Agenda
Owen Sound City Council

November 30, 2026

5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

The public can attend meetings in person. Meetings will be livestreamed to the City's Council and Committees webpage and can be viewed live on Rogers Cable TV or the Rogers TV website. If there are technical issues with the livestream that cannot be fixed within 15 minutes, the meeting will continue, and a recording will be available later on the webpage or by contacting the City Clerk. People who cannot attend the meeting in person for Public Forum should send their comments to the City Clerk one business day before the meeting. These comments will be shared with members and included in the updated agenda.

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2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

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5. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

6. PUBLIC MEETINGS

There are no public meetings.

7. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There are no deputations or presentations.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION OF COUNCIL IS REQUIRED

There are no correspondence items being presented for consideration.

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11.q Final approvals issued for the following Business Licences:

- The Modern Body, a wellness and aesthetic studio located at 1045 2nd Avenue East
- Owen Sound Inn, a motel and restaurant for guests only located at 485 9th Avenue East
- Commercial Cleaners, a home-based cleaning business located at 2507 8th Avenue 'A' East
- Bikeface Cycling, a full-service bike store has relocated to 269 10th Street East
- Hawker and Peddler Licence issued to Georgian Sunset Events Inc. for Haunt at Harrison at the Harrison Park Community Centre from October 23 to 25, 2026
- Hawker and Peddler Licence issued to the Artisans Holiday Show and Sale at the Bayshore Community Centre from December 4 to 6, 2026
- Annual Hawker and Peddler Licence issued to Rogers Communications Canada Inc. for residential door-to-door sales
- Annual Hawker and Peddler Licence issued to Owen Sound Minor Hockey for tournaments held at the Bayshore Community Centre and Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre

11.r Final approvals issued to the owner(s) of the following Short-Term Rental locations:

- 2619 7th Avenue East
- 883 7th Avenue East

11.s Final approvals issued for the following City Hall Illumination Requests: 350

- Canadian Amyloidosis Support Network for Amyloidosis Awareness

11.t Correspondence received which is presented for the information of Council 352

12. COMMITTEE MINUTES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

There are no Committee minutes with recommendations for approval.

13. MATTERS POSTPONED

There are no postponed matters.

14. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There are no motions for which notice was previously given.

15. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

16. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL OUT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

FORMAL SESSION

17. MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

18. NOTICES OF MOTION

19. MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

"THAT City Council now move into 'Closed Session' to consider:

1. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Special Council meeting held on November 19, 2026;
2. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Special Council meeting held on November 20, 2026;
3. One matter regarding advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to negotiations; and litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality respecting a City project;
4. One matter regarding advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose respecting a City project; and
5. One matter regarding personal matters about identifiable individuals respecting board and committee public appointments."

20. REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

21. BY-LAWS

21.a By-law No. 2026-125

"A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound held on the 30th day of November, 2026"

21.b By-law No. 2026-126

"A By-law to appoint a member of Council to act in place of the Mayor during the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (2026-2030)"

21.c By-law No. 2026-127

"A By-law to amend Appointed Officers By-law No. 2015-054 to remove and appoint a Deputy Clerk"

21.d By-law No. 2026-128

"A By-law to appoint Lauren Chee-Hing as Integrity Commissioner for the City of Owen Sound, execute a Retainer Agreement for services associated with the appointment (2026-2029), and repeal By-law No. 2018-032"

22. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes

Owen Sound City Council

September 28, 2026
5:30 p.m.
City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ian Boddy
Deputy Mayor Scott Greig
Councillor Travis Dodd
Councillor Jon Farmer
Councillor Brock Hamley
Councillor Marion Koepke
Councillor Suneet Kukreja
Councillor Carol Merton
Councillor Melanie Middlebro'

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Michelle Palmer, Interim Director of Public Works and Engineering
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support Coordinator
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Staci Landry, Deputy Clerk

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Boddy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and provided a land acknowledgement.

Mayor Boddy invited members of the public to attend the ceremonial fire on Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Gichi-Name Wiikwedong Reconciliation Garden at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park. The ceremony will recognize and honour Indigenous lives lost to the residential school system, survivors, and the lasting impacts of the residential school system.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES

4.a Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on July 13, 2026

4.b Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on September 14, 2026

4.c Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on September 14, 2026

R-260928-001
Moved by Councillor Hamley
Seconded by Councillor Koepke

"THAT the minutes of the following meetings be adopted as printed:

1. **Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on July 13, 2026;**
2. **Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on September 14, 2026; and**
3. **Regular Council meeting held on September 14, 2026."**

Carried.

5. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

R-260928-002
Moved by Councillor Hamley
Seconded by Councillor Koepke

"THAT City Council now move into Committee of the Whole to consider public meetings, deputations and presentations, public forum, matters arising from correspondence, reports of City staff, consent agenda, committee minutes, matters postponed, motions for which notice was previously given and additional business."

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

6. PUBLIC MEETINGS

There were no public meetings.

7. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.a Presentation from the City Manager Re: Celebration of Public Service of Outgoing Council Members (Councillor Farmer, Councillor Dodd, Councillor Koepke, and Mayor Boddy)

The City Manager presented Councillor Farmer, Councillor Dodd, Councillor Koepke, and Mayor Boddy with plaques in recognition of their service on City Council.

Councillor Farmer, Councillor Dodd, Councillor Koepke, and Mayor Boddy provided comments reflecting on their respective years of service on City Council. Councillor Farmer served four (4) years, Councillor Dodd served twelve (12) years, Councillor Koepke served twelve (12) years, and Mayor Boddy served sixteen (16) years. Each expressed appreciation and thanks to their families, friends, and City staff for their support and contributions throughout their years of service.

The Committee and Executive Support Coordinator left the meeting.

Council recessed from 6:25 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

7.b Presentation from the City Manager Re: City Manager's Update

The City Manager provided a PowerPoint presentation and noted:

- Highlights of recent events and activities throughout the City.
- New committee structure for 2027.
- Information on board and committee recruitment and the working group roster beginning October 19.

- Information for voters on the 2026 Municipal Election.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

8.a Jasmine Schnarr, Owen Sound resident

The Speaker provided comments regarding personal experiences with homelessness in Owen Sound.

