

#8 (a)

NEWSLETTER / SPRING 2024

JOHN VANTHOF, MPP

TIMISKAMING-COCHRANE



Op Ed:

- **The Ontario Budget: 'Building A Better Ontario' for Who?**

Current Bills:

- **Consumer's Choice Act - Right to Repair**
- **End the Public Funding of Partisan Government Advertising Act**

MPP John Vanthof visiting striking CMHA workers and hearing about the challenges they were facing.



Current Legislation in the Works

Consumers' Choice Act (Right to Repair) - in the works

(Right to Repair Electronic Products, Household Appliances, Wheelchairs, Motor Vehicles and Heavy and Farming Equipment), 2024

Goals

The manufacturer must provide the repair manual at no charge or, if a paper version is requested, at a reasonable cost. The manufacturer must also provide the replacement parts, software and tools at a fair cost.

Bill 176, End the Public Funding of Partisan Government Advertising Act, 2024

(To take out the loopholes in legislation that were used by the previous government and current government to use taxpayer dollars to fund partisan advertising campaigns.)

Goals

To prevent the use of taxpayer dollars from indirectly promoting a particular party. Informing citizens of available services is one thing, but promoting things that haven't occurred yet in an effort to promote the party in power is another. This bill attempts to shame the current government into recognizing their own hypocrisy by re-tabling their own previous bill that the Conservative government used against the Liberals.

The Ontario Budget: 'Building A Better Ontario' but for Who?

By: John Vanthof, MPP Timiskaming-Cochrane

The Ford Conservative government released its budget with much fanfare last week. Although it is the biggest spending budget ever released, with a large 10-billion-dollar deficit, its impact on key areas for the people of our region will be disappointing.

A few weeks ago, the Englehart Hospital closed its ER for a few days, due to staff shortages. With these challenges in mind, I met with representatives from Iroquois Falls, Matheson, and Cochrane and later the CEO of West Nipissing Hospital to discuss possible solutions for their chronic doctor shortages, and other challenges they are facing. These experiences were still on my mind as I read through the 2024 budget while listening to the Finance Minister's speech. Right away, I found that there won't be relief soon enough for the doctor shortage. The Ford government is promising that an additional 600,000 people will soon have access to primary care, but there are currently over 2.2 million people without a doctor and that number is continuing to grow. There was no mention of curbing private nursing agency costs that are crippling the budgets of hospitals and other healthcare facilities across the province. In terms of funding, while hospitals will be getting an increase in base funding, it is well below the rate of inflation, so there is no relief there at all. Furthermore, there was a cut to the Ministry of Community and Social Services as well, which has been felt locally as important programs and supports in developmental services have been discontinued. One small, but significant gain was an increase to the Northern Health Travel Grant Program which will now reimburse \$170 a night for a hotel room. Although I am glad to finally see this happen for

northerners, we need more investment from this government, and we just aren't seeing it. Many of the major announcements for the north were in fact re-announcements; the return of the Northlander, the road to the Ring of Fire, and the 2 plus 1 Highway Project have all been counted in previous budgets as well.

This budget also fails to address the availability and the affordability of housing across the province. While the budget contained a fund for infrastructure construction, streets, water mains and sewer lines, the amount was much smaller than municipalities will need to provide these services. Furthermore, the budget is providing a much smaller amount for these builds than the revenue cuts that the province previously imposed on municipalities. That funding shortfall is even more pronounced in northern and rural ridings, so how are we supposed to increase our housing supply? Last year, the Ford government cited the need for land as the biggest roadblock to housing construction. That was the reason given for paving over the Greenbelt which was reversed after shady deals by the Ford government to insiders was unearthed by the NDP. This scandal caused the government to back off. It turns out they didn't need the land after all, but the waste of all this time has put development behind and now, with a lack of investment for municipalities, especially in the north, things aren't getting any easier on the housing front.

Finally, the affordability crisis is now affecting every Ontarian. We are all spending less. The use of food banks in Ontario has exploded in the last year by 40%. Food banks now open on weekends and evenings so people with jobs can access them. This budget doesn't even mention that. The Ford Conservative government continues to spend millions of dollars on advertising to tell us how good things are going to be instead of trying to change how things are right now. When we sat beside them in opposition, they complained about the Liberal government doing the exact same thing. It's important that taxpayer's money is spent on things that taxpayer's need, not to try and convince people that life will be better someday.

I hate to be the bearer of bad news but, the 2024 budget is more of the same from this government; the rich get richer, and the rest of the province is left to scramble for what's left. Workers are working longer and harder for less of everything. Ford's Conservatives are 'Building a Better Ontario', but for who?

A 50 Year Dream Is Realized in Field, ON

Residents in Field welcomed the opening of their covered outdoor rink after working on raising funds and planning for it for over 40 years. Congratulations to everyone whose work resulted in a great public space and to the Caisse, the NOHFC, and the Municipality of West Nipissing and the core group of volunteers whose tireless work has paid off.



Jour de la Francophonie Ontarien/Ontarienne



Franco-Ontarian Day/Jour de la Francophonie Ontarien/Ontarienne at Queen's Park on March 20th, 2024 Ontario NDP Caucus

The Office of John Vanthof Francophone Staff Members

Cathy Pfeifer, New Liskeard, Kirkland Lake

Anita Bourgois, Sturgeon Falls Office

Lise Beaulne, Cochrane, Iroquois Falls, Matheson

Upcoming Events

KL Kabaret - Kirkland Lake, Lasalle Theatre (March 21), Cam's Club Spaghetti Dinner - Riverside Place, New Liskeard (March 22), White Woods School Visit grade 5/6 - Sturgeon Falls (Apr 3), The Earlton Farm Show (April 12 & 13)



John and schoolchildren at the Earlton Farm Show in 2023



Contact Information

Offices of John Vanthof

Sturgeon Falls

193 King St. 2nd Flr.

Open Wed - Fri 1-4:30pm

1-888-771-9551

New Liskeard

247 Whitewood Ave. Unit 5

Open Mon-Fri 9-12, 1-4:30

1-888-701-1105

Kirkland Lake

63B Government Rd.

Open Wed 9-12, 1-4:30

1-800-461-2186

Matheson

DCSSB Office (385 Railway St. Matheson, ON) - 1st Tues of every month 9-3 (closed 12-1)

Cochrane

Centre de Formation Cochrane-Iroquois Falls (129 Sixth Ave Unit B) - Friday 9-3 (closed 12-1)

Iroquois Falls

Service Ontario (33 Ambridge Drive Main Floor) - Thursday 9-3 (closed 12-1)

Regional Services Branch

Direction des services régionaux

435 James Street South, Suite 334
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7

435, rue James Sud, bureau 334
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7

April 15, 2024

Karine Pelletier
Clerk-Treasurer
The Corporation of the Township of McGarry
27 Webster Street
Virginiatown, ON P0K1X0
kpelletier@mcgarry.ca

Dear Mrs. Karine Pelletier:

Re: **Case Number: 2023-12-1-2346140290**
Summer Employment Opportunities Program 2024

I am writing to inform you that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport is unable to fund your proposal for a Summer Employment Opportunities Program grant under this year's program criteria.

Many excellent proposals were received, and the decision-making process was a difficult one. The limited funds available for this year's Summer Employment Opportunities Program permitted approval only for projects that most closely met the stated program objectives and ministry priorities.

Please feel free to contact Tanya Litt at (705) 266-3802 or by e-mail at Tanya.Litt@ontario.ca if you wish to discuss further.

Although it is not possible for the Ministry to assist your organization at this time, I would like to offer you every success in your future endeavours.

Sincerely,



Wendy Savioli
Manager

**Ministry of Tourism, Culture
and Sport**

Assistant Deputy Minister
Tourism and Culture Division
5th Flr, 400 University Ave
Toronto ON M7A 2R9
Tel. 416 314-7262

**Ministère du tourisme de la culture et
du sport**

Sous-ministre adjointe
Division du tourisme et de
la culture
5e étage, 400, av. University
Toronto ON M7A 2R9
Tél. : 416 314-7262



April 8, 2024

Karine Pelletier
Clerk-Treasurer
THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MCGARRY
27 Webster Street
Virginiatown, ON P0K1X0
kpelletier@mcgarry.ca

Dear Mrs. Karine Pelletier:

Re: **Case Number: 2023-11-1-2345208759**
Summer Employment Opportunities Program 2024

I am pleased to inform you that your organization has been approved for a Summer Employment Opportunities Program grant to hire one Tourist Centre Attendant for the summer of 2024. You will be receiving a grant in the amount of \$3,816 in one instalment.

By signing and submitting the Ministry's application form, you agreed to the general terms and conditions of this grant. As an employer, you are required to adhere to the *Employment Standards Act, 2000*, including paying no less than the minimum wage. For requirements around hiring your summer student(s) and reporting on the grant, please refer to the Summer Employment Opportunities Program Guidelines.

Tanya Litt is the Regional Development Advisor assigned to your file. If you have any questions regarding your case, Tanya can be reached at (705) 266-3802 or by e-mail at Tanya.Litt@ontario.ca.

Congratulations and best wishes for success.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Gatten", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Katherine Kelly Gatten
Assistant Deputy Minister
Tourism and Culture Division

Ministry of Finance

Provincial-Local Finance Division

Frost Building North
95 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON M7A 1Z1

Fax: 1 888 333-2138

Ministère des Finances

Division des relations provinciales
municipales en matière de finances

Édifice Frost nord
95 rue Grosvenor
Toronto ON M7A 1Z1

Télééc. : 1 888 333-2138

April 4, 2024

Dear Municipal Treasurer / Clerk-Treasurer:

I am writing to inform you of a few announcements related to municipal taxation made in the 2024 Ontario Budget, including:

1. A new property tax option available to municipalities.
2. Extension of Municipal Vacant Home Tax authority, as well as the release of a Provincial Policy Framework.

Taxation of new multi-residential rental properties

Ontario is committed to addressing the current housing crisis and increasing housing affordability for the people of Ontario. To further encourage the development of purpose-built rental properties, effective immediately, Ontario is providing municipalities with the flexibility to offer a reduced municipal property tax rate on new multi-residential rental properties.

Municipalities will be able to offer this type of tax reduction through the adoption of an optional new multi-residential property subclass within the new multi-residential property class.

