date)
Because:
☐ Referred to: _____ (enter body)
Expected response: _____ (enter date)

Chair:

*Disclosed his/her (their) interest(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.



Justin Trudeau
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca
(sent via e-mail)

October 10th, 2024

Re: Solve the Humanitarian Crisis

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, at its Regular Council meeting on October 9th, 2024, passed the following motion supporting the resolution from the Municipality of Waterloo regarding solving the humanitarian crisis.

Motion #14

Moved by Councillor Kristen Rodrigues

Seconded by Councillor John van Klaveren

That Council support correspondence item 'g' from the Municipality of Waterloo regarding Solve the Humanitarian Crisis.

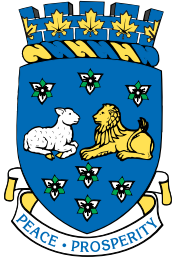
Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

Sincerely,

Ella Flynn
eflynn@plympton-wyoming.ca
Executive Assistant – Deputy Clerk
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

Cc: Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure & Communities of Canada
sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca
Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
Hon. Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Sylvia.Jones@pc.ola.org
Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org
Hon. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community & Social Services Michael.Parsaco@pc.ola.org
Hon. Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health & Addictions Michael.Tiboloco@pc.ola.org
Marilyn Gladu, Sarnia-Lambton MP marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca
Bob Bailey, Sarnia-Lambton MPP bob.baileyco@pc.ola.org
AMO resolutions@amo.on.ca



September 26, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Solve the Crisis

Please be advised that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo at their regular meeting held on September 25, 2024, approved the following motion:

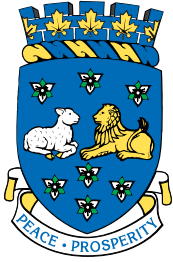
Whereas there is a humanitarian crisis in cities, large and small, urban and rural, across Ontario. We need immediate action at all levels of government, starting with the Province; and

Whereas the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow with 3432 drug related deaths in Ontario in 2023 as well as with an estimated 234,000 Ontarians experiencing homelessness and over 1400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities in 2023; and

Whereas the province has provided additional funding for mental health, addictions and homelessness programs, including the recently announced Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs, it does not adequately address the growing crisis and the financial and social impact on municipalities and regions across the province; and

Whereas municipalities and regions are stepping up and working with community partners to put in place community-specific solutions to address this crisis, but municipalities and regions lack the expertise, capacity, or resources to address these increasingly complex health care and housing issues alone; and

Whereas this is primarily a health issue that falls under provincial jurisdiction and municipalities and regions should not be using the property tax base to fund these programs; and



Whereas there is no provincial Minister focused on this crisis leading to unanswered questions that span over a dozen ministries, and a lack of support to manage the increasing needs of those who are unhoused.

Now Therefore be it resolved that the Region of Waterloo supports the Solve the Crisis Campaign;

And calls on provincial and federal governments to commit to immediate action to solve the Humanitarian Crisis that Ontario is facing as the numbers of unhoused individuals and those suffering with mental health & addictions grows exponentially;

AND that the province officially makes Homelessness a Health Priority;

AND appoints a responsible Minister and Ministry with the appropriate funding and powers as a single point of contact to address the full spectrum of housing needs as well as mental health, addictions and wrap around supports;

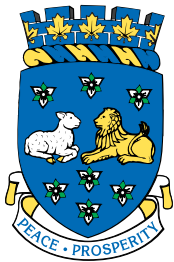
AND request that the provincial government strike a task force with broad sector representatives including municipalities, regions, healthcare, first responders, community services, the business community and the tourism industry to develop a *Made in Ontario Action Plan*;

AND that this provincial task force reviews current programs developed by municipalities, regions and community partners that have proven successful in our communities, to ensure that solutions can be implemented quickly and effectively to tackle this crisis.