8.b Tamara Sargent, Owen Sound resident

Comments and a question were submitted electronically in advance of the meeting respecting changes to the antenna tower siting process and implications for municipal participation. The comments were provided to Council in advance of the meeting.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION OF COUNCIL IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

10. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

10.a Verbal Report from the Deputy Mayor Re: Grey County Council

Deputy Mayor Greig reported that Grey County Council:

- Received the draft 2027 budget, which will be presented to the new Council in December 2026.
- Approved the City of Owen Sound's 2026 Official Plan Update.
- Received a delegation regarding the Bruce-Dufferin-Grey-Wellington Unified Regional Transit Study. The final recommendations report is expected to be presented to County Council in early 2027. The study recommends a joint municipal services board as the governance model and identified Kincardine to Collingwood, Wiarton to Orangeville, and Owen Sound to Guelph as the primary fixed routes. These routes would be supplemented by smart transit and enhanced taxi/rideshare services to provide transportation for individuals located farther from the fixed-route corridors. The next steps include communicating the delegation and study information to the other partner Councils.

R-260928-003
Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided September 28, 2026 from Deputy Mayor Greig respecting Grey County Council, City Council receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."

Carried.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

11.a Report CR-26-092 from the City Clerk Re: Appointment of a New Integrity Commissioner

11.b Report CR-26-089 from the Deputy Clerk Re: Lottery Licence for Brightshores Health System Owen Sound Foundation

11.c Report CR-26-090 from the Purchasing and Claims Coordinator and Manager of Arena Operations Re: Bayshore Community Centre – Unit Heaters 2 and 6 Replacement - Budget Amendment

11.d Report CR-26-091 from the Purchasing and Claims Coordinator Re: Summary of Delegated Authority Approvals During Restricted Acts Period – August 24, 2026 to September 15, 2026

11.e Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Owen Sound Housing Company meeting held on July 6, 2026

11.f Final approvals issued for the following Business Licences:

- Hoffman Dance Collective, a dance studio located at 1325 2nd Avenue East
- Lavish Nail Lounge, a nail salon located at 847 2nd Avenue East
- Best Buy, a consumer electronics and appliance retailer located at 2125 16th Street East, Unit C1
- The Finishing Touch by Dilpreet, a home-based clothing alteration business located at 880 27th Street East
- Spanky's BBQ & Catering, a mobile food business
- Hawker and Peddler Licence issued to the Ontario Festival Group for Owen Sound Ribfest at the Bayshore Community Centre from September 18 to September 20, 2026

11.g Correspondence received which is presented for the information of Council

R-260928-004
Moved by Councillor Hamley

"THAT in consideration of the items listed on the September 28, 2026 Consent Agenda, City Council:

1. **Receives Items 11.a to 11.g; and**
2. **Approves the recommendations contained in Items 11.a to 11.d."**

Carried.

12. COMMITTEE MINUTES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

12.a Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on September 23, 2026

R-260928-005
Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

"THAT the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on September 23, 2026 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved."

Carried.

12.b Minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on September 10, 2026

R-260928-006
Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT the minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on September 10, 2026 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved."

Carried.

12.c Minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on September 24, 2026

R-260928-007
Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on September 24, 2026 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved."

Carried.

13. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no postponed matters.

14. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

15. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

16. MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT

R-260928-008
Moved by Councillor Hamley

"THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report."

Carried.

FORMAL SESSION

17. MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

R-260928-009
Moved by Councillor Hamley
Seconded by Councillor Koepke

"THAT the action taken in Committee of the Whole in considering public meetings, deputations and presentations, public forum, matters arising from correspondence, reports of City staff, consent agenda, committee minutes, matters postponed, motions for which notice was previously given and additional business be confirmed by this Council."

Carried.

18. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

19. MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

There was no Closed Session.

20. REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

There was no Closed Session.

21. BY-LAWS

21.a By-law No. 2026-112

"A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound held on the 28th day of September, 2026"

21.b By-law No. 2026-113

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a fourth amending agreement with Pattison Outdoor Advertising LP, by its general partner Pattison Outdoor Advertising Ltd., respecting transit advertising"

21.c By-law No. 2026-114

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a General Assignment and Assumption of Contracts with 1811477 Ontario Inc., Fairmount Holdings Inc., Thomas Francis Richard Wheildon o/a Fairmount Security Services, Thomas Francis Richard Wheildon o/a Fairmount Parking and By-law, Wheildon Investments Inc. and 1000255784 Ontario Inc. o/a 14 Acres Parking and By-law, respecting parking enforcement and crossing guard services in accordance with RFP-24-009, and to repeal By-law No. 2026-092"

21.d By-law No. 2026-115

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a General Assignment and Assumption of Contracts with Fairmount Holdings Inc. and 1000255784 Ontario Inc. o/a 14 Acres Parking and By-law, respecting security services in accordance with RFP-24-003"

21.e By-law No. 2026-116

"A By-law to amend Delegation of Powers and Duties By-law No. 2014-109 respecting site plan control and facility use agreement delegations"

21.f By-law No. 2026-117

"A By-law to amend Committee of Adjustment By-law No. 2022-074 to include the responsibility to act as the Court of Revision under the *Drainage Act*, and to increase remuneration"

21.g By-law No. 2026-118

"A By-law to amend Waste Management By-law No. 2005-151 respecting provisions related to waste on public property"

21.h By-law No. 2026-119

"A By-law to amend Traffic By-law No. 2009-075 to improve public safety and parking availability"

21.i By-law No. 2026-120

"A By-law to adopt Reserves and Reserve Funds Policy AF016, respecting the objectives of reserves and reserve funds, the standard of care, and the responsibilities for management and administration"

21.j By-law No. 2026-121

"A By-law to amend Fees and Charges By-law No. 2026-067 to establish a collection fee for waste materials disposed of improperly within the City of Owen Sound"

R-260928-010
Moved by Councillor Hamley
Seconded by Councillor Koepke

"THAT By-law Numbers 2026-112, 2026-113, 2026-114, 2026-115, 2026-116, 2026-117, 2026-118, 2026-119, 2026-120, and 2026-121 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

22. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Boddy adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

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Mayor Richard Thomas

_____

Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk

Minutes

Owen Sound City Council

November 19, 2026
12:30 p.m.
City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Richard Thomas
Deputy Mayor Scott Greig
Councillor David Adams
Councillor Joe Carder
Councillor Brock Hamley
Councillor Suneet Kukreja
Councillor Brian O'Leary
Councillor Meghan Robertson

MEMBERS ABSENT/REGRETS: Councillor Melanie Middlebro'

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Michelle Palmer, Interim Director of Public Works and Engineering
Aidan Ware, Director and Chief Curator - Art Gallery, Culture, Tourism
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Staci Landry, Deputy Clerk

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

All Council members and staff listed above were present except for Councillor Hamley.

2. MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

S-261119-001
Moved by Councillor Adams
Seconded by Councillor Carder

"THAT City Council now moved into 'Closed Session' to consider three matters regarding the education and training of members respecting Council orientation."

Carried.

3. REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Thomas advised that Council returned to the open session at 3:27 p.m. All Council members and staff listed above were present except for Deputy Mayor Greig and the Director of Corporate Services. Councillor Hamley joined the meeting during the Closed Session.

During the Closed Session, City Council discussed three matters regarding the education and training of members respecting Council orientation, and no direction was provided.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. BY-LAWS

5.a By-law No. 2026-122

"A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Special Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound held on the 19th day of November, 2026"

S-261119-002
Moved by Councillor Adams
Seconded by Councillor Carder

"THAT By-law Number 2026-122 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Thomas adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

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Mayor Richard Thomas

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Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk

Minutes

Owen Sound City Council

November 20, 2026
12:30 p.m.
City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mayor Richard Thomas Deputy Mayor Scott Greig Councillor David Adams Councillor Joe Carder Councillor Brock Hamley Councillor Suneet Kukreja Councillor Brian O'Leary Councillor Meghan Robertson
MEMBERS ABSENT/REGRETS:	Councillor Melanie Middlebro'
STAFF PRESENT:	Tim Simmonds, City Manager Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services Michelle Palmer, Interim Director of Public Works and Engineering Aidan Ware, Director and Chief Curator Kate Mosher, Communications Advisor Hailey Thomson, Communications Advisor Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support Coordinator

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

All Council members and staff listed above were present except for the Communications Advisors.

2. MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

S-261120-001
Moved by Councillor Carder
Seconded by Councillor Hamley

"THAT City Council now moved into 'Closed Session' to consider three matters regarding the education and training of members respecting Council orientation."

Prior to a vote on the motion, Deputy Mayor Greig requested a recorded vote:

	In Favour	Opposed
Councillor Adams	X	
Councillor Carder	X	
Councillor Hamley	X	
Councillor Kukreja		X
Councillor O'Leary	X	
Councillor Robertson	X	
Deputy Mayor Greig		X
Mayor Thomas	X	

The resolution was carried with six (6) votes in favour and two (2) votes opposed.

3. REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Thomas advised that Council returned to the open session at 3:57 p.m. All Council members and staff listed above were present except for the Director of Corporate Services. The Communications Advisors joined the meeting during the Closed Session.

During the Closed Session, City Council discussed three matters regarding the education and training of members respecting Council orientation, and no direction was provided.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. BY-LAWS

5.a By-law No. 2026-123

"A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Special Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound held on the 20th day of November, 2026"

S-261120-002
Moved by Councillor Carder
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT By-law Number 2026-123 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Thomas adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

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Mayor Richard Thomas

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Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk

Staff Report

Report To: City Council

Report From: Kate Allan Director of Corporate Services

Meeting Date: November 30, 2026

Report Code: CR-26-101

Subject: 2027 Mayor's Budget Process and Timelines

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-26-101 respecting the process and timelines for the 2027 Mayor's Budget, City Council approves shortening the:

1. 2027 budget amendment period from 30 days to 25 days; and
2. 2027 budget over-ride of the Mayor's veto period, if required, from 15 days to 5 days.

Highlights:

- The January 11, 2027, Strong Mayor Budget Workshop will provide Council and the public with opportunities to inform the Mayor's proposed budget.
- The Mayor's proposed budget will be released on January 28, 2027, with the statutory amendment and veto periods proposed to align with scheduled Council meetings.

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

Strategic Plan Priority: The recommendation contributes to core service delivery or a corporate initiative that enables service delivery for one or more strategic priorities.

Previous Report/Authority:

Preliminary 2027 Budget Process

Background:

Section 290 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* requires municipalities to prepare and adopt an annual budget.

Under the strong mayor provisions of the *Municipal Act, 2001* and Ontario Regulation 530/22, the Mayor is responsible for preparing and proposing the annual municipal budget by February 1. The legislation establishes a prescribed process for budget adoption, including Council's authority to amend the proposed budget, the Mayor's authority to veto amendments, and Council's authority to override a mayoral veto.

The statutory framework provides for a 30-day Council amendment period, a 10-day mayoral veto period and a 15-day Council veto override period. The legislation permits Council and the Mayor to shorten their respective periods to accommodate municipal meeting schedules.

While responsibility for proposing the budget rests with the Mayor, a collaborative and transparent budget development process remains fundamental to informed municipal decision-making.

The annual operating budget reflects the cost of delivering established municipal service levels, meeting legislative and contractual obligations, and implementing approved decisions. Changes to service levels should be supported by appropriate operational and financial analysis, which in turn informs future budgets.

The City's capital planning process is undertaken separately from operating budget deliberations. The Mayor's proposed budget will establish the amount raised through taxation to support capital investment, consistent with the City's dedicated annual capital levy increase of 1 per cent of the prior year's levy. The prioritization and allocation of capital funding will continue to be informed by Council through the City's multi-year capital planning process.

Analysis and Options:

2027 Operating Budget Development

Staff commenced preparation of the 2027 operating budget in late August 2026. Following the municipal election, staff engaged with the Mayor to establish an understanding of his budget objectives, acceptable thresholds for increases, priority areas for investment, and opportunities for expenditure reductions.

Service Levels and Budget Development

The draft operating budget reflects established service levels, existing commitments and decisions made to date.

While the budget workshop provides an opportunity to identify potential changes to municipal services, adjustments to the budget for service-level changes that have not yet been defined or approved would be premature. Rather, these discussions can serve as a catalyst for subsequent service reviews, supported by appropriate operational and financial analysis.

Where approved service-level changes are implemented during the year, available reserves or alternative funding sources may be considered to address in-year costs, with ongoing financial implications incorporated into future budgets. Similarly, in-year savings may be available to offset other expenditure pressures or contribute to reserves, subject to applicable approvals.