Single-tier or upper-tier municipalities that are interested in offering a reduced municipal property tax rate can do so by passing a municipal by-law adopting the subclass and setting a reduction percentage of up to 35%, as determined by the municipality.

Only new multi-residential developments would qualify for a reduced property tax rate, pursuant to a building permit issued on or after an effective date specified in the municipal by-law. Consistent with the approach taken for the previously implemented new multi-residential property class, a property would be subject to the tax reduction once construction has been completed and the building is ready for occupancy. The property would benefit from a reduced rate for a period of 35 years.

Amendments have been made to regulations under the *Assessment Act*, *Municipal Act, 2001*, and the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*. These enabling regulations are available on e-laws at the following links:

- [O. Reg. 140/24: GENERAL \(ontario.ca\)](#)

- O. Reg. 141/24: TAX MATTERS – SPECIAL TAX RATES AND LIMITS (ontario.ca)
- O. Reg. 142/24: TRADITIONAL MUNICIPAL TAXES, LIMITS AND COLLECTION (ontario.ca)

If you have any questions related to this new flexibility, please contact Chris Broughton, Director of the Property Tax Policy Branch at Chris.Broughton@ontario.ca or 416-455-6307.

Municipal Vacant Home Taxes

An unoccupied home is unacceptable in a housing crisis. That is why Ontario is empowering municipalities to make more vacant homes available for housing.

Ontario has responded to municipal requests for additional clarity and flexibility around the existing municipal Vacant Home Tax authority by:

- Extending authority broadly to all single- and upper-tier municipalities to impose a tax on vacant homes, effective immediately.
- Releasing a Provincial Policy Framework. Municipalities will be supported with a new Provincial Policy Framework that sets out best practices for implementing a Vacant Home Tax. The Framework will also encourage municipalities to set a higher Vacant Home Tax rate for foreign-owned vacant homes.

Amendments have been made to the relevant regulations under the *Municipal Act, 2001*. This enabling regulation is available on e-laws at the following link:

- O. Reg. 143/24: OPTIONAL TAX ON VACANT RESIDENTIAL UNITS - DESIGNATED MUNICIPALITIES

The Provincial Policy Framework for municipal Vacant Home Taxes has been released, and is available at:

- Provincial Policy Framework

If you have any questions related to the Municipal Vacant Home Tax authority, please contact Mary Iannaci, Director of the Municipal Funding Policy Branch at Mary.Iannaci@ontario.ca or 647-407-0820.

Sincerely,



Ian Freeman, CPA, CMA
Assistant Deputy Minister
Provincial-Local Finance Division

#8 (e)

The 2024 Census Test is coming in May | Le Test du recensement de 2024 aura lieu en mai

1 message

Census Communications <statcan.census-recensement.statcan@statcan.gc.ca>
To: kpelletier@mcgarry.ca

Tue, Apr 30, 2024 at 11:08 AM

(La version française suit)

Hello,

I am reaching out to inform you about the upcoming [2024 Census Test](#).

As part of its standard process, Statistics Canada conducts a comprehensive test of the revised census questionnaire and collection procedures two years before every census. The census test is designed to improve the clarity of the census questions and effectiveness of the collection procedures, helping to ensure accurate and efficient data collection for the 2026 Census of Population and the 2026 Census of Agriculture.

In turn, these data help inform municipal policy and planning decisions in areas that matter most to the people and communities – like housing, transit, schools, infrastructure, and the environment.

About the 2024 Census Test

The census test will take place between May 6 and June 28, 2024, spanning across all 10 provinces. Approximately 198,000 households and 10,000 agricultural operations have been randomly selected to participate in this test.

Out of the total sample, 89,000 households were randomly selected from Nova Scotia, Québec, and Saskatchewan. Statistics Canada enumerators will assist respondents in these communities in completing their census test questionnaire.

The remaining 108,700 households were randomly selected from all 10 provinces. These households will be required to complete census test questionnaires but will not receive in-person follow-up visits from census enumerators.

Participation and confidentiality

Households selected to participate in the 2024 Census of Population Test will receive a letter containing instructions on how to fill out a questionnaire. The easiest way to complete the census test questionnaire is online. However, paper questionnaires will be available on demand. If a household is selected for the census test, it is legally required to participate.

All information is collected under the authority of the *Statistics Act* and will be kept strictly confidential. Census test data are collected for test purposes only and will not be released to the public.

The 2024 Census of Agriculture Test, by contrast, is voluntary. Nevertheless, Statistics Canada relies on the responses from farmers across Canada to assess their understanding of the questionnaire content.

This year, Statistics Canada is introducing a new participation method for a selected number of households (around 8,700). These households will be given two options. They can:

- fill out a questionnaire, or
- allow Statistics Canada to count the members of their household using pre-existing information already provided to the government.

If households choose this latter option, no further action is required from them, and their legal obligation to participate in the census test is fulfilled.

For more information

For more information, visit the [2024 Census Test](#) page. To learn more about other milestones related to the 2026 Census, visit [The road to the 2026 Census](#).

Sincerely,

Geoff Bowlby
Director General, Census Program
Statistics Canada / Government of Canada

Bonjour,

Je tiens à vous informer du [Test du recensement de 2024](#) à venir.

Dans le cadre de son processus normalisé, Statistique Canada mène une évaluation exhaustive du questionnaire et des procédures de collecte révisés deux ans avant chaque recensement. Le test du recensement est conçu en vue d'améliorer la clarté des questions du recensement et l'efficacité des procédures de collecte, afin d'assurer une collecte de données précise et efficace pour le Recensement de la population de 2026 et le Recensement de l'agriculture de 2026.

Les données contribuent à éclairer les politiques municipales et les décisions de planification dans les domaines qui comptent le plus pour les personnes et les communautés, comme le logement, le transport, les écoles, l'infrastructure et l'environnement.

À propos du Test du recensement de 2024

Du 6 mai au 28 juin 2024, le test du recensement sera mené dans les 10 provinces auprès d'environ 198 000 ménages et 10 000 exploitations agricoles sélectionnés au hasard.

De l'échantillon total, 89 000 ménages ont été sélectionnés de façon aléatoire en Nouvelle-Écosse, au Québec et en Saskatchewan. Les agents recenseurs de Statistique Canada aideront les répondants de ces communautés à remplir le questionnaire du test du recensement.

Les 108 700 ménages restants ont été sélectionnés au hasard dans les 10 provinces. Ces ménages devront remplir un questionnaire du test du recensement, mais ils ne recevront pas de visite de suivi de la part d'agents recenseurs.

Participation et confidentialité

Les ménages sélectionnés pour participer au Test du recensement de 2024 recevront une lettre indiquant comment répondre au questionnaire. Le plus simple est de remplir le questionnaire du test du recensement en ligne. Des questionnaires papier seront toutefois offerts sur demande. Si un ménage est sélectionné pour participer au test du recensement, il est tenu de le faire en vertu de la Loi.

Tous les renseignements sont recueillis en vertu de la *Loi sur la statistique* et resteront strictement confidentiels. Les données du test du recensement sont recueillies uniquement à des fins de mise à l'essai et ne seront pas diffusées au public.

En revanche, la participation au Test du recensement de l'agriculture de 2024 est volontaire. Statistique Canada s'appuie néanmoins sur les réponses fournies par les agriculteurs de partout au pays pour évaluer la clarté du contenu du questionnaire.

Cette année, Statistique Canada adopte une nouvelle méthode de participation pour environ 8 700 ménages sélectionnés, qui pourront choisir l'une de deux options :

- remplir un questionnaire;
- permettre à Statistique Canada de dénombrer les membres du ménage au moyen de renseignements déjà fournis au gouvernement.

Les ménages qui choisissent la deuxième option auront satisfait à leur obligation légale de participer au test du recensement et aucune autre mesure ne sera requise de leur part.

Pour en savoir plus

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter la page du [Test du recensement de 2024](#). Pour en apprendre davantage au sujet des autres étapes importantes menant au Recensement de 2026, visitez la page [En route vers le Recensement de 2026](#).

Si vous avez des questions, veuillez communiquer avec les Communications du recensement à [statcan.census-recensement.statcan@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:statcan@statcan.gc.ca)

Geoff Bowlby
Directeur général, Programme du recensement
Statistique Canada / Gouvernement du Canada



10 (a)

Minutes of a Recreation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday March 5th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

1. Opening of Meeting by the Committee Chair / Ouverture de la réunion par le/la Président(e) du comité:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Roll Call / Appel nominal:

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Chair Councillor Louanne Caza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-Chair Councillor Annie Keft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paulette Paquet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Walsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alyson Nickel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mayor Bonita Culhane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Deputy-Clerk: Melanie Jensen
Members of the Public: 1

Moved by Alyson Nickel **07/2024**
Seconded by Paulette Paquet **Absent**

THAT the Chair agrees to grant a leave of absence to Member Mary Walsh for the Recreation Committee Meeting of March 5th, 2024, due to appropriate advance notice submitted to the Clerk or Chair.

Carried

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Addendum / Adoption de l'ordre du jour et de l'addenda.

Moved by Paulette Paquet **08/2024**
Seconded by Alyson Nickel **Agenda**

THAT the agenda for the Recreation Committee Meeting held on March 5th, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

4. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest / Déclaration d'intérêts pécuniaires: None**
5. **Minutes of Previous Meetings / Procès-verbal des réunions précédentes :**

Moved by Paulette Paquet
Seconded Alyson Nickel

09/2024
Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting held on February 6th , 2024, be adopted.

Carried

6. **Matters arising from the minutes/Affaires découlant des procès-verbaux: None**
7. **Deputations / Délégations / Députations / Délégations : None**
8. **Correspondence, Information / Correspondance, Information: None**
9. **Members Update Reports / Rapports de mise à jour des membres :**

-Report was given verbally and posted online.

10. **New Business/ Nouvelles affaires:**

- a) **Budget:** Members discussed the Budget.
- b) **Terms of Reference:**

Moved by Alyson Nickel
Seconded by Paulette Paquet

10/2024
Terms of Reference

THAT the Recreation Committee accept the Terms of Reference and bring it forward to Council for final approval.