AND provides the adequate, sufficient and sustainable funding to ensure that municipalities have the tools and resources to support individuals suffering with mental health and addictions, including unhoused people and those from vulnerable populations that may be disproportionately impacted;

And that this Council calls on the residents across the Region of Waterloo to join us in appealing to the provincial and federal governments for support by visiting SolveTheCrisis.ca and showing your support;

And further that a copy of this motion be sent to:



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

150 Frederick Street, 2nd Floor
Kitchener ON N2G 4J3 Canada
Telephone: 519-575-4400
TTY: 519-575-4608
Fax: 519-575-4481
www.regionofwaterloo.ca

- **The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada**
- **The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario**
- **The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health**
- **The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing**
- **The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services**
- **The Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions**
- **Local and area MPs, MPPs and Heads of Council**
- **The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario's Big City Mayors and Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario**

Please accept this letter for information purposes only. If you have any questions please contact Regional Councillor Dorothy McCabe Dorothy.McCabe@waterloo.ca

Please forward any written responses to this letter to William Short, Director, Council & Administrative Services/Regional Clerk
regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca

Yours sincerely,

William Short, Director Council and Administrative Services/Regional Clerk

cc: Region of Waterloo Councillor Dorothy McCabe Dorothy.McCabe@waterloo.ca



The Corporation of the **Township of Georgian Bluffs**

October 17, 2024

Re: Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus - Rural Municipal Leaders Support 'Solve the Crisis' Campaign to Address Homelessness and Mental Health

To whom it may concern,

Please be advised that Council for the Township of Georgian Bluffs considered the above-noted matter and passed resolution RES2024-175 at the September 11, 2024, meeting of Council:

Moved By: Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn

Seconded By: Councillor Tobin Day

That staff be directed to provide a letter in support of the letter from the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus - Rural Municipal Leaders Support 'Solve the Crisis' Campaign to Address Homelessness and Mental Health.

Carried

Thank you,

Rayburn Murray

Deputy Clerk

Township of Georgian Bluffs

519-376-2729 x. 603 | rmurray@georgianbluffs.ca



News Release

Rural Municipal Leaders Support 'Solve the Crisis' Campaign to Address Homelessness and Mental Health

Sunday, August 18, 2024

City of Ottawa - Representing 230 municipalities and over 2.6 million people across Ontario, the [Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus](#), [Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus](#), , and Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus join the call to action around the ['Solve the Crisis' Campaign](#), led by the [Ontario Big City Mayors](#).

During their joint meeting at the start of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) 125th Conference, the three caucuses are stating their collective support around the need for the Ontario and Federal Governments to take immediate and targeted action to help solve the crisis around homelessness and mental health.

There is a homelessness and mental health crisis happening on streets across our communities, small and big, rural and urban. Municipalities continue to step up, but do not have the tools, expertise or capacity to fully address the intersectional and complex issues around housing, homelessness, health care, and social services.

We appreciate the actions that both the Federal and Ontario Governments have taken to-date including Ontario's Roadmap to Wellness, the creation of the Homelessness Prevention Program, and investing in youth wellness hubs. But we need to do more to 'Solve the Crisis' together as government partners, and we need to act swiftly.

As municipalities continue to raise, the rising number of homeless encampments and the human toll of the opioid crisis are a symptom of deeper system failures that hurt Ontario's overall social and economic prosperity. The WOWC, EOMC, and EOWC will be sending a letter to Premier

Ford to further underscore the need for a [Social and Economic Prosperity Review](#). We need a municipal fiscal relationship that supports the foundations of a strong economy, sustainable communities and quality of life that reflects modern day and front-line realities.

Organizations and Ontarians can join the call to support the 'Solve the Crisis' campaign by visiting www.solvethecrisis.ca.