Strong Mayor Budget Workshop

An all-day special meeting of the Resilient Community Advisory Committee is proposed for January 11, 2027. The workshop is intended to build Council's understanding of the City's existing services, the associated costs of service delivery, and the key financial pressures influencing the 2027 budget.

The presentation will provide summary-level financial information by division, highlighting significant budget drivers and staffing complements. A detailed line-level budget package, including historical actuals and prior-year budgets, will be made available to Council and the public on January 4, 2027.

The recent municipal election provided a significant opportunity for community engagement. The workshop will enable members of Council to bring forward the perspectives gained through those conversations, identify priorities and communicate potential budget additions, reductions, or changes for the Mayor's consideration.

The meeting will be open to the public and include a designated public forum, with opportunities for both written and in-person submissions. The City's Communications Team will issue media releases advising the community of the meeting date, availability of budget materials, and deadlines for submitting feedback.

The workshop is intended to facilitate information sharing and discussion. No budget amendment motions will be considered. Feedback received from Council and the public will inform the development of the Mayor's proposed budget, with formal Council amendments considered following its release.

Board members and members of staff from the Owen Sound Police Service and Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library will present the budget details for their respective levies.

Capital Budget and Planning

The Mayor's proposed budget will incorporate the City's dedicated annual capital levy increase of 1 per cent of the prior year's tax levy, consistent with the City's commitment to sustainable infrastructure investment.

On February 2, 2027, at the Resilient Community Advisory Committee meeting, staff will present an update to the 2027 capital budget, building on the multi-year capital budget approved by Council in July 2026.

A comprehensive review of the City's five-year capital plan will occur in the spring or early summer of 2027. Council will continue to play a central role in establishing capital investment priorities and determining the allocation of available capital funding through this process.

Proposed Budget Timelines

The following schedule provides opportunities for Council and public input prior to the Mayor formally proposing the budget and aligns the statutory budget adoption process with the City's Regular Council meeting schedule.

Date	Milestone
January 4	Publication of detailed draft budget and workshop materials through the Resilient Community Advisory Committee January 11, 2027 agenda.
January 11	Strong Mayor Budget Workshop – Resilient Community Advisory Committee meeting.
January 12–27	Mayor and staff consider Council and public feedback and finalize the proposed budget.
January 28	Mayor tables the 2027 budget which will be posted to the website and emailed to Council.

Date	Milestone
February 2	2027 capital budget update – Resilient Community Advisory Committee meeting.
February 22	Council considers amendments to the Mayor's proposed budget. If no amendments are passed, the budget is deemed adopted at the conclusion of the amendment period.
March 3	Deadline for the Mayor to veto Council amendments, if applicable.
March 8	Council considers motions to override mayoral vetoes, if applicable.

To facilitate the proposed schedule, staff recommend that Council exercise its authority under Ontario Regulation 530/22 to shorten the budget amendment and veto override periods. The Mayor will separately exercise his authority to shorten the mayoral veto period.

This approach supports informed Council participation, meaningful public engagement and an efficient budget adoption process while maintaining compliance with the legislative framework.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

There are no additional financial requirements associated with budget development.

Human Resources

Budget development is led by the Finance and Communications Divisions and is a collaborative process that involves City staff from every department.

Time and Scheduling

The proposed budget process will result in a 2027 Budget that is deemed adopted no later than March 8, 2027.

Technology and Infrastructure

N/A.

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Communication and Engagement:

The 2027 budget process is designed to promote transparency, informed decision-making, and meaningful engagement with Council and the community prior to the Mayor formally proposing the budget.

Key communication and engagement strategies include:

- Leveraging the community feedback received by members of Council during the recent municipal election.
- Publishing detailed draft budget materials on January 4, 2027, providing Council and the public with one week to review the information in advance of the budget workshop.
- Hosting a public budget workshop on January 11, 2027, with a designated public forum and opportunities for written and in-person submissions.
- Issuing media releases and utilizing the City's communication channels to promote the budget workshop, availability of budget materials, opportunities for public input, and key budget milestones.
- Ensuring the Mayor's proposed budget, subsequent amendments, and budget adoption outcomes are communicated to the public.

These strategies provide opportunities for Council and the community to inform the development of the Mayor's proposed budget and maintain transparency throughout the statutory budget adoption process.

Report Developed in Consultation With:

City Manager; Clerk; Mayor

Attachments:

None.

Submission approved by:
Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services at kallan@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1238.

Staff Report

Report To: City Council

Report From: Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services

Meeting Date: November 30, 2026

Report Code: CS-26-097

Subject: Owen Sound 170 Celebration: Many Stories. One City.

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-26-097 respecting the Owen Sound 170 Celebration, City Council:

1. Endorses the campaign theme: "*Many Stories. One City.*"; and
2. Requests the project budget of $50,000 funded from the Events Reserve be considered as part of the Mayor's 2027 budget.

Highlights:

- A year to celebrate: 2027 will mark Owen Sound's 170th anniversary through a year-long, community-wide celebration.
- One shared identity: "Owen Sound 170: Many Stories. One City." will connect City and community activities under one campaign.
- Build on what we do well: Existing events will be enhanced alongside new cultural, heritage, and storytelling initiatives.
- A targeted investment: $50,000 from the Events Reserve is proposed, leveraging existing budgets, community partnerships, and sponsorships.

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

Strategic Plan Priority: Celebrating and Embracing Culture - Uplifting all aspects of the City's local culture, including Indigenous Peoples' cultural histories and practices, the cultural histories and practices of all residents, and formal institutional arts and culture.

Previous Report/Authority:

None.

Background:

The City of Owen Sound will celebrate its 170th anniversary in 2027. The anniversary presents an opportunity to strengthen community pride, recognize local history and accomplishments, increase participation in community events, support cultural tourism, and create meaningful legacies.