Carried

- c) **March Break Activities:** Members discussed March Break activities.
- d) **Easter Celebration:** Members discussed Easter Celebration.
- e) **Zamboni:** Members discussed the Zamboni and were told By Mayor Culhane that it will be declared as Surplus.
- f) **Kitchen Renovations:** Deferred to the next meeting.
- g) **March 13 alternatives (Ice Fishing):** members discussed doing indoor activities instead of ice fishing.
- h) **Grants:** Deferred to the next meeting.
- i) **Basketball Nets:** Members discussed getting basketball nets but will hold off a little bit and look at other options before purchasing.

11. a) Submitted Questions / Questions soumises : None
b) Audience Questions / Questions de l'auditoire : None

A question period was held.

12. Closed Meeting/ Réunion à huis clos: None

13. Adjournment / Clôture de l'assemblée:

Moved by Paulette Paquet
Seconded by Alyson Nickel

11/2024
Adjournment

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 8:12 p.m.



Chair – Councilor Louanne Caza



#10 (b)

Minutes of a Strategic Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday March 26th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in person in the meeting room or by phone.

1. Opening of Meeting by the Committee Chair:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Roll Call:

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Chair Councillor Elaine Fic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-Chair Councillor Annie Keft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Gabourie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Taylor White	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mayor Bonita Culhane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Clerk Typist: Melanie Jensen
Member of the audience: 3

Moved by Wendy Weller **10/2024**
Seconded by Bonita Culhane **Absent**

THAT the Chair agrees to grant a leave of absence to Member Taylor White and John Gabourie for the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting of March 26th, 2024, due to appropriate advance notice submitted to the Clerk or Chair.

Carried

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Addendum:

Moved by Bonita Culhane **11/2024**
Seconded by Wendy Weller **Agenda**

THAT the agenda for the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting held on March 26th, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest: None

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings :

Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Wendy Weller

**12/2024
Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting held on February 27th, 2024, be adopted.

Carried

6. Matters arising from the minutes: None

7. Deputations: None

8. Correspondence, Information:

9. Members Update Reports:

-Members gave a verbal report.

10. New Business:

a) Change time of meeting:

Deferred to next meeting.

b) Trade Show:

Deferred to next meeting.

c) Terms of Reference:

Moved by Annie Keft
Seconded by Wendy Weller

**13/2024
Terms of Reference**

THAT the Strategic Planning Committee accepts the Terms of reference and bring it forward to Council for final approval.

Carried

d) Budget:

Members discussed the Budget.

e) Review Draft Strategic Plan:

Members discussed the Strategic Plan and will bring forward any changes to Council.

11. a) Submitted Questions: None

b) Audience Questions:

A question period was held.

12. Adjournment:

Moved by Annie Keft
Seconded by Wendy Weller

**14/2024
Adjournment**

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Carried

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elaine Fic", is written over a horizontal line.

Chair Councillor Elaine Fic

10 (c)



April 23rd, 2024

Resolution No. 18/2024

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

MOVED BY Annie Keft
SECONDED BY Wendy Weber

THAT the Strategic Planning Committee accepts the resignation of Member Taylor White and forwards the resignation to Council.

Defeated _____ / Carried Elaine Fic
Chair Chair

Recorded Vote	Requested by _____	
	YES	NO
Chair Councillor Elaine Fic	_____	_____
Co-Chair Councillor Annie Keft	_____	_____
Taylor White	_____	_____
John Gabourie	_____	_____
Mayor Bonita Culhane	_____	_____

From: Taylor Hodgins <tayb.hodgins@gmail.com>
Sent: April 19, 2024 3:19 PM
To: mjensen@mcgarry.ca
Subject: Resignation from Committee

Good Afternoon,

I am writing today to inform you that I will no longer be able to sit on the Strategic Planning Committee. In recent months I have had many changes in my personal and professional life that have made it difficult for me to fulfill the commitment I have made to the committee and as such feel it is my responsibility to step down. I wish the committee luck with its future projects for the township.

Thank you,

Taylor White



#10 (d)

Minutes of a Tourist Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, March 6th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in person or on the phone.

1. Opening of Meeting by the Committee Chair:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Roll Call:

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Chair Councillor Francine Plante	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-Chair Councillor Elaine Fic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nyla Koomans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Renate Schmitz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mayor Bonita Culhane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Deputy-Clerk: Melanie Jensen
Members of the public: 2

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Addendum

Moved by Nyla Koomans **06/2024**
Seconded by Renate Schmitz **Agenda**

THAT the agenda for the Tourist Committee Meeting held on March 6th, 2024, be adopted with the addition of item #10 (f) BBQ Marina during the Policing Committee Boat Safety.

Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest: None

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Moved by Renate Schmitz **07/2024**
Seconded by Nyla Koomans **Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Tourist Committee Meeting held on February 7th, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

6. **Matters arising from the minutes: None**

7. **Deputations / Délégations: None**

8. **Correspondance, Information: None**

9. **Members Update Reports:**

Members update was done verbally. It can be listened to online.

10. **New Business:**

a) **Change of meeting time from 7:00 pm to 6:00 pm:**

Moved by Nyla Koomans
Seconded by Renate Schmitz

08/2024
Change of Time

THAT the Tourist Centre Committee would like to change the time of the monthly meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Carried

b) **Vendors Market:** Members discussed details on the Vendor Market.

c) **Season Opening:** Members discussed details on the season opening.

d) **2025 calendars, photos:** Members discussed next year's calendar and some options of printing.

e) **Summer Canteen, inventory:** Members discussed what the canteen can have for inventory this summer.

f) **BBQ Marina:** Members discussed the possibility of pairing up with the Policing Committee and hosting a BBQ at one of their events.

11. a) **Submitted Questions: None**

b) **Audience Questions:**

A question period was held.

12. **Closed Meeting: None**

13. Adjournment:

Moved by Nyla Koomans
Seconded by Renate Schmitz

09/2024
Adjournment

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Carried


Chair – Councillor Francine Plante



Minutes of the Community Policing Committee held on Thursday, February 15th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in person in the meeting room or by phone.

1. Opening of the Meeting by the Chair of the Committee

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Roll Call: The Chair took a roll call

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Chair Councillor Francine Plante	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-Chair Councillor Louanne Caza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bastiaan Koomans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Merdy Armstrong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Daniel Quevillon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mayor Bonita Culhane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sergeant Daniel Senf
Sergeant Matt Ormsby - ERT
Clerk-Typist: Melanie Jensen
Members of the audience present: 4

Moved by Daniel Quevillon **05/2024**
Seconded by Bastiaan Koomans **Absent**

THAT the Chair agrees to grant a leave of absence to member Merdy Armstrong for the Community Policing Committee meeting of February 15, 2024, due to appropriate advance notice submitted to the Clerk or Chair.

Carried

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Addendum:

Moved by Bastiaan Koomans **06/2024**
Seconded by Daniel Quevillon **Adoption of Agenda**

THAT the agenda for the Community Policing Committee Meeting held on February 15th

2024, be adopted with addition of #10 (a) Request of time change for the Policing meetings and item #10 (b) Terms of Reference.

Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary of Interest: None

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Moved by Daniel Quevillon
Seconded by Bastiaan Koomans

07/2024
Previous Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Meeting of the Community Policing held on January 18th , 2024 be adopted.

Carried

6. Matters arising from the minutes: None

7. Deputations / Delegations :

- Presentation on Survival Safety that can be seen heard online.

8. Correspondance, Information : None

9. Members Update Reports:

- Members verbally gave a verbal report.

10. New Business:

a) Request to change the time:

Moved by Bastiaan Koomans
Seconded by Daniel Quevillon

08/2024
Time Change

THAT the Community Policing Committee would like to change the time of the monthly meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Carried

- b) Terms of Reference: Chair Councillor Plante gave a copy of the Terms of Reference to her members to review and come back with at the next monthly meeting.

11. a) Submitted Questions : None

b) Audience Questions : None

12. **Closed Meeting:** None

13. **Adjournment:**

Moved by Bastiaan Koomans
Seconded by Daniel Quevillon

09/2024
Adjournment

That this meeting be adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Carried


Chair Councillor Francine Plante



#10(F)

Minutes of a **Communication Committee Meeting** held on Tuesday April 16th, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

1. Opening of Communication Committee Meeting by the Chair at 5:30 p.m.

2. Attendance

Present

Absent

Mayor Bonita Culhane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Elaine Fic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Francine Plante	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Louanne Caza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Annie Keft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Addendum

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Louanne Caza

**01/2024
Agenda**

THAT the agenda for the Communication Committee Meeting held on April 16th, 2024 be adopted..

Carried

4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest : None

5. Minutes of previous Meeting: None

6. Matters Arising from the minutes: None

7. Deputation / Delegation: None

8. Correspondence: None

9. Members Update Reports: None

10. New Business: None

11. Closed Meeting:

Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

02/2024
Closed

THAT Council goes into closed session at 5:31 p.m. Under the Ontario Municipal Act 239 (2) (a) the security of the property of the municipality or local board; (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; 239 (3.1) (1) The meeting is held for the purpose of educating or training the members.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

03/2024
Out Closed

THAT Communication Committee come out of closed session at 6:30 p.m.

Carried

12. Adjournment

Moved By Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded By Councillor Annie Keft

04/2024
Adjournment

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK

MAYOR

MINUTES

Timiskaming Health Unit Board of Health

Special Meeting held on March 25, 2024 at 4:30 P.M.

Microsoft Teams

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Board of Health Members

Stacy Wight	Chair, Municipal Appointee of Kirkland Lake
Casey Owens	Municipal Appointee for Town of Kirkland Lake
Jeff Laferriere	Municipal Appointee for Temiskaming Shores
Curtis Arthur	Provincial Appointee
Guy Godmaire	Municipal Representative for Township of Brethour, Harris, Harley & Casey, Village of Thornloe
Steve McIntyre	Municipal Appointee for Township of Armstrong, Hudson, James, Kerns & Matachewan
Carol Lowery	Municipal Appointee for Town of Cobalt, Town of Latchford, Municipality of Temagami, and Township of Coleman
Paul Kelly	Municipal Appointee for Township of Larder Lake, McGarry & Gauthier
Cathy Dwyer	Provincial Appointee
Todd Steis	Provincial Appointee
David Lowe	Provincial Appointee

Regrets

Mark Wilson	Municipal Appointee for Temiskaming Shores
Gord Saunders	Municipal Appointee for Township of Chamberlain, Charlton, Evanturel, Hilliard, Dack & Town of Englehart
Jesse Foley	Vice-Chair, Municipal Appointee for Temiskaming Shores

Timiskaming Health Unit Staff Members

Dr. Glenn Corneil	Acting Medical Officer of Health/CEO
Randy Winters	Director of Corporate and Protection Services
Erin Cowan	Director of Strategic Services and Health Promotion
Rachelle Cote	Executive Assistant

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION #1S-2024

Moved by: Jeff Laferriere

Seconded by: Guy Godmaire

Be it resolved that the Board of Health adopts the agenda for its special meeting held on March 25, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

4. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE**

None.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **BOH Merger Working Group Minutes**

Minutes of February 27 were shared for information.

b. **Proposed Recommendations for Discussion**

i. **Board of Health Sub-Committee**

MOTION #2S-2024

Moved by: Paul Kelly

Seconded by: Casey Owens

Be it resolved that the Board of Health approves the creation of a Finance Board of Health sub-committee for the merged public health agency.