Quotes

"As Chair of the WOWC, I see the impacts first-hand around the homelessness and mental health crisis. Municipalities have been working tirelessly on the front-lines to address complex issues. We want to build safe, health communities and the only way to do so is to work together. Let's step up and 'Solve the Crisis' together." – **WOWC Chair, Glen McNeil, Warden of Huron County**

"In communities of all sizes, not just big cities, people are unhoused, suffering and dying. We need to help them and municipalities do not have the financial tools and resources to do it alone. It is time to take action to 'Solve The Crisis' together with municipalities, the Ontario Government, the Federal Government, and community partners at the table." – **EOWC Chair, Peter Emon, Warden of Renfrew County**

"This is something we (the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus) have been pursuing, over the last year: the need for substantial investment by both the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada, to deal with this unprecedented humanitarian crisis that all municipalities are now facing." – **EOMC Chair, Jeff Leal, Mayor of the City of Peterborough**

About our organizations

[Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus](#)

The Western Ontario Wardens Caucus Inc. (WOWC) serves as a unified voice for the 15 upper and single tier municipalities in Southwestern Ontario, advocating for their collective interest. Through collaborative efforts, WOWC works to address the unique challenges faced by rural and small urban

communities, playing a pivotal role in shaping policies and initiatives that positively impact the region's 1.6 million residents.

Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. (EOWC) is a non-profit organization advocating for 103 small urban and rural municipalities across Eastern Ontario. The EOWC covers an area of 50,000 square kilometres, serving 800,000 residents. For more than 20 years, the EOWC has gained support by speaking with a united voice to champion regional municipal priorities and work with the government, businesses, non-profit organizations, Indigenous leaders, the media, and the public.

The Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus

The Eastern Ontario Mayor's Caucus (EOMC) is comprised of ten Eastern Ontario municipalities that advocate for the region's needs and priorities, especially in the areas of health care, infrastructure, and economic development. The caucus works collaboratively with other levels of government, health care providers, community organizations, and interest holders to address the challenges and opportunities facing Eastern Ontario.

Ontario Big City Mayors

Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) is an organization that includes mayors of 29 single and lower-tier cities with a population of 100,000 or more, who collectively represent nearly 70 percent of Ontario's population. OBCM advocates for issues and policies important to Ontario's largest cities.

Media Contact

Executive Director, WOWC
Kate Burns Gallagher
kate@wowc.ca

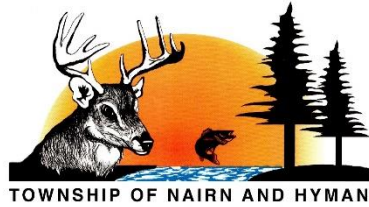
Chair, WOWC
Glen McNeil
info@wowc.ca

Chair, EOWC
Peter Emon
info@eowc.org

Chair, EOMC
Jeff Leal
jleal@peterborough.ca

Chair, OBCM
Marianne Mead Ward
chair@obcm.ca

Executive Director, OBCM
Michelle Baker
michelle@obcm.ca



October 11, 2024

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

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

RE: Opposition to the Transportation and Deposition of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) and Mine Tailings from the Former Beaucage Mine and Waste Site

On behalf of the Councils of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin, we are formally submitting the attached joint resolution regarding our serious concerns over the proposed transportation and deposition of radioactive naturally occurring materials (NORM) to the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area (ALTMA).

Our Councils recently convened a Joint Emergency Meeting on October 2, 2024, to discuss this matter in response to information presented at a Town Hall Meeting on September 11, 2024, by the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Transportation, and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. During our deliberations, it became evident that the materials slated for transport are not correctly categorized as NORM, but rather as mine tailings containing not only radioactive substances like niobium and uranium but also other hazardous heavy metals.

We are gravely concerned about the potential environmental and health impacts this project may have, particularly on Agnew Lake—a critical drinking water source for our communities. Our position is that ALTMA should be remediated using clean materials to mitigate existing contamination rather than accepting additional hazardous materials that could exacerbate environmental harm.