Within the City, there are several milestones including:

City Celebration	Milestone
City of Owen Sound	170 years
Tom Thomson	150 years
Tom Thomson Art Gallery	60 years
Harrison Park	115 years
Harbour Nights	25 years
Hockey Fest	5 years
Owen Sound Fire Department	120 years
Owen Sound Police Service	170 years

A number of organizations and community partners are also expected to observe notable anniversaries or milestones in 2027. These include, among others:

Potential Partner Celebration	Milestone
OSCVI	170 years
Emancipation Festival	165 years
Owen Sound Grey's Memorial Cup Championship/Owen Sound Attack Centennial Celebration	100 years
YMCA	150 years

Georgian College Campus	60 years
Georgian Bay Symphony	55 years
Owen Sound Minor Soccer	50 years
Owen Sound Aquatic Club	60 years
Owen Sound Agricultural Society	175 years
Festival of Northern Lights	40 years
Grey Roots/Grey County	175 years
Billy Bishop-related Heritage Milestones	40 years and 110 years in wartime, subject to confirmation of specific commemoration descriptions

*Note: this is not a complete list and there will be more partners identified through the public call for partners.

The City will issue an open call inviting community organizations celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2027 to participate. The City will also contact organizations it is already aware of directly.

The proposed approach recognizes that community organizations will retain responsibility for their individual anniversaries and events, with Owen Sound 170 offering a shared framework for promotion, coordination, municipal support, storytelling, and partnership development.

Analysis and Options:

Proposed Concept – Campaign Identity

The proposed campaign identity is: *Owen Sound 170: Many Stories. One City.*

The campaign branding guidelines are included in the attachment to the report.

The campaign will be designed to be adaptable for use by City departments, community organizations, event organizers, schools, cultural institutions, sponsors, and tourism partners. Participating organizations will be encouraged to use the Owen Sound 170 visual identity alongside their own organizational brands. There will be a dedicated page on the Tourism website

and a social media campaign to support the celebration of these many milestones.

Project Objectives

- Create a unified celebration identity that partners can adopt alongside their own brands.
- Recognize major anniversaries and milestones in a balanced, inclusive, and respectful way.
- Coordinate a public calendar of events to maximize participation, visibility, and operational coordination.
- Support community-led programming through a clear partnership model, promotional tools, and defined municipal supports.
- Deliver one or more signature civic celebrations, including enhanced Canada Day programming.
- Encourage community participation and civic pride across neighbourhoods, generations, and communities.
- Strengthen cultural tourism and local economic activity by promoting Owen Sound as a destination for events and experiences throughout 2027.

Celebration Model

The celebration would consist of two interconnected streams:

1. City-Led Events and Projects

Existing City events enhanced with anniversary programming, including Canada Day, Harbour Nights, and other civic activities.

The year will begin with a New Year's Eve Mayor's Levee with the Mayor and Council attending the New Year's Eve Family Celebration at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre.

Enhanced plans for Canada Day may include the 170 stories as an exhibit, a customized drone show, 170 voices community performance, a time capsule, and a community photo at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park.

As part of Owen Sound's 170th anniversary celebrations in 2027, staff are exploring the installation of an illuminated "OWEN SOUND" marquee sign as a legacy project that would celebrate the City's identity and foster community pride. The sign would serve as a recognizable landmark and an interactive photo opportunity for residents and visitors, enhancing the City's tourism appeal and encouraging organic promotion through social media. The installation could feature customizable lighting to recognize special

events, holidays, and community initiatives throughout the year. Strategically positioned in a prominent location, the marquee sign would provide a lasting and visually engaging attraction that extends the impact of the anniversary celebrations well beyond 2027.

Activities that engage residents in sharing community histories, recognizing local contributions, and looking toward the future.

As part of the "Many Stories. One City." campaign, the City will invite residents, past and present, to share 170 stories that reflect the people, experiences, places, and events that have shaped Owen Sound. The initiative will celebrate the City's diverse histories and community contributions while providing an opportunity to reflect on the City's evolution and aspirations for the future. Stories may be shared through written submissions, photographs, video, and other creative formats, with selected stories featured through the City's website, social media, and anniversary celebrations.

While recognizing the people, places, and events that have shaped Owen Sound, the 170th anniversary will also provide an opportunity to look ahead. Through community engagement and storytelling, the celebration will encourage residents to reflect on the City's future, what makes it a place they are proud to call home, and the legacy they hope to leave for future generations.

Tom Thomson Art Gallery

Plans for celebrating 150 years of Tom Thomson alongside the Gallery's 60th anniversary include:

- Exhibitions that explore the history of the Gallery's Tom Thomson collection through acquisitions.
- A signature fundraising calendar featuring Tom Thomson works from the Gallery's collection which is already distributed and selling at over 40 regional retail locations.
- A special celebratory event based on the success of recent Palette to Palate evenings.
- A key collaboration with Algonquin Outfitters at Canoe Lake for the creation and installation of a Tom Thomson-inspired mural at that location (where Thomson famously passed away), which also promotes the Art Gallery in Owen Sound, as well as new custom merchandise created in partnership with Algonquin Outfitters and sold at the Gallery as well as at the Canoe Lake store; and a series of talks that focus on Tom Thomson's legacy.

- The Gallery will be celebrating the return of Tom Thomson's painter's palette, which has been gone for several years as it undergoes conservation treatment and study at the Canadian Conservation Institute.
- The OPEN Team will work collaboratively to develop an exhibition comprised of historic images of Owen Sound by J. James alongside artefacts from the collections of the Billy Bishop Museum, the Community Waterfront Heritage Centre, and the Owen Sound and North Grey Union Public Library at City Hall to be installed in May and to continue through the rest of the year.

The Tom Thomson Art Gallery staff will plan, fund, coordinate, and deliver these events.

170 Trees

Staff is beginning to investigate the opportunity to plan and develop an initiative to have donations or a program to plant 170 trees. Further information will be forthcoming on this component of the celebration.

2. Community-Led Celebrations

Events organized independently by community organizations and participating partners, supported through the Owen Sound 170 partnership framework.

The City has developed a project logo and theme. This will give all events, (both City and partner-led events) a common visual identity, co-branding, and joint marketing across the City's communication platform including website, social media, etc.

Staff will invite organizations to participate in the campaign through a clear partnership-benefits framework. Potential partnership benefits may include:

- Inclusion in the official Owen Sound 170 calendar and communications;
- Access to campaign branding and promotional materials;
- Coordinated media, social media, web, and tourism promotion;
- Support from the City Special Event Activation Team (SEAT); and
- Opportunities for joint promotions, and cross-event programming.

Consolidated 2027 Virtual Calendar

A centralized public calendar will identify City-led, City-supported, and community partner celebrations. The calendar will help residents and visitors

plan participation, support coordination among organizers, and reduce avoidable scheduling conflicts.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

A total project budget of $50,000 is proposed for Owen Sound 170.