CARRIED

ii. **Formal Intent to Merge**

Dr. Corneil reaffirmed the benefits of voluntary merging with Porcupine Health Unit. After many meetings, discussions and planning, the PHU-THU will be submitting the merger application to the ministry on April 2, 2024, including the following motion:

MOTION #3S-2024

Moved by: Guy Godmaire

Seconded by: Casey Owens

WHEREAS the Boards of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit have long recognized the opportunity to strengthen local public health across the combined region through a voluntary merger with funding from the Ministry of Health and direction from the Boards of Health to move forward exploring this since 2020; and,

WHEREAS the Boards of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit, each passed a resolution in October-November 2023 to direct their Medical Officers of Health/Chief Executive Officers (MOH/CEOs) to work towards a voluntary merger between the Porcupine and Timiskaming Health Units; and,

WHEREAS the Boards of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit do not support discussions nor work towards mergers beyond these two health units; and,

WHEREAS the MOH/CEOs for the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit have since undertaken a process of collaboration, negotiation, and joint engagement, along with the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit

Boards of Health and senior management teams to pursue this merger with the development of the required Ministry of Health Voluntary Merger Business Case; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit agrees to voluntarily merge to strengthen public health across their combined region, subject to the following conditions:

- a. The Government approves the intended merger; and,
- b. The Government commits to providing adequate and appropriate funding to the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit to support the intended merger, including transition costs and business continuity funding.

FURTHERMORE, that the Boards of Health authorize the MOH/CEO to forward a copy of this resolution to the Ministry of Health;

AND FURTHER, that the Boards of Health authorize the MOH/CEO to forward the Voluntary Merger Business Case to the Ministry no later than April 2, 2024, fully signed by the MOH/CEOs and Board Chairs for the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit, confirming agreement on intent to merge Porcupine Health Unit and Timiskaming Health Unit, pending government approval.

CARRIED

iii. **Board of Health Composition**

A briefing note was shared for information. Dr. Corneil briefed the board on the discussions and criteria agreed on by the BOH Merger Working group. The proposed composition based on agreed principles, both geographical and population-based considerations was utilized to determine municipal representation.

Note: should any of the PHU grouping of municipal representation be modified, the THU motion will not be affected, if the changes are minor.

MOTION #4S-2024

Moved by: Casey Owens

Seconded by: Curt Arthur

Be it resolved that the Board of Health approves the Board of Health composition for the merged local public health agency as presented.

CARRIED

Municipality	Current Health Unit Area	Number of Appointees (10)	Population Size
City of Timmins	Porcupine Health Unit	2	41,145
Temiskaming Shores	Timiskaming Health Unit	1	9,634
Kapuskasing	Porcupine Health Unit	1	8,057
Kirkland Lake	Timiskaming Health Unit	1	7,750
Cochrane and surrounding (Smooth Rock Falls,)	Porcupine Health Unit	1	6,608
Hearst and surrounding (Mattice Val Cote, Moonbeam, Val Rita Harty, Opatatika, Fauquier-Strickland, Hornepayne)	Porcupine Health Unit	1	8,885
Iroquois Falls and surrounding (Black River Matheson, Larder Lake, McGarry, Gauthier, Matachewan)	Porcupine Health Unit / Timiskaming Health Unit	1	8,733
Rural South (Charlton & Dack, Englehart, Chamberlain, Evanturel, Armstrong, Brethour, Casey, Cobalt, Coleman, Harley, Harris, Hilliard, Hudson, James, Kerns, Latchford, Temagami, Thornloe)	Timiskaming Health Unit	1	9,878
Moosonee (James Bay and Hudson Bay region)	Porcupine Health Unit	1	1,471

6. **DATES OF NEXT MEETING**

The next regular Board of Health meeting will be held on April 3, 2024 at 6:30 pm in New Liskeard.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION #5S-2024

Moved by: Todd Steis

Seconded by: Guy Godmaire

Be it resolved that the Board of Health agrees to adjourn the special meeting at 5:26 pm.

CARRIED

MINUTES

Timiskaming Health Unit Board of Health

Regular Meeting held on March 6, 2024 at 6:30 PM

THU KL Boardroom / Microsoft Teams

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Board of Health Members

Stacy Wight	Chair, Municipal Appointee of Kirkland Lake
Mark Wilson	Municipal Appointee for Temiskaming Shores
Jeff Laferriere	Municipal Appointee for Temiskaming Shores (<i>video</i>)
Curtis Arthur	Provincial Appointee
Carol Lowery	Municipal Appointee for Town of Cobalt, Town of Latchford, Municipality of Temagami, and Township of Coleman
Paul Kelly	Municipal Appointee for Township of Larder Lake, McGarry & Gauthier
David Lowe	Provincial Appointee
Guy Godmaire	Municipal Representative for Township of Brethour, Harris, Harley & Casey, Village of Thornloe (<i>video</i>)
Steve McIntyre	Municipal Appointee for Township of Armstrong, Hudson, James, Kerns & Matachewan (<i>video</i>)
Casey Owens	Municipal Appointee for Town of Kirkland Lake (<i>video</i>)
Cathy Dwyer	Provincial Appointee
Todd Steis	Provincial Appointee

Regrets

Gord Saunders	Municipal Appointee for Township of Chamberlain, Charlton, Evanturel, Hilliard, Dack & Town of Englehart
Jesse Foley	Vice-Chair, Municipal Appointee for Temiskaming Shore
Erin Cowan	Director of Strategic Services and Health Promotion

Timiskaming Health Unit Staff Members

Dr. Glenn Corneil	Acting Medical Officer of Health/CEO
Randy Winters	Director of Corporate and Protection Services
Rachelle Cote	Executive Assistant

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION #16R-2024

Moved by: Cathy Dwyer

Seconded by: Paul Kelly

Be it resolved that the Board of Health adopts the agenda for its regular meeting held on March 6, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

4. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE**

None.

5. **PRESENTATION: HEALTHY GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT**

Presenters: Jennifer Cardinal, Program Manager of Family Health

Kara Rivard, Senior Public Health Nurse

Megan Robertson, Family Resource Worker

Staff presented an overview of the family health services provided at THU. The presentation is available [here](#).

Jennifer, Kara and Megan left the meeting room at 6:48 pm.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION #17R-2024

Moved by: David Lowe

Seconded by: Mark Wilson

Be it resolved that the Board of Health approves the minutes of its regular meeting held on January 31, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

7. **BUSINESS ARISING**

None noted.

8. **REPORTS OF MOH/CEO**

Dr. Corneil provided a summary of the local situation and other related updates.

Dr. Corneil expressed the importance of maintaining routine vaccinations and provided an update on the measles outbreak situation. Public health units are currently preparing for a potential surge. More information to be provided as available.'

9. **HUMAN RESOURCES & FINANCE UPDATE**

Randy Winters provided an update for information purposes.

10. NEW BUSINESS**a. PHU-THU Merger Update**

Chair Wight thanked all applicants and is pleased with the synergy of the working group. Dr. Corneil provided the following update:

- A BOH working group including both MOHs and Chairs, a provincial appointee, the merger advisor, municipal representatives and a Program Manager as recorder. The group meets monthly to discuss and make recommendations on specific items of the merger process/application, due to the ministry, April 2, 2024.
- An e-communication update was shared with all staff, the Board of Health, community partners and municipalities on February 29, 2024. Looking to issue quarterly or as required.
- Monthly calls are held with the Ministry to discuss the merger process and challenges. Discussions are very beneficial for both parties involved.

b. PHU-THU Board Working Group Update**i. BOH Working Group Minutes**

Minutes of February 12 were shared for information.

ii. BOH Merger Working Group – Terms of Reference**MOTION #18R-2024**

Moved by: Casey Owens

Seconded by: Jesse Foley

Be it resolved that the Timiskaming Board of Health, having reviewed the BOH Merger Working Group Terms of Reference, approve the contents.

CARRIED

iii. Motions for Discussions:**(1) BOH Merger Working Group – Name of the New Proposed Local PH Agency****MOTION #19R-2024**

Moved by: Casey Owens

Seconded by: Todd Steis

Be it resolved that the Timiskaming Board of Health approve the name of the new proposed Local Public Health Agency to “Board of Health for the Northeastern Public Health Unit”, publicly known as Northeastern Public Health / Santé publique du Nord-Est.

CARRIED

(2) **Geographical Boundaries**

MOTION #20R-2024

Moved by: Carol Lowery

Seconded by: Curt Arthur

Be it resolved that the Timiskaming Board of Health approve the geographic boundaries of the new proposed public health agency to reflect the current geographic boundaries of the PHU and THU combined.

CARRIED

(3) **BOH Governance**

MOTION #21R-2024

Moved by: Cathy Dwyer

Seconded by: David Lowe

Be it resolved that the Timiskaming Board of Health approves an autonomous Board of Health governance model for the proposed public health agency.

CARRIED

(4) **Leadership Model**

MOTION #22R-2024

Moved by: Paul Kelly

Seconded by: Casey Owens

Be it resolved that the Timiskaming Board of Health approves the combined Medical Officer of Health/Chief Executive Officer leadership model with an Associate Medical Officer of Health position for the new proposed public health agency.