This joint resolution calls upon your government and relevant ministries to halt any further actions related to the transportation of this hazardous product to the ALTMA site. The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION # 2024-EM2-12

DATED: October 2, 2024

MOVED BY: Vern Gorham

SECONDED BY: Jason Cote

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin convened a Joint Emergency Meeting on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 to discuss the proposed plan to transport and deposit radioactive naturally occurring materials (NORM) at the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area (ALTMA); and

WHEREAS the Councils reviewed information received from the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Transportation and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission regarding this proposed plan at the Town Hall Meeting dated September 11, 2024; and

WHEREAS the Councils strongly agree that the materials that are planned to be deposited are not correctly defined as naturally occurring radioactive materials but rather mine tailings that contain not only the radioactive substance Niobium and uranium but also contain heavy metals that pose significant environmental and health risks; and

WHEREAS there are significant concerns regarding the potential contamination of drinking water sources, particularly Agnew Lake, which many residents rely on for safe drinking water; and

WHEREAS the Councils agree that the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area (ALTMA) needs to be remediated using clean materials to mitigate the existing environmental impacts, rather than being used for the deposition of additional hazardous materials; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin formally oppose the transportation and deposition of these materials from the former Beaucage Mine and Waste Site, Nipissing First Nations lands and adjacent lands operated by the Ministry of Transportation to the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin respectfully demand that the Province of Ontario, the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Transportation, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission provide answers to our questions and that the municipalities receive notification of all forward movements of this project; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable George Pirie, the Minister of Mines; the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, the Minister of Transportation; the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Chief Toulouse and Sagamok Anishnawbek Council Members; Chief Nootchtai and Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Council Members; Chief Rodney Nahwegahbow and the Whitefish River First Nation Council Members; Chief Patsy Corbiere and the Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation Council Members; the United Chiefs and Council of Mniidoo Mnising; Ontario Ombudsman; the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission; the Canadian Environmental Law Association; MP Carol Hughes; MPP Michael Mantha; the Association of Ontario Municipalities and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

We respectfully request your immediate attention to this matter and urge the Province of Ontario to prioritize the protection of our community's health, safety, and environmental integrity.

For more information regarding this matter, please contact our municipal office by email at belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca or by phone at (705) 869-4232.

Yours truly,



Belinda Ketchabaw
CAO Clerk Treasurer
Township of Nairn and Hyman

Cc:

Honourable George Pirie, the Minister of Mines
Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, the Minister of Transportation
Honourable Andrea Khanjin, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Chief Toulouse and the Sagamok Anishnawbek Council Members
Chief Nootchtai and the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Council Members

Chief Rodney Nahwegahbow and the Whitefish River First Nation Council Members
Chief Patsy Corbiere and the Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation Council Members
The United Chiefs and Council of Mniidoo Mnising
Ontario Ombudsman
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
Canadian Environmental Law Association
MP Carol Hughes
MPP Michael Mantha
Association of Ontario Municipalities
All Ontario Municipalities

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.9.

Resolution Number 2024-370

Title: Resolution Stemming from September 18, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 7.1 - Correspondence #17

Date: October 16, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Laframboise

Seconded by: Councillor Pothier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports Resolution 2024-EM1-2 passed by the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Township of Baldwin, regarding concerns with the transport and deposition of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) at the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford; the Minister of Mines, George Pirie; the Minister of Transportation, Prabmeet Sarkaria; the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Andrea Khanjin; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR

October 11, 2024

Minister of Transportation
Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria
Email: minister.mto@ontario.ca

MPP Oxford
Ernie Hardeman
Email: Ernie.Hardeman@pc.ola.org

SCOR EDC
Email: do@scorregion.com

Re: Continued Funding Support - Southwest Community Transit

Please be advised that the Town of Tillsonburg Council, at its meeting held on October 7, 2024 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution # 2024-474