The proposed budget is intended to support the coordination and added-value elements required for a cohesive City-wide campaign including the potential purchase and installation of an Owen Sound marquee. Existing funds allocated to eligible 2027 City events would continue to support those approved events and may be leveraged where anniversary branding, programming enhancements, shared promotion, or operational coordination are appropriate.

Final allocations of funding will be refined as event planning and partner engagement is completed.

Staff will be developing a complete sponsorship package for the City-led events for 2027.

Council is requested to approve an allocation from the Events Reserve to the Owen Sound 170 Celebration. This is requested in advance of the overall budget deliberation to allow event planning to be initiated with some certainty.

Human Resources

The staff effort to support, plan, and deliver this yearlong celebration that is extended to community partners is significant and will be supported by the existing staffing plan.

The Project Charter for this project outlines the staff support and roles for each. The Director of Community Services is the Project Sponsor with the Director and Chief Curator of the Art Gallery, Culture, and Tourism as the Project Lead. The project team includes:

- Tim Simmonds, City Manager
- Jennifer Wright, Events and Activations Coordinator
- Melissa Crannie, Tourism and Marketing Coordinator
- Viveca Gravel, River District Coordinator
- Andy O’Leary, Facilities Booking Coordinator
- Kate Mosher, Communications Advisor

- Hailey Thomson, Communications Advisor
- Matt Given, Owen Sound Fire
- Jason Crannie, Owen Sound Police Service

Time and Scheduling

This initiative will require significant effort from staff that are part of the project team as well as support from Parks and Facilities staff.

Technology and Infrastructure

The project will utilize the City's existing online infrastructure including a dedicated webpage on both the City and Tourism sites.

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Communication and Engagement:

The project will include a major communication effort from the call for community partners to the development of a webpage, consolidated calendar, marketing and promotion.

This project will provide an opportunity to work with community partner organizations throughout the City, and engage in new ways with community members through a shared celebration and pride for our City.

Staff has emailed the SON EO to request a meeting regarding how they may want to participate and be included in the year-long celebration.

Report Developed in Consultation With:

Aidan Ware, Director and Chief Curator – Art Gallery, Culture, Tourism
Jennifer Wright, Events and Activations Coordinator

Attachments:

Owen Sound 170 Branding Guidelines

Submission approved by:
Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services at pcoulter@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1252.

Branding Guidelines

Owen Sound 2027: A Year to Celebrate

Our Past. Our Present. Our Future.

One celebration. One recognizable identity.

Use these guidelines when promoting your event, milestone or community initiative as part of Owen Sound's 2027 celebrations. The shared identity helps audiences recognize activities happening across the city.

Approved logo colours

Use the supplied one-colour logo artwork. Dark teal is preferred for general use; the other three colours are approved alternatives.



Dark teal #174C55 Blue teal #2D7182 Terracotta #B8613C Gold #D4A72C

Typography

Montserrat Bold | Titles and headings

Open Sans Regular or Semibold | Descriptions, event details and body text

Use clear spacing, readable sizes and simple layouts. Do not substitute decorative fonts for campaign materials.

Using the logo

- Keep the logo in its original proportions and colours. Never stretch, rotate, redraw or add effects.
- Leave open space around the logo, at least the height of the “O” in OWEN SOUND on each side.
- Place the logo on a plain, high-contrast background. Avoid busy photos behind it.
- Keep your organization’s logo, event name and details separate from the celebration logo.

Four approved versions



Dark teal #174C55



Blue teal #2D7182



Terracotta #B8613C



Gold #D4A72C

Files and production

Use a transparent PNG for digital graphics and presentations. For large-format printing, signs, apparel or embroidery, request an approved vector file (SVG, AI, EPS or print-ready PDF). Do not enlarge a low-resolution image for production.

Before sharing

Check that the logo is readable, colours and fonts are correct, dates and details are accurate, and any photographs are approved for use. When in doubt, request a review before printing or publishing.

Our colours through the seasons

Each approved brand colour reflects a different seasonal mood. Stakeholders may use these associations to give their materials a seasonal feel while keeping the Owen Sound 2027 identity consistent.

Season	Brand colour	Seasonal character
Winter	Dark teal #174C55	Deep, cool and vivid. A strong winter colour with a jewel-tone feel.
Summer	Blue teal #2D7182	Cool and softer in appearance. A muted blue-green suited to summer.
Fall	Terracotta #B8613C	Warm and earthy. A natural fit for autumn and heritage-inspired materials.
Spring	Gold #D4A72C	Warm, bright and clear. Adds an optimistic spring accent.

Using the seasonal palette

Use one seasonal colour as the lead accent, supported by dark teal when needed for legibility. Keep the logo in one approved colour and use the original supplied artwork. The seasonal order: Winter → Summer → Fall → Spring, offers a balanced visual cycle across the year.

These are suggested seasonal associations, not restrictions. All four colours remain approved for year-round use.

Staff Report

Report To: City Council

Report From: Michelle Palmer, Interim Director of Public Works and Engineering

Meeting Date: November 30, 2026

Report Code: OP-26-042

Subject: Project Update for CAP-26-0091 – Water Treatment Plant Filter Upgrade

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-26-042 respecting a project update for the Water Treatment Plant filter upgrade (CAP-26-0091), City Council receives the report for information purposes.

Highlights:

- The City was awarded a grant through the Investing in Canadian Infrastructure (ICIP) Green Stream Program in 2022 for the Owen Sound Water Treatment Plant Filter Upgrade Project.
- The award of the construction tender for the Water Treatment Plant Filter Upgrade Project was approved by Council on September 25, 2023.
- The scope of work included the filter underdrain, media replacement, and mechanical equipment upgrades.
- Since its initiation, the project has experienced several design challenges and unforeseen conditions which have created delays and identified opportunities for improvement in project management.

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

Strategic Plan Priority: Fostering Mutually Beneficial & Respectful Relationships - Establishing, reconciling, and continually nurturing relationships that result in mutual benefit, trust and shared understanding.