CARRIED

c. **alPha Winter Symposium Update**

Mr. Arthur provided summary notes and a brief overview of the conference topics.

d. **Briefing Note: Household Food Insecurity**

MOTION #23R-2024

Moved by: Guy Godmaire

Seconded by: Casey Owens

Be it resolved that the Board of Health endorse the Public Health Sudbury and Districts calls for the provincial government to incorporate local food affordability data in determining adequacy of social assistance rates to reflect the current costs of living and to index to inflation going forward as summarized by multiple Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alpha) resolutions:

[AO5-18](#) (Adequate Nutrition for Ontario Works and Living Wage),

[A18-02](#) (Minimum Wage that is Living Wage),

[A15-04](#) (Basic Income Guarantee), and

A23-05 (Monitoring Food Affordability in Ontario and the Inadequacy of Social Assistance Rates) and to continue prioritizing monitoring food affordability as part of population health and surveillance efforts.

CARRIED

- e. **2023 Year-End BOH Report**
Report distributed for information purposes.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**
MOTION #24R-2024

Moved by: Paul Kelly

Seconded by: Mark Wilson

Be it resolved the Board of Health acknowledges receipt of the correspondence for information purposes.

CARRIED

12. **IN-CAMERA**
None noted.

13. **RISE AND REPORT**
N/A

14. **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**
Special Board of Health Meeting: March 25, 4:30 pm, virtual only.
The next regular meeting will be held on April 3, 2024 at 6:30 pm in New Liskeard.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**
MOTION #25R-2024
Moved by: Carol Lowery
Seconded by: Casey Owens
Be it resolved that the Board of Health agrees to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:01 pm.

CARRIED

Board of Health Briefing Note

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Health
Date: April 3, 2024
Topic: **Endorsement of Public Health Sudbury & Districts Letter on Gender-based and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)**
Submitted by: Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health/CEO
Prepared by: Lorna Desmarais, Public Health Promoter
Reviewed by: Jocelyn Moreno, Research, Planning, and Policy Analyst
Amanda Mongeon, Manager of Community Health
Erin Cowan, Director of Strategic Services and Health Promotion/CNO

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended THAT the Timiskaming Board of Health (THU) Board of Health:

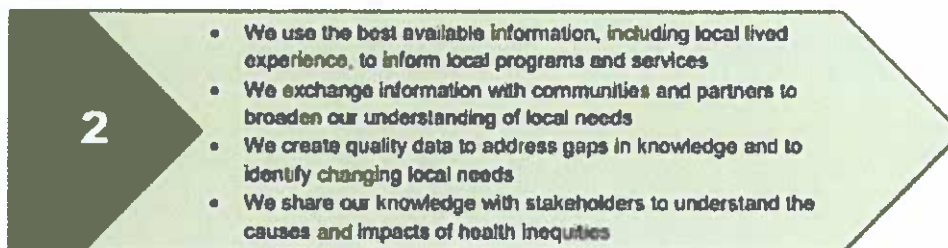
1. Endorse the Public Health Sudbury and Districts calls for the provincial government to declare gender-based violence and intimate partner violence an epidemic (Appendix A)
2. Send a letter indicating this endorsement and urging the provincial government to declare gender-based violence and intimate partner violence an epidemic to Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario via email: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

cc:

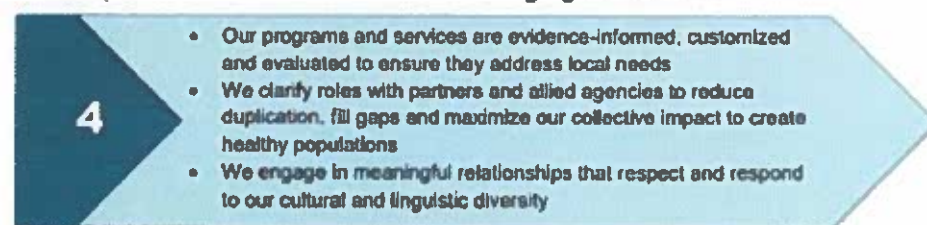
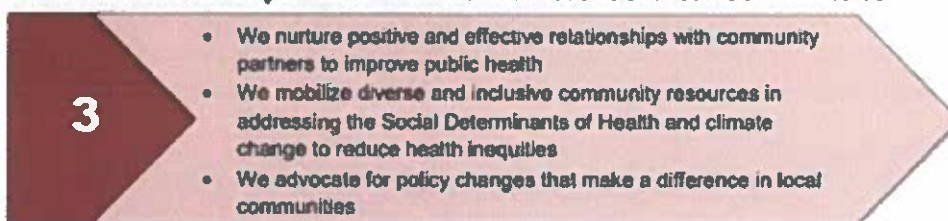
Hon. Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Hon. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
John Vanthof, MPP – Timiskaming-Cochrane
Anthony Rota, MP – Timiskaming-Nipissing
Charlie Angus, MP – Timmins-James Bay
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Eileen DeVilla, Chair, Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOH)
All Ontario Boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa)
Health Unit Member Municipalities
Melanie Ducharme, Chair of Temiskaming District Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee

Links to Ontario Public Health Standards and THU Strategic Plan 2019-2023

This work contributes to meeting requirements and expected outcomes in the [Ontario Public Health Standards](#) (2021) and supports the following THU strategic directions:



We collaborate with partners to make a difference in our communities



Issue

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a public health issue that affects millions of people around the world. It is a pattern of behavior used by one partner to control and dominate the other partner, often through physical, psychological, or sexual abuse. IPV can occur in any relationship, regardless of age, gender, or sexual orientation. Women, children, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, and people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, or questioning are at greater risk of experiencing family violence and its impacts. Women are more likely than men to be killed by an intimate partner, more likely to experience sexual abuse, and more likely to be exposed to severe and chronic forms of intimate partner violence, particularly forms that include threats and force to gain control. Women are also more likely to experience health impacts.¹

Violence is recognized as a pervasive and destructive force in society.² It has devastating mental and physical impacts on the victims, witnesses, families, and society at large. It can be manifested as gender-based violence, elderly abuse, bullying, community violence, etc. In 2018, the topic of Violence was added to the Ontario Public Health Standards, acknowledging it as a public health priority and requiring

boards of health to address it by assessing risks and protective factors and collaborating with local partners to build on community assets.

Background

IPV is associated with significant immediate and long-lasting health consequences, including physical health symptoms (e.g., injuries, chronic pain), mental health symptoms (e.g., depression, anxiety, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), and reproductive health symptoms (e.g., sexually transmitted infections, prenatal complications), and can also lead to death. Violence leads to adverse health outcomes through injury, health risk behaviors initiated or escalated to manage violence-related emotions or stress, and cumulative burden from the chronic stress of violence that causes physiological changes implicated in the development of chronic diseases.

Two years ago, Ontario's chief coroner published the results of a jury inquest into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk, and Nathalie Warmerdam, all of whom were killed by the same perpetrator on September 22, 2015, in Renfrew County. It included recommendations to address the systemic conditions that made these homicides possible and work toward preventing future cases. Some actions were geared towards education, such as public awareness programs and training for law enforcement personnel. Others focused on prevention, from registries for repeat offenders to survivor-informed risk assessments around pleas, bail, and sentencing. But the first of 86 recommendations was to "Formally declare intimate partner violence as an epidemic".

In November 2023, the Temiskaming District Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee requested that all municipalities follow this recommendation and declare violence an epidemic, not only to acknowledge the importance of this issue locally but to urge the Government of Ontario to make this declaration provincially.

Intimate Partner Violence Statistics

- In Canada in 2019, of the 107,810 people aged 15 and over who experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) 79% were women.³
- In 2015, victims of IPV made up 28% of all victims of police-reported violent crime.⁴
- IPV costs Canadian taxpayers billions of dollars each year.⁵
- About once a week in Canada, a woman is killed by her male partner.⁶
- In 2022, the Temiskaming Shores and Kirkland Lake detachments of the Ontario Provincial Police received a total of 785 calls associated with intimate partner violence. Of those, 27% resulted in criminal charges and assault was the most common criminal charge.⁷

Local Public Health Action Related to Intimate Partner Violence Prevention

Timiskaming Health Unit is a member of The Timiskaming District Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee. This community collaborative maximizes the capacity of service providers to respond to abused women's needs, improve access to an integrated service delivery system, and ultimately increase the safety and overall well-being for abused women and their children. Through this collaboration, community paramedics have been piloting a violence screening question. The screening tool is a practical resource for professionals to help aid in the prevention of violence against women. Asking the question helps professionals identify and respond to persons experiencing abuse or violence

in their relationships. Once the results of this pilot are evaluated, it will be modified as needed, and implementation will be expanded with other partners across the district. This committee also recently advocated for provincial and municipal partners to declare violence as an epidemic.

Community Safety Well-Being plans are provincially legislated for municipalities in Ontario.

Timiskaming's plan includes working collaboratively across sectors towards the goal of making Timiskaming a safer, more inclusive, and connected community where all residents thrive. One priority area identified by the stakeholders is community safety, which includes gender-based violence. Another priority area is housing, including transitional and supportive housing, which have been identified as important barriers to leaving a violent partner.

Next steps:

- Collect and analyze relevant data to identify trends and health inequities related to IPV.
- Scope and perform a situational assessment on the topic of violence to explore the local context and identify priority areas.
- Share findings with the Board of Health.

REFERENCES

- 1 The Chief Public Health Officer's Report on the State of Public Health in Canada 2016 - A Focus on Family Violence in Canada. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/chief-public-health-officer-reports-state-public-health-canada/2016-focus-family-violence-canada.html>
- 2 Canadian Public Health Agency. (n.d.). *Violence in Society: A Public Health Perspective*. <https://www.cpha.ca/violence-society-public-health-perspective>
- 3 Conroy, Shana. 2021. "Section 3: Police-reported intimate partner violence in Canada, 2019." In *Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2019*. *Juristic*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- 4 Statistic Canada, 2017. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/14698/03-eng.htm>
- 5 An Estimation of the Economic Impact of Spousal Violence in Canada, Department of Justice, 2009 https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/fv-vf/rr12_7/rr12_7.pdf
- 6 Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability, 2019. <https://femicideincanada.ca/>
- 7 Kirkland Lake and Temiskaming Shores Ontario Provincial Police Data



February 21, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

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

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Gender-based and Intimate Partner Violence

On behalf of the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts, I am writing to advise you that the Board of Health is adding its voice to the concerns your government and so many other share concerning the escalating crisis of gender-based violence (GBV) and intimate partner violence (IPV) in our province. We know that you agree that this is a matter of grave concern that demands immediate attention and collective effort.