Moved By: Councillor Luciani

Seconded By: Councillor Spencer

Whereas the County of Brant, Middlesex County, Municipality of Strathroy Caradoc, Norfolk County, Municipality of East Zorra Tavistock, Grey County, Perth County, City of Stratford, Municipality of Lambton Shores, and Wellington County have successfully utilized government funding to create and sustain local community transit through Southwest Community Transit; and

Whereas 85,000 riders have utilized the Southwest Community Transit services in the first half of 2024 alone, demonstrating significant community reliance on these services; and

Whereas the economic impact of this transit system is estimated to be \$748,800,000 annually, largely due to its role in providing transportation to employment opportunities; and

Whereas the current funding for this critical small urban and rural

inter-community transit service is set to expire in March 2025, putting the sustainability of the service at risk:

Therefore be it resolved that the Town of Tillsonburg council urges the provincial government to continue funding Southwest Community Transit beyond March 2025 to ensure the ongoing viability of this essential service for small urban and rural Ontario

Be it further resolved that this resolution be circulated to the County of Brant, Elgin County, Middlesex County, Norfolk County, Oxford County, Municipality of Strathroy Caradoc, Municipality of East Zorra Tavistock, Perth County, City of Stratford, Municipality of Lambton Shores, Wellington County, Bruce County, Municipality of Bayham, Municipality of Thames Centre and other relevant stakeholders for their support and advocacy.

Carried

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

Sincerely,



Laura Pickersgill
Executive Assistant
Town of Tillsonburg

Cc: All Ontario municipalities



The Corporation of the
Township of Georgian Bluffs

October 17, 2024

Re: Municipality of Tweed - Sustainable Funding for Small Rural Municipalities
- OPP Funding

To whom I may concern,

Please be advised that Council for the Township of Georgian Bluffs considered the above-noted matter and passed resolution RES2024-179 at the September 11, 2024, meeting of Council:

Moved By: Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn

Seconded By: Councillor Rick Winters

That staff be directed to provide a letter in support of the resolution from the Municipality of Tweed regarding Sustainable Funding for Small Rural Municipalities - OPP Funding.

Carried

Thank you,

Rayburn Murray

Deputy Clerk

Township of Georgian Bluffs

519-376-2729 x. 603 | rmurray@georgianbluffs.ca

**Municipality of Tweed Council Meeting
Council Meeting**



Resolution No. 229
Title: Councillor P. Valiquette
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Moved by P. Valiquette
Seconded by J. Palmateer

WHEREAS it is apparent that the Ontario Government has overlooked the needs of small rural Ontario;
AND WHEREAS Ontario's small rural municipalities face insurmountable challenges to fund both upfront investments and ongoing maintenance of their capital assets including roads, bridges, water/wastewater and municipally owned buildings including recreational facilities, libraries and other tangible capital assets;

AND WHEREAS small rural Ontario's operating needs consume the majority of property tax revenue sources;

AND WHEREAS small rural municipalities (of 10,000 people or less) are facing monumental infrastructure deficits that cannot be adequately addressed through property tax revenue alone;

AND WHEREAS in 2015 the provincial government moved to standardized billing for all non-contract J.P.P. (5.1) locations;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Government has committed \$9.1 billion to Toronto alone to assist with operating deficits and the repatriation of the Don Valley and Gardner Expressway; and \$534 million to Ottawa for the repatriation of Hwy 174;

AND WHEREAS the annual cost of the Ontario Provincial Police, Municipal Policing Bureau for small rural non-contract (5.1) municipalities is approximately \$428 million;

AND WHEREAS this annual cost is significantly less than the repatriation costs of the Gardiner Express Way, the Don Valley Parkway and Highway 174 (Ottawa Region) but provides a greater impact to the residents of the Province overall;

AND WHEREAS this will afford relief to small rural municipalities for both infrastructure and operating needs while having a minimal impact on the provincial budget;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Municipality of Tweed call on the Ontario Government to immediately implement sustainable funding for small rural municipalities by reabsorbing the cost of the Ontario Provincial Police Force back into the provincial budget with no cost recovery to municipalities;

AND FURTHER, that Council direct staff to circulate this resolution to Premier Doug Ford (premier@ontario.ca), Minister of Solicitor General, Minister of Finance, and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (amo@amo.on.ca) and all Municipalities in Ontario.