Previous Report/Authority:

CR-22-091 – Award of RFP-22-042 – Filter Equipment Preselection to Xylem Canada LP

CR-23-079 – Award of RFT-23-004 – Filter Upgrade, Water Treatment Plant (Construction)

OP-25-014 – Water Treatment Plant Filter Upgrade Project Update

Budget Amendment Decision - Water Treatment Plant Filter Upgrades (pages 23 to 26)

Background:

This capital project was originally identified to Council in 2019 to add an air scour system. The original scope of the project included:

1. Installation of an air scour system to improve filter performance. This includes blowers and related mechanical and electrical components.
2. Replacement of the underdrain system, which is at the end of its useful life and cannot physically support an air scour system.
3. Replacement of the filter media at the same time.

On July 19, 2021, a purchase order was issued to R.V Anderson Associates Limited to award RFP-21-029 for engineering consulting design and contract administration services.

In 2022, staff were notified of a successful grant application through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure (ICIP) Green Stream program. The maximum amount being funded by the Federal and Provincial governments was to be $2,841,900. Council approved By-law No. 2022-091 to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Province of Ontario for $2,841,900, representing 73 per cent of the project's eligible costs at that time.

On September 26, 2022, Council approved RFP-22-042 Filter Equipment Preselection to Xylem Canada LP. The intention was to procure the equipment so that design could begin, such that once the construction contract was awarded, there would be little delay waiting for the equipment to be delivered. A novation agreement transfers responsibility for payment and ownership of the equipment from the City to the contractor at the time of construction contract award, and the City assumes it again upon contract completion.

On September 25, 2023, Council approved the Award of Tender RFT-23-004 – Filter Upgrade, Water Treatment Plant (Construction) to North America Construction (1993) Ltd., the lowest compliant bid received.

Several construction and vendor-related delays occurred throughout the project, including electrical issues in the motor control centre, building entrance modifications (to bring the blower equipment into the building), filter backwash flow meter (as the existing flowmeter did not have sufficient accuracy to work with the specified equipment), and several programming challenges, which led to delays that impacted the schedule and the budget.

The project has now reached substantial completion with the commissioning of the final filter replacement.

Analysis and Options:

This complex construction project has reached substantial completion, and completing lessons learned to identify opportunities for improvement is critical to project close-out. That process is ongoing.

Budget Development

Capital project budgets are based on pricing at the time of identification of the project. With each five-year capital budget update to Council, project costs are refined based on actual market conditions. However, this project did not receive budget updates between identification and initiation. Additionally, the project budget did not include a contingency. Projects utilize change orders (contingency funding) when unforeseen conditions or changes are required to the scope of work, project timeline, or substitutions of materials and/or products. When the construction component of the project was awarded, a 3 per cent contingency was added. Typically, complex water and wastewater construction projects carry a 25 per cent contingency.

Project Scope and Timeline

At the time of preselecting filter underdrains, blowers, and filter media, it was indicated this would allow the City's engineering consultant to complete the design by the end of 2022, with construction to be completed within one year. However, the construction tender was not released until July 21, 2023.

During the design phase, it was determined that the scope of the project should be expanded to include HVAC improvements to prevent the air scour installation from worsening an existing mould situation, and to install new UV units that the City had already purchased.

When the construction contract was awarded, construction was expected to take 65 weeks, which would have placed substantial completion in January 2025. Throughout the project, regular updates were not provided to City staff leadership or Committee to ensure a shared understanding of the challenges being experienced and their impact on the substantial completion date.

Selection and Management of Vendors

For this project, the City used one consulting firm to handle both engineering design and contract administration. This has been a typical practice in municipal infrastructure projects because it avoids onboarding a secondary vendor (including competitively procuring those services), which can save time on the overall project. However, it can create conflicts when design challenges arise during construction. Municipalities are moving away from this practice by either bringing one component in-house or procuring them separately for complex construction projects.

Additionally, the City does not currently have a formal vendor performance program. Larger municipalities have increasingly implemented vendor performance management programs with formal evaluation criteria and consequences that affect future contracts.

Next Steps

As staff develop increased consistency and robustness in project management, several actions have been identified to address the challenges noted above. These actions include:

- projects will be reviewed during capital updates (annually) to ensure that updated costing has been evaluated and that an accurate contingency is in place;

- project status will be updated monthly; these statuses and related comments will be utilized by project sponsors to closely monitor project progress and enable them to support challenges in real time;
- regular updates will be brought to Committee throughout the life of a project; and
- implementation of standardized contracts for consulting and development of education for project leads to ensure they are well-versed in the contract requirements
- modification to future bid solicitation documents to clearly outline roles, responsibilities and expectations
- review of criteria for when to use a pre-qualification process and when to sperate components of the consulting into multiple contracts
- identifying best practice to inform the implementation of a formal vendor performance program.

These components will be brought forward and implemented under a previously planned 2027 initiative "Implement Project and Change Management Standardization". This initiative will focus on strengthening consistency, governance, accountability, and outcomes including improving clarity of roles and responsibilities for project leads and project sponsors.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

The final approved budget for this project was $6,328,850 with grant funding of $2,841,900. As the project has reached substantial completion, the City is awaiting final payment certificates, and staff anticipate the project shall not exceed the approved budget.

Human Resources

Currently, staff with operational expertise manage capital projects for water and wastewater, in addition to core service activities. Having dedicated project management of complex construction projects is critical for success going forward.

Time and Scheduling

The original construction period targeted substantial completion by January 2025. By the date of this meeting (November 2026), the project has reached substantial completion.

Technology and Infrastructure

The City recently (in December 2025) implemented ProjectTeam, a project management software. The software increases project visibility for leadership and impacted staff. It has also enabled increased oversight of requested change orders and scheduling changes.

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Communication and Engagement:

This report has been published with the agenda in advance of the meeting.

Report Developed in Consultation With:

Water Treatment Plant Superintendent

Purchasing and Claims Coordinator

Attachments:

None.

Submission approved by:
Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Michelle Palmer, Interim Director of Public Works and Engineering, at mpalmer@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1246.

Staff Report

Report To: City Council

Report From: Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk

Meeting Date: November 30, 2026

Report Code: CR-26-095

Subject: Alternate Member of Grey County Council 2026-2030

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-26-095 respecting an alternate member of Grey County Council from 2026-2030, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to appoint the Council member who is nominated as the alternate member of Grey County Council.

Highlights:

- The *Municipal Act, 2001* provides authority to a municipality to appoint an alternate member to the upper-tier council.
- City Council appoints an alternate member to Grey County Council to:
    - ensure there is adequate representation for weighted votes; and
    - provide another councillor with the opportunity to gain experience at the County level.
- The Council Seating and Appointments Policy No. GOV0001 outlines the process for selecting the alternate member.