At its meeting of January 18, 2024, the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts resolved to endorse the November 7, 2023, City of Greater Sudbury motion declaring gender-based violence and intimate partner violence an epidemic:

WHEREAS boards of health are required under the Ontario Public Health Standards to develop interventions to prevent injuries, including those caused by violence; and

WHEREAS police-reported family violence across Canada is increasing and locally, in 2022, the Greater Sudbury Police Service investigated 3,227 intimate partner violence reports, resulting in 867 intimate partner violence charges; and

WHEREAS in Sudbury, between 2018 and June 2023, there were 218 emergency department visits related to intimate partner violence; and

WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury, Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands, Billings Township, and 93 other municipalities in Ontario have declared gender-based violence and intimate partner violence as an epidemic; and

Sudbury

1700 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

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10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
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Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 5R
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.227.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.227.9202
f: 705.869.5583

The Manitoulin Island

6363 Highway / Route 542
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Mindenota ON P0P 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
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34 rue Birch Street
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Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsa.ca



Healthier communities for all
Des communautés plus saines pour tous

Letter to the Premier of Ontario
Re: Gender-based and Intimate Partner Violence
February 21, 2024
Page 2 of 2

WHEREAS calling out the urgency of the issue and denouncing violence contributes to changing norms and improving coordinated multi-sector action, ultimately improving health outcomes for those directly affected, as well as families and communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts endorse the November 7, 2023, City of Greater Sudbury [motion](#) declaring gender-based violence and intimate-partner violence an epidemic.

As your government will be aware, gender-based violence and intimate partner violence cause immeasurable harm to individuals, families, and communities. These types of violence impact people of all genders, ages, socioeconomic, racial, educational, ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds. However, the rates of GBV and IPV are disproportionately higher among women, girls, and gender-diverse people. For many, this is often interconnected with broader societal and systemic issues, including poverty, discrimination, lack of access to resources, inadequate support systems and a legacy of colonialism.

The Board of Health urges the provincial government to allocate the necessary resources, funding, and policy frameworks to reinforce our health and social services. We thank you for your attention to and investment in this urgent public health issue, and we continue to look forward to opportunities to work together to promote and protect the health for everyone.

Sincerely,



René Lapierre
Chair, Board of Health

cc: Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Honourable Marc Len, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth
Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
Viviane Lapointe, Member of Parliament, Sudbury
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Eileen DeVilla, Chair, Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOH)
All Ontario Boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies

#10 (h)

The McGarry & District XYZ Seniors Club
P.O. Box 121
Virginiatown, ON P0K 1X0
xyzseniorsclub@gmail.com

April 29, 2024

The Township of McGarry
Virginiatown, ON
P0K 1X0
Attention: Karine Pelletier

Subject: XYZ Seniors Club Agenda

Good morning:

The McGarry & District XYZ Seniors Club would like to inform you that we will end our activities in the meeting room at the Community Center for the season Wednesday May 29, 2024 and will re-start Wednesday September 11, 2024 up to May 28, 2025.

We also have a special request, this year the XYZ Seniors Club is celebrating its 60th anniversary and we are planning two special events September 21st and September 26. We would like to reserve the Gym for these two events and would appreciate these reservations be free of charge.

- Saturday September 21st will be a dinner gathering all the members and past members. We would need the room all day until 11:00 pm
- The XYZ Seniors Club is a member of the USCO (United Senior Citizens of Ontario), we also belong to the Zone 41 which is part of the Association in Northern Ontario. On Thursday September

26, we will be hosting a Regional meeting for the Zone 41. We would need the Gym from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. We understand that these requests must go through Council and we would appreciate receiving a confirmation as soon as possible in order to pursue our planning for these events.

Thanking you in advance,

Pierre Lemire, President
XYZ Seniors Club
705-634-2427
xyzseniorsclub@gmail.com



Services de santé du
TIMISKAMING
Health Unit

Enhancing your health in so many ways!

#10 (1)

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New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0
Tel: 705-647-4305 Fax: 705-647-5779

Branch Offices:

Dymond Tel: 705-647-8305 Fax: 705-647-8315
Englehart Tel: 705-544-2221 Fax: 705-544-8698
Kirkland Lake Tel: 705-567-9355 Fax: 705-567-5476

www.timiskaminghu.com

April 17, 2024

District Municipalities
c/o Timiskaming Health Unit

Dear Head of Council/Chief Administrative Officer, Municipal Clerk,

Please find enclosed, an agreement with the Timiskaming Health Unit regarding **Municipal Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWB)** for the period of August 1, 2024 to August 31, 2026.

This agreement is in follow-up to April 2023 Memorandum of Agreement from THU to heads of council for implementation of the Timiskaming CSWB Plan in keeping with legislative requirements for municipalities.

After the first year of implementation of the Timiskaming CSWB Plan, all municipalities have officially resolved to adopt the plan and have agreed in principle to contribute toward a district-wide funding approach for resources to support implementation of the plan based on sample apportionment allocation. The CSWB Steering Committee is proposing a 2-year service agreement, to facilitate coordinator recruitment and retention. The amount requested will not increase between years during the commitment period and municipalities will be billed twice per year.

The Timiskaming CSWB Committee offers a unique opportunity for all municipalities within the district to contribute to our collective safety and well-being. In the first year of implementation, the CSWB Committee has begun developing a database containing community safety and well-being resources, is working to address housing and homelessness related stigma in our communities and is exploring new opportunities for improved transit systems. Further commitment to this important work is needed to ensure success of these and more initiatives under the CSWB Plan.

To contribute to and gain from a district-wide funding approach to implementing the Timiskaming CSWB Plan, please fill out and sign the agreement at your earliest convenience and by June 21, 2024 and return to the attention of Rachele Cote by email to coter@timiskaminghu.com or by fax at 705-647-5779.

Thank you for your interest in this community-based approach to address root causes of complex social issues through a collaborative approach to community safety and well-being.

If you have any questions, please contact Cameron Lamothe, lamothe@timiskaminghu.com at the Timiskaming Health Unit, 1-866-747-4305.

Sincerely,

Dr. Glenn Corneil, B.Sc., M.D., C.C.F.P., F.C.F.P.
Acting Medical Officer of Health/CEO

Copy to: Mark Stewart, CAO, DTSSAB





ADR
CHAMBERS

Integrity Commissioner Office
for the Township of McGarry

10 (j)

CHARLES HARNICK
Integrity Commissioner
Township of McGarry

April 22, 2024

Sent via Email:

Karine Pelletier
Township of McGarry
Township Clerk/Treasurer
27 Webster Street
PO Box 99
Virginiatown, ON P0K 1X0
kpelletier@mcgarry.ca

Dear Ms. Pelletier:

**Re: File No.: IC-30934-0424: Township of McGarry - Integrity Commissioner Annual Report
Operating Period July 8, 2022 - July 7, 2023**

Thank you for the opportunity to act as the Integrity Commissioner for the Township of McGarry (the "Township") over the past year. In accordance with the terms of the Agreement between the Township and ADR Chambers pursuant to section 223.6(1) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, we are providing our annual report for the second operating period of the Agreement covering the period July 8, 2022 to July 7, 2023.

As you know, the Integrity Commissioner's role is to help Members of Council ("Members") ensure that they are performing their functions in accordance with the Township's Council Code of Conduct (the "Code") and the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* (the "MCIA"). The Integrity Commissioner is available to educate and provide advice to Members on matters governing their ethical behaviour and compliance with the Township's Code and the MCIA.

The Integrity Commissioner is also responsible for receiving, assessing, and investigating appropriate complaints made by Council, Members, and members of the public respecting alleged breaches of the Code by Members or complaints by electors of the Township or persons

demonstrably acting in the public interest that a Member has contravened the provisions of the MCIA.

Complaints

During this operating period no Code of Conduct or MCIA complaints were filed.

Requests for Advice

One request for advice was received during this operating period.

The request for advice by Members must always be made in writing to the Integrity Commissioner and the advice given to Members is always provided in writing, and in accordance with the provisions of the Township's Code and the applicable provisions of the MCIA.

Advice from the Integrity Commissioner should not be considered to constitute legal advice, and Members are always encouraged to seek the advice of their personal solicitor should they believe legal advice is necessary.

Billings

Billings for the operating period, commencing July 8, 2022 and ending July 7, 2023, totaled \$1,593.30.

Final Comments

We look forward to assisting the Township and its Members in contending with the issues that may arise in connection with the administration of its Code in the coming year.

Yours very truly,



Charles Harnick
Office of the Integrity Commissioner for the Township of McGarry

Treasury Board Secretariat

Emergency Management Ontario

25 Morton Shulman Avenue
Toronto ON M3M 0B1
Tel: 647-329-1200

Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor

de la gestion des situations d'urgence Ontario

25, rue Morton Shulman
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6
Tél.: 647-329-1200



DATE : April 9, 2024

MEMORANDUM TO: Community Emergency Management Coordinators (CEMCs)

FROM: Bernie Derible
Deputy Minister and Commissioner of Emergency
Management
Treasury Board Secretariat

SUBJECT: Ontario's Provincial Emergency Management Strategy
and Action Plan: 2023 Annual Report

I am pleased to share with you Ontario's [Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan: 2023 Annual Report](#).

The Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan, which was released last year, is the province's roadmap for a whole-of-Ontario approach to emergency management to keep the people of Ontario safe, practiced and prepared.

The annual report shows the progress made in the last year to keep communities ready and prepared as well as continued actions moving forward. Key actions highlighted in the annual report include:

- Strengthened collaboration through coordinated responses to emergencies across the province, including during challenging flood and wildland fire seasons.
- Enhanced public education and support for emergency management partners, including the delivery of 336 emergency management courses for 13,847 participants and launch of the "Exercise in a Box" program.
- Launched the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant to help communities and organizations across Ontario purchase critical supplies, equipment and deliver training and services towards local emergency preparation and response as part of \$110 million over the next three years announced in the 2023 Ontario Budget.

Best practice initiatives led by emergency management partners across Ontario are also profiled in the annual report which exemplify collective work towards safer and more prepared communities across the province.