Carried

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.5.

Resolution Number 2024-366

Title: Resolution Stemming from July 17, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 7.1 - Correspondence #22

Date: October 16, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Pothier

Seconded by: Councillor Laframboise

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports Resolution 207-2024 passed by the Township of Terrace Bay, regarding sustainable funding for OPP in small rural municipalities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Premier Doug Ford; the Solicitor General of Ontario, Michael Kerzner; the Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR



Northumberland County

Council Resolution

SENT VIA EMAIL

October 21, 2024

Hon. Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario)
Hon. Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)
Hon. David Piccini (Minister of Labour Immigration, Training and Skills Development and
MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Correspondence, Township of Stirling-Rawdon 'Public Sector Salary Disclosure

At a meeting held on October 16, 2024 Northumberland County Council approved Council Resolution # 2024-10-16-717, adopting the below recommendation from the October 1, 2024 Corporate Support Committee meeting:

Moved by: Councillor John Logel

Seconded by: Council Alternate Michael Metcalf

"**That** the Corporate Support Committee, having considered the correspondence from the Township of Stirling-Rawdon regarding 'Public Sector Salary Disclosure', recommend that County Council support the correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honourable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland- Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario Municipalities."

Council Resolution # 2024-10-16-717

Carried

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at matherm@northumberland.ca or by telephone at 905-372-3329 ext. 2238.

Sincerely,
Maddison Mather



Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk
Northumberland County

Council Resolution

Moved By J. Logel Agenda Item 10 Resolution Number 2024-10-16- 717
 Seconded By M. Metcalf

Council Date: October 16, 2024

"That Council adopt all recommendations from the four Standing Committees, as contained within the Committee Minutes (meetings held September 30, 2024 and October 1 and 2, 2024), with the exception of the following items (referenced from the Standing Committee Minutes), that will be held for discussion:

Committee Name	Item #	Description	Held By
- Economic Development, Tourism and Land Use Planning Committee, Item 9.b, Correspondence, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing 'Request to Repeal Official Plan Amendments Adopting By-law' – Held by Councillor Logel - Public Works Committee, Item 9.a, Report 2024-122, 'Transfer of Thompson Bridge from Northumberland County to the Municipality of Trent Hills' – Held by Council Alternate Michael Metcalf. - Social Services Committee, Item 5.a, Delegation, James Bisson 'Homelessness and Encampment Response Report' – Held by Deputy Warden Hankivsky - Social Services Committee, Item 8.a(1), Delegation, Vivian Vanden Hazel 'Encampment Response and Progress on 310 Division Street, Cobourg Update – Presentation' – Held by Councillor Cleveland - Social Services Committee, Item 8.a(2), Encampment Response and Progress on 310 Division Street, Cobourg Update - Presentation – Held by Councillor Cleveland			

And Further That the items listed above and held for separate discussion each require a separate resolution."

Recorded Vote
 Requested by _____
 Councillor's Name

Carried 
 Warden's Signature

Deferred _____
 Warden's Signature

Defeated _____
 Warden's Signature

Corporate Support Committee Resolution

Committee Meeting Date: October 1, 2024

Agenda Item: 7.a

Resolution Number: 2024-10-01- 615

Moved by: S. Jibb

Seconded by: B. Ostrander

Council Meeting Date: October 16, 2024

"**That** the Corporate Support Committee, having considered the correspondence from the Township of Stirling-Rawdon regarding 'Public Sector Salary Disclosure', recommend that County Council support the correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honourable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland- Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario Municipalities."