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

Strategic Plan Priority: The recommendation contributes to core service delivery or a corporate initiative that enables service delivery for one or more strategic priorities.

Previous Report/Authority:

Municipal Act, 2001, section 268

Council Seating and Appointments Policy No. GOV0001

Background:

The *Municipal Act, 2001*, provides authority to a municipality to appoint an alternate member to the upper-tier council, to act in place of a person who is unable to attend a meeting of the upper-tier council for any reason. Only one alternate can be appointed, and they must be appointed for the term of council. An alternate appointed by a local council cannot act as an alternate for the Warden.

The Council Seating and Appointments Policy No. GOV0001 outlines the process for selecting the alternate member and this policy will be utilized during the meeting to determine who the alternate member will be.

Grey County also has a policy titled "Council Alternate Member Attendance Policy" that can be reviewed for more information.

Analysis and Options:

Having an alternate member for Grey County Council ensures that there is adequate representation when a weighted vote is called and provides the alternate member with an opportunity to gain experience at the County level.

This report is being brought forward to initiate the process to appoint the alternate member of County Council. The by-law to appoint the alternate member will come forward for approval at the December 14, 2026, Council meeting.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

Grey County compensates the alternate member should they attend a meeting.

Human Resources

N/A.

Time and Scheduling

The appointment will begin once the by-law is approved and the declaration of office complete.

Technology and Infrastructure

Grey County staff will review technical requirements with the alternate member if required.

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Communication and Engagement:

The Grey County Clerk will be notified of the appointment. The Grey County Clerk will contact the alternate to schedule the declaration of office and a training session.

Report Developed in Consultation With:

Grey County Clerk

Attachments:

None.

Reviewed by:
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services

Submission approved by:
Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk at bbloomfield@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1247.

Staff Report

Report To: City Council

Report From: Staci Landry, Deputy Clerk

Meeting Date: November 30, 2026

Report Code: CR-26-098

Subject: 2027 Council Board and Committee Selections

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-26-098 respecting Council board and committee selections for 2027, City Council directs staff to bring forward the 2027 Board and Committee By-law to appoint Council members to serve on Boards and Committees with terms effective December 15, 2026.

Highlights:

- Councillors will make selections at this meeting with terms beginning December 15, 2026.
- Selection changes required due to scheduling conflicts can be made by notifying the Deputy Clerk by December 4, 2026.
- The by-law to formalize the board and committee appointments will be presented at the December 14, 2026 Council meeting.

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

Strategic Plan Priority: The recommendation contributes to core service delivery or a corporate initiative that enables service delivery for one or more strategic priorities.

Previous Report/Authority:

Board and Committee By-law No. 2026-053

Council Seating and Appointments Policy GOV001

Report CR-26-031 Re: 2027 Committee Structure and Calendar

Background:

At its meeting on April 13, 2026, City Council considered Staff Report CR-26-031 and decided that Council terms on boards and committees would be for either four (4) years, where the appointment term is prescribed by legislation, or two (2) years. Accordingly, appointments to the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library Board, River District Board of Management, and Resilient Community Advisory Committee will be for a term of four (4) years, while appointments to all other boards and committees will be for a term of two (2) years.

At this meeting, Council will make its board and committee selections in accordance with the Council Seating and Appointments Policy GOV001. All terms will commence December 15, 2026.

To ensure appointments are distributed evenly among members of Council, Councillors who serve on boards or committees with multi-year terms have the opportunity to pass on a round of selections. As this is the beginning of a new term of Council, there are no continuing appointments, with the exception of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board, which is discussed in greater detail below. Accordingly, no passes will occur during this selection process.

The 2027 Council Board and Committee Selection Sheet (Attachment 1) outlines the available vacancies and identifies where the Mayor is appointed.

The 2027 Council, Board, and Committee Meeting Calendar (Attachment 2) has been attached for ease of reference. Meeting dates and times for community organizations to which Council members may be appointed are not included in the calendar and are instead provided below:

Community Organization	Day	Time
Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force	3rd Friday of each month	10:00 a.m.
Community Safety and Well-Being Committee	3rd Tuesday of each month, quarterly (March, June, September, December)	1:00 p.m.

Community Organization	Day	Time
Owen Sound Tourism Development Fund Committee	3rd Wednesday of each month	9:30 a.m.
Owen Sound Fund Committee	4 to 6 times per year at the call of the Chair	Call of the Chair

If a Council member has a scheduling conflict and has arranged a trade with another Council member, they may make changes to their board and committee selections by notifying the Deputy Clerk no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 4, 2026.

Analysis and Options:

The information below outlines further details and considerations related to board and committee selections.

Chair and Vice Chair

At the first meeting of each committee following the new appointments, the committee will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. In accordance with the Board and Committee By-law, the Chair and Vice-Chair of all City committees on which members of Council sit must be a member of Council. A Council member may serve as Chair of a committee for a maximum of two (2) consecutive years, and at the end of the second year, the Council member is ineligible to serve as Chair of that same committee for a period of one (1) year.

As this is the beginning of a new term and the establishment of new committees, all members of Council are eligible to serve as Chair or Vice-Chair, provided they are not a family member of the committee's staff liaison.

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) Board

The Province of Ontario has introduced legislative changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act, 1990* that will result in the consolidation of the province's 36 conservation authorities into nine (9) regional conservation authorities. The GSCA will become part of the new Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority, along with five other conservation authorities.

The transition date is February 1, 2027, at which time, the new regional governance structure will take effect, and the existing GSCA Board will cease

to operate. As a result, the City of Owen Sound will no longer be required to appoint two (2) Council representatives to the GSCA Board following the transition date.

The GSCA has requested that Deputy Mayor Greig continue to serve on the GSCA Board until January 31, 2027. Under Section 14(4.2) of the *Conservation Authorities Act, 1990*, "A member's term begins at the first meeting of the authority after his or her appointment and expires immediately before the first meeting of the authority after the appointment of his or replacement." As long as the City does not appoint a replacement, Deputy Mayor Greig will continue to be considered a City representative.

The other City representative on the GSCA Board is former Councillor Jon Farmer, who did not seek re-election. Council is required to appoint one additional member of Council to