This progress is made possible because of the collaboration, coordination, and commitment of municipal partners across Ontario. Thank you for your valued partnership through engagements and discussions to move emergency management goals forward.

If you have any questions regarding the annual report, please contact your local Field Officer. A copy of this memorandum has also been shared with your municipality's Chief Administrative Officer.

I appreciate your continued support and partnership as we work together towards a safe, practiced and prepared Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bernie Derible', with a stylized, cursive script.

Bernie Derible
Deputy Minister and Commissioner of Emergency Management
Treasury Board Secretariat

Cc:

Eric Everett, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Management Strategy, Monitoring and Intelligence Division, Emergency Management Ontario, Treasury Board Secretariat

Heather Levecque, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Management Operations Division, Emergency Management Ontario, Treasury Board Secretariat

Lisa Priest, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Management Preparedness,
Programs and Planning Division, Emergency Management Ontario, Treasury Board
Secretariat

Michelle Astill, Director, Emergency Management Policy and Governance Branch,
Emergency Management Strategy, Monitoring and Intelligence Division, Emergency
Management Ontario, Treasury Board Secretariat

#10(L)

A Safe, Practiced and Prepared Ontario

2023 Annual Report

Provincial Emergency Management
Strategy and Action Plan



Ontario



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Message from the Minister



The duty to ensure that our province is as strong and resilient as possible is both a great honour and serious responsibility. As the minister responsible for emergency management, I am pleased to release the first annual report for the Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan, our province's roadmap to move emergency management forward in collaboration with our partners.

The Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan outlines a clear goal for emergency management for the province. This goal is simple: every person in Ontario should be safe, practiced and prepared before, during and after emergencies such as floods, wildland fires and threats like cyber security incidents. To this end, we have made substantial new investments, initiated new grants, and expanded training programs to ensure that emergency management partners across Ontario have the resources and tools necessary to prepare for, and respond to, emergencies.

Collaboration and coordination with emergency management partners, including municipalities and First Nations, have been integral in advancing the goals and actions within the plan. We are grateful for these valued partnerships and look forward to continuing to work together to move emergency management forward.

Together, we are ensuring Ontario is a leader in emergency management. We are applying the lessons we have learned from past emergencies to build a stronger and more resilient province. While new challenges emerge both rapidly and unexpectedly, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the people and communities of Ontario is our highest priority.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Mulroney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Mulroney
President of the Treasury Board and
Minister Responsible for Emergency Management

Message from the Commissioner



The 2023 Annual Report: Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan is the first annual report on Ontario's comprehensive plan for emergency management. It outlines the numerous actions Ontario is taking with our partners to make sure that the province is always safe, practiced and prepared.

This report demonstrates Ontario's leadership as the first jurisdiction in Canada to require annual and public reporting on progress made towards emergency management goals. It shows our dedication to transparency and accountability in the area of emergency management; a key part of our work because we know that safety is a priority for every person in this province.

We have worked hard to make Emergency Management Ontario the one window for provincial emergency management coordination. To do this, we are on the ground, 24/7, 365 days a year, building the relationships and earning the trust necessary to work with our partners in order to protect our communities. When it comes to safety, we are all in this together.

With continued collaboration and coordination, increased public education and strengthened planning, practice and response, we will continue to protect and prepare all Ontarians today and in the future.

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

Bernard Derible
Deputy Minister and Commissioner of Emergency Management
Treasury Board Secretariat

2023: A year in review

2023 marked an unprecedented year for emergencies in Ontario, including challenging flood and wildland fire seasons. Working with partners, Ontario continued to strengthen collaboration, planning and response to keep communities across the province safe, practiced and prepared.



For a detailed overview of progress on actions outlined in the Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan, visit the Appendix.



Progress on Goal 1

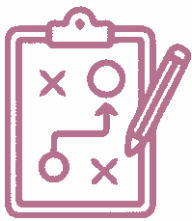
One window for all Ontarians



Emergency Management Ontario continues to strengthen its role as the one window for provincial emergency management coordination through relationship building, collaboration, increasing resiliency and advancing preparation, mitigation and response strategies to ensure all of Ontario is safe, practiced and prepared.



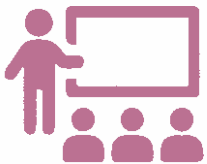
Ontario's initiatives at work in 2023 included:



Strengthened collaboration during coordinated responses to emergencies across the province, including floods and wildland fires. This included the safe evacuation, stay and return of 3,519 community members in 2023. To continue strengthening operational planning and preparedness after emergency responses, after-action report sessions were held with provincial, federal, municipal and First Nations partners following the 2023 flood and wildland fire seasons.



Advanced whole-of-Ontario coordination and preparedness for hazards by connecting partners with key resources and guidance to improve preparedness. During Cyber Security Awareness Month in October 2023, Ontario organized tabletop exercises to support incident preparedness, shared best practices through a provincial conference to build cyber resilience in the broader public sector and launched a specialized portal with interactive materials for students from kindergarten to grade 12.



Enhanced culturally appropriate and relevant emergency management training through the establishment of an advisory group with representatives from First Nations organizations from across the province.

For additional progress updates in 2023 related to Goal 1, visit the Appendix.

Moving forward

In 2024 and onwards, Ontario will:

- » Continue to engage partners on opportunities to enhance the current emergency management framework in Ontario to support the province's one window for Ontarians including roles and responsibilities and improving the quality of emergency management programs.
- » Enhance collaboration by advancing the development of multilateral emergency management partnership agreements with First Nations communities, Indigenous organizations and federal partners. These agreements will pave the way forward for a First Nations-led emergency management framework that will position First Nations as equal partners in emergency management, support self-determination rights and ensure culturally appropriate and equitable emergency management services.
- » Strengthen provincial coordination of preparedness and response to social emergencies, to mitigate events or situations that carry risk to human health and life, mental wellness, or to the social fabric and well-being of the community.
- » Advance provincial collaboration and coordination, public education and planning and response for cyber security incidents.



Working together to keep Ontarians safe during the 2023 wildland fire season

The 2023 wildland fire season was a challenging fire season for Ontario. Seven hundred and forty-one wildland fires were reported, burning over 440,000 hectares across the province almost three times more hectares than the 10-year average.

Through continued collaboration, the province's emergency preparedness and response ensured that affected communities were kept safe during the evacuations, stays and returns of more than 600 First Nation community members.



In addition, Ontario deployed equipment and more than 600 fire management personnel to Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Quebec, Yukon, Nova Scotia and Minnesota to support their firefighting efforts. In turn, Ontario received 104 fire personnel from Mexico, and specialized personnel from the Canadian Forest Service and the US Forest Service, as well as firefighting aircraft from Minnesota and the Northwest Territories.

To continue to improve and modernize how we fight wildland fires, Ontario is investing an additional \$20.5 million in wildland fire management. This funding will be used to enhance fire suppression technologies, recruit new staff, enhance skills development, promote and maintain safety and build capacity to support Indigenous wildland fire management and community resilience.



Progress on Goal 2

Proactive planning and monitoring

Ontario continues to advance proactive planning and monitoring grounded in data, analytics and knowledge to set the foundation for coordinated emergency management across the province.



Ontario's initiatives at work in 2023 included:



Implemented digital modernization efforts to enhance coordination, situational awareness, decision making and transparency with partners and Ontarians. This includes the development of the first-ever profiles of Ontario's unincorporated areas for use by local and provincial emergency management partners that will help ensure the unique considerations and vulnerabilities in these areas are understood in advance of emergency incidents. The province also created a new paperless incident notification and management system that will enhance effectiveness and drive efficiency with emergency management partners.



Enhanced public education to help Ontarians to know their part in preparing for emergencies and that safety starts with having a plan. Emergency Preparedness Week is a national event that educates people and communities about the actions they can take to prepare for emergency situations. Ontario's theme for the week was, "A Safe, Practiced and Prepared Ontario." The province shared a series of refreshed and accessible materials with provincial, municipal and Indigenous partners to support their communities in practicing and planning for emergencies.



Supported emergency management partners with planning and exercises by reducing administrative burden through the launch of the "Exercise in a Box" program in 2023. This included sharing a collection of guidance documents and templates informed by subject matter experts to help partners meet annual emergency exercise requirements.

For additional progress updates in 2023 related to Goal 2, visit the Appendix.

Moving forward

In 2024 and onwards, Ontario will:

- » Implement an emergency management public education strategy to improve Ontarians' knowledge and awareness of relevant risks, hazards and personal preparedness best practices.
- » Continue to enhance the use of innovative data, analytical capabilities and digital tools to support prevention, preparedness and response efforts, including the development of geographic and economic profiles for communities in Ontario. This will support emergency planning and preparedness activities through enhanced data about populations that are most vulnerable to top hazards.
- » Continue implementation of a central resource hub for provincial, municipal and First Nations partners consisting of emergency management resources, best practices and other supports for emergency management programs in Ontario.
- » Continue to modernize key emergency management courses in collaboration with partners to better serve Ontario's diverse population.

Preparing for the 2023-24 respiratory illness season

Building on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, Ontario took comprehensive measures to build readiness and resilience for the 2023-24 respiratory illness season to keep Ontarians safe and healthy.



Across the province, Ontario continued to provide convenient access to tools, including vaccinations, antivirals, rapid antigen tests, emergency personal protective equipment (PPE), indoor air quality and virtual care options. Support was provided to higher-risk individuals, including residents of long-term care and retirement homes, and to strengthen measures for resilient healthcare workforce capacity.

As well, the province worked collaboratively with health and non-health partners, including retirement homes, congregate living settings and school boards, to support preparedness through efforts such as tabletop exercises, information sharing, readiness assessments and shared reporting tools.



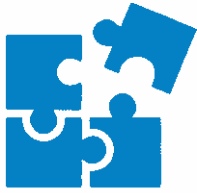
Progress on Goal 3

Practiced and prepared emergency response



The province is working to ensure that Ontarians are practiced and prepared for potential future emergencies through strengthened local capabilities, emergency management training, exercises and public education.

Ontario's initiatives at work in 2023 included:



Strengthened emergency practice and preparedness through leading and/or participating in more than 85 emergency exercises and drills involving the federal government, municipalities, broader public sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. These exercises focused on planning, preparedness and response for various hazards, including transportation incidents, cyber security, critical infrastructure and nuclear preparedness.