Carried



Committee Chair's Signature

Defeated

Committee Chair's Signature

Deferred

Committee Chair's Signature



**2529 Stirling-Marmora Road
Box 40
Stirling, ON K0K 3E0
Phone: 613-395-3380 Fax: 613-395-0864**

August 21, 2024

Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Hon. Ford,

Re: Public Sector Salary Disclosure

At the August 6, 2024 Standing Committees meeting, Committee made the following recommendation:

Moved by Councillor Dean Graff

Seconded by Councillor Don Stewart

That the report from the CAO-Treasurer entitled, "Public Sector Salary Disclosure" be received; and

That Committee recommends to Council the following resolution be adopted and forwarded to the Province of Ontario Premier's Office, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario Municipalities;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act be updated to reflect the inflation rates since 1996; and further

That the Act be further updated so that the inflation rate is applied each year to the requirement to report public salaries.

Carried.

This resolution was subsequently ratified and confirmed by Council at their meeting of August 19, 2024.

Sincerely,

Sydney Dodson
Deputy Clerk

/sd

Cc: Roxanne Hearn – CAO/Treasurer, Premier Doug Ford, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, AMO, all Ontario Municipalities

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.2.

Resolution Number 2024-363

Title: Resolution Stemming from July 17, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 7.0 - Correspondence #5

Date: October 16, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Laframboise

Seconded by: Councillor Pothier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports Resolution No. 2024-125 passed by the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt, regarding a PS3280 accounting standard covering asset retirement obligations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Ontario Municipalities (FONOM); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR

The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.3.

Resolution Number 2024-364

Title: Resolution Stemming from July 17, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 7.1 - Correspondence #6

Date: October 16, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Pothier

Seconded by: Councillor Laframboise

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports the Resolution dated June 27, 2024 passed by the Town of Petrolia supporting the Resolution dated May 13, 2024 passed by the City of Belleville, regarding family doctors;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Premier Doug Ford; Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.4.

Resolution Number 2024-365

Title: Resolution Stemming from July 17, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 7.1 - Correspondence #7

Date: October 16, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Laframboise

Seconded by: Councillor Pothier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports the Resolution dated June 24, 2024 passed by the City of St. Catharines, regarding the Green Roads Pilot Project;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.6.

Resolution Number 2024-367

Title: Resolution Stemming from August 14, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 7.1
- Correspondence #10

Date: October 16, 2024

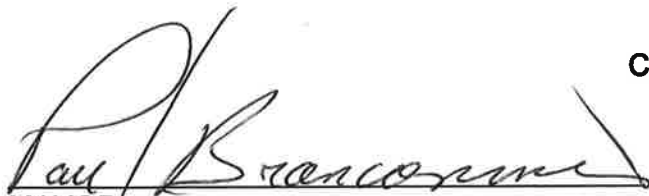
Moved by: Councillor Pothier

Seconded by: Councillor Laframboise

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports Resolution #RC24168 passed by the Municipality of Wawa, regarding Immediate Action Needed to Support Ontario's Forest Sector;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Premier Doug Ford; the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Graydon Smith; the Minister of Northern Development, Greg Rickford; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR

The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.7.

Resolution Number 2024-368

Title: Resolution Stemming from August 14, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 7.1
- Correspondence #19

Date: October 16, 2024

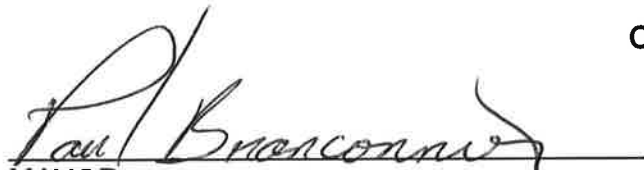
Moved by: Councillor Laframboise

Seconded by: Councillor Pothier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports Resolution #2024-08-07-10 passed by the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch & Raglan, urging the Government to promptly resume the assessment cycle;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Premier Doug Ford; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR



CLEARVIEW
TOWNSHIP

Clerk's Department
Township of Clearview
Box 200, 217 Gideon Street
Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0
clerks@clearview.ca | www.clearview.ca
Phone: 705-428-6230