Introduced the Nuclear Enhancement Program to support designated municipalities with planning and preparedness in the unlikely event of a nuclear incident.



Advanced whole-of-Ontario planning and response through the launch of the Provincial Exercise Program, a multi-year plan to exercise, test and strengthen multi-sector emergency plans and whole-of-government emergency response. The first provincial priority exercise, set to take place in 2024, will test and strengthen the provincial response to an extreme heat emergency.

For additional progress updates in 2023 related to Goal 3, visit the Appendix.



Moving forward

In 2024 and onwards, Ontario will:

- » Partner with non-governmental organizations to support local emergency preparedness and response to enhance the province's emergency response capabilities.
- » Implement tools to help rapidly identify community needs in an emergency and better facilitate the mobilization of supports and coordinating efforts across various response agencies.
- » Host more cross-government exercises, including the first provincial priority exercise in 2024.
- » Enhance provincial emergency management coordination to respond to emergencies by continuing to review and update provincial emergency management plans.



Building emergency preparedness and response capacity across Ontario



In the 2023 Ontario Budget, the province committed \$110 million over the next three years to fund, train, coordinate and improve Ontario Corps and the province's emergency preparedness and response.

As part of this funding, the province is establishing partnerships with non-governmental organizations to strengthen local emergency preparedness and response capacity across the province.

This funding was also used to create the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant, an investment of \$5 million to help ensure communities across the province have the resources and equipment they need to prepare for natural disasters and emergencies. The grant helps communities and organizations purchase critical supplies, equipment and deliver training and services to improve local emergency preparation and response.

Building on the success of the COVID-19 Volunteer Portal, the portal was enhanced as part of the Ontario Corps program and includes a Volunteer Registration and Partner Portal. Provincial ministries, municipalities, First Nations communities and non-governmental organizations in need of emergency support can use this database to access registered volunteers.

Best practices from across Ontario

First Nations-led initiative: Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation-led Wildland Firefighter Training: Weenusk First Nation coordinated and hosted a regional SP100 Forest Fire Training course in community, strengthening partnerships, preparedness and emergency management capacity for wildland fire management. Through this initiative, Weenusk First Nation, along with Fort Severn, Fort Albany, McDowell Lake and Keewaywin were trained on wildland fire preparedness, fire risks, safety measures and fire suppression activities. This initiative was supported by partnership with Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Keewaytinook Okimakanak and the Ontario government.

First Nations-led initiative: The Independent First Nations Alliance (IFNA) Integrated Emergency Services Fire Rescue Remote Exercise: In November 2023, the Independent First Nations Alliance and Lac Seul First Nation partnered to host a collaborative fire rescue exercise to support emergency preparedness. The exercise included a simulated downed aircraft, which provided functional testing and validation of the various emergency management capacities IFNA has been building in collaboration with partners since 2019 as the first Indigenous-led emergency operations centre in Northern Ontario. This exercise included simulated operational procedures such as responding during a power-outage, real-time video monitoring, and the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems to support search and rescue. The exercise strengthened collaboration and coordination among partners, leveraged best practices and identified opportunities for enhanced Indigenous-led emergency management approaches.

First Nations-led initiative: Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation Emergency Exercise: In October 2023, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation held an emergency exercise for the community's emergency responders and partners to test collaborative efforts and the effectiveness of response, preparedness and communication procedures to reduce the severity of loss in a potential emergency.

Municipal-led initiative: Geospatial Analysis of Critical Infrastructure and Community Features: Municipalities, including the City of Toronto, City of Cambridge and County of Brant, have adopted geospatial technology to map critical infrastructure, potential hazards and community features to inform situational awareness.

Community-led initiative: Emergency Food Plan for Thunder Bay: The Emergency Food Plan for Thunder Bay is a collaborative civil society development, led by the Thunder Bay + Area Food Strategy, to complement the City of Thunder Bay's Emergency Plan. The Emergency Food Plan addresses the challenges related to food access and its impacts on health and wellbeing during emergency events, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations. The plan does this through identifying potential hazards and risks to food access so to enable better preparation and response in the event of an emergency.

Non-governmental organization-led initiative: Team Rubicon Canada in Northern Ontario: Team Rubicon Canada is a veteran-led humanitarian organization that serves communities before, during and after disasters and crises. In May 2023, Team Rubicon Canada supported the provincial response to a critical flooding situation in northern Ontario by rapidly mobilizing a team of volunteers to the community to gather necessary information and intelligence. Their collaborative, quick and skilled deployment supported strategic next steps and tactics to support the community when they needed it most.



Appendix: Key progress on the goals and actions in the Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan

Goal 1 – One window for all Ontarians

Strengthen Ontario's governance and accountability by establishing an action-oriented one window for provincial emergency management coordination

- Strengthened provincial emergency management coordination and response, including whole-of-government planning for respiratory illness, flood and wildland fire season.
- Enhanced provincial governance and accountability through planning, information sharing and collaboration across provincial ministries on key, topical and emerging emergency management issues, risks, hazards and strategies through the Deputy Ministers Steering Committee on Emergency Management and the Cabinet Committee on Emergency Management.
- Connected cyber security experts and partners to advance emergency management and cyber security approaches in Ontario through distributing resources to partners and through a joint roundtable hosted by Emergency Management Ontario and the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery in July 2023.
- Strengthened operational planning for emergency management in Ontario by facilitating two after-action report sessions in Cochrane and Thunder Bay following the 2023 flood and wildland fire seasons.
- Collaborated across provinces and territories, federally and internationally on emergency management, including:
 - Collaborating with federal, provincial and territorial governments on approaches and strategies for emergency management across the country.
 - Participating in the Radiological Assessment System for Consequence Analysis Summit designed to support and enhance cross-border nuclear emergency response.
 - Advancing relationships with partners in the US including the Federal Emergency Management Agency through opportunities for mutual collaboration and growth.

- Began work with Indigenous Services Canada to move towards multilateral emergency management service agreements with First Nations partners, to position First Nations communities as equal partners in emergency management, support their self-determination rights and ensure culturally appropriate and equitable emergency services.

Ensure the unique needs of vulnerable populations are considered throughout the emergency management cycle

- Developed the First Nations evacuation decision support tool, which provides First Nations communities with steps for consideration on whether to stay and shelter in place or evacuate during an emergency.
- Formed the Basic Emergency Management Advisory Group, including representatives from First Nations organizations, to make emergency management training for emergency management personnel more culturally appropriate and relevant for Indigenous partners.

Increase clarity of Ontario's emergency management approach and structure and reduce administrative burden for emergency management partners

- Coordinated across provincial ministries to support readiness and monitoring for seasonal respiratory illness for the health and non-health sectors.
- Reviewed emergency management program evaluation approaches to explore opportunities to improve the quality of emergency management programs across Ontario.
- Reduced administrative burden on ministries and municipalities by providing resources to support meeting annual exercise and other emergency management program requirements.

Goal 2 – Proactive planning and monitoring

Use data and knowledge to inform emergency management decisions

- Implemented digital modernization efforts to enhance coordination, situational awareness, decision making and transparency with partners and Ontarians including:
 - Developed the first-ever profiles of Ontario's unincorporated areas for local and provincial emergency management partners.
 - Created an online Situational Awareness Portal, which is a new paperless incident notification and management system, that will enhance effectiveness and drive efficiency by providing access to near real-time situational awareness for emergency management partners.
- Established a First Nations All Hazards Working Group, co-led by the First Nations Emergency Response Association, focused on integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge in emergency management practices that support communities in becoming more resilient before, during and after emergencies.

Proactively identify the likelihood and impact of risks in the province

- Continued planning to renew the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment program in 2024 to inform provincial hazard preparedness, monitoring and response efforts and increase resiliency.

Identify, support and develop provincial capabilities for top provincial hazards

- Identified provincial capabilities ready to deploy to support community responses to emergencies, including provincial team members and volunteers available within 48 hours through non-governmental organization partners.
- Implemented enhanced planning requirements for provincial ministries to identify, monitor and report to Emergency Management Ontario on emerging risks and hazards, and the readiness of the resources, goods and services needed to respond.
- Supported capacity building in critical resources (supplies, equipment, people) and strengthened supply chains related to pandemic and health emergency preparedness.
- Continued to lower supply chain risk and support economic development through ongoing strategies related to the provincial stockpile by Supply Ontario.

Develop support resources for emergency management partners

- Launched the “Exercise in a Box” program to support municipal and provincial ministry partners with conducting mandatory annual emergency exercises.
- Launched an agency instructor certification pilot to accredit more training course instructors and reduce administrative burden for partners.
- Continued to update emergency management courses, including working with First Nations partners to ensure materials are culturally appropriate.
- Launched refreshed and accessible public education materials during Emergency Preparedness Week for the public and emergency management partners.
- Developed and distributed resource materials on key topics, including emergency management and cyber security.
- Developed a centralized digital platform for Emergency Management Ontario and provincial ministries that includes resources, tools, supports and best practices for emergency management.



Goal 3 – Practiced and prepared emergency response

Implement a Provincial Exercise Program and review, update and create new provincial emergency response plans

- Facilitated, observed, and/or participated in 85 emergency exercises and drills.
- Launched the Provincial Exercise Program, which includes a multi-year plan to exercise, test and strengthen multi-sector emergency plans and whole-of-government emergency response.
- Led tabletop exercises in northern Ontario ahead of the 2023 flood and wildland fire seasons.
- Introduced the Nuclear Enhancement Program to help designated municipalities prepare for nuclear emergencies.
- Enhanced collaboration and coordination between provincial ministries related to continuity of government operations to ensure the rapid resumption of provincial time critical services during widespread disruptions.

Enhanced provincial surge capacity through Ontario Corps

- Announced \$110 million as part of the 2023 Ontario Budget to fund, train, coordinate and improve Ontario Corps and the province's emergency preparedness and response.
- Advanced work on establishing a northern hub pilot, which will provide a space for training, exercises and collaboration with partners as well as an Emergency Operations Centre.
- Partnered with non-governmental organizations to enhance capabilities to support emergency preparedness and response including building volunteer readiness across the province.
- Launched the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant to help communities and organizations purchase critical emergency equipment and supplies to enhance local emergency capacity and response.
- Established a provincial Incident Management Team ready to deploy to communities to support incident responses across the province now and in the future.