October 22, 2024

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Hon. Rob Flack

Sent by Email: Rob.Flack@pc.ola.org

RE: Request for Support – Increase Tile Drain Loan Limit

Please be advised at its meeting held on October 21, 2024, Council of the Township of Clearview passed the following resolution supporting the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe's request that the Province consider increasing the maximum annual Tile Drain Loan Limit:

Moved by Councillor Beelen, Seconded by Councillor McArthur, Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview hereby support the motion from the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe requesting that the Province, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, consider increasing the maximum annual Tile Drain Loan Limit to a minimum of \$100,000; and,

That Council direct staff to send this support motion to the Honourable Rob Flack - Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and all Ontario municipalities. Motion Carried.

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

Sincerely,

Sasha Helmkey-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

cc: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
All Ontario Municipalities



The Town of The Blue Mountains Council Meeting

Title: Scott R. Butler, Executive Director, Ontario Good Roads Association and Antoine Boucher, President, Ontario Good Roads Board of Directors

Date: Monday, October 21, 2024

Moved by: Councillor McKinlay

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information the correspondence of Scott R. Butler, Executive Director, Ontario Good Roads Association and Antoine Boucher, President, Ontario Good Roads Board of Directors Re: Request for Council Consideration of Support for Resolution regarding the Establishment of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program;
WHEREAS official statistics from the Government of Ontario confirm that rural roads are inherently more dangerous than other roads;
AND WHEREAS, despite only having 17% of the population, 55% of the road fatalities occur on rural roads;
AND WHEREAS, rural, northern, and remote municipalities are fiscally strained by maintaining extensive road networks on a smaller tax base;
AND WHEREAS, preventing crashes reduces the burden on Ontario's already strained rural strained health care system;
AND WHEREAS, roadway collisions and associated lawsuits are significant factors in runaway municipal insurance premiums. Preventing crashes can have a significant impact in improving municipal risk profiles;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains requests that the Government of Ontario take action to implement the rural road safety program that Good Roads has committed to lead. It will allow Ontario's rural municipalities to make the critical investments needed to reduce the high number of people being killed and seriously injured on Ontario's rural roads; and
FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Hon. King Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, Hon. Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, and Good Roads; and
FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario requesting their support.

YES: 6

NO: 0

CONFLICT: 0

ABSENT: 1

The motion is Carried

YES: 6

Mayor Matrosovs
Councillor McKinlay

Councillor Ardiel
Councillor Porter

Councillor Hope

Councillor Maxwell

NO: 0

CONFLICT: 0

ABSENT: 1

Deputy Mayor Bordignon

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE

69 Fourth Avenue, Larder Lake, ON

Phone: 705-643-2158 Fax: 705-643-2311



MOVED BY:

☒ Thomas Armstrong
☐ Patricia Hull
☐ Paul Kelly
☐ Lynne Paquette

SECONDED BY:

☐ Thomas Armstrong
☒ Patricia Hull
☐ Paul Kelly
☐ Lynne Paquette

Motion #: 7

Resolution #: 7

Date: October 22, 2024

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Township of Larder Lake hereby supports resolution no. 2024-325 passed by the Municipality of St. Charles, regarding recommendations for government regulations of nicotine pouches; And

FURTHER THAT, this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario Doug Ford, the Deputy Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones; our local member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); THE Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Public Health Sudbury & Districts and ALL Ontario Municipalities.

Recorded vote requested: ☐

	For	Against
Tom Armstrong	✓	
Patricia Hull	✓	
Paul Kelly	✓	
Lynne Paquette	✓	
Patty Quinn	✓	

I declare this motion

☒ Carried
☐ Lost / Defeated
☐ Deferred to: _____ (enter date)
Because:
☐ Referred to: _____ (enter body)
Expected response: _____ (enter date)

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest*

Chair:

*Disclosed his/her (their) interest(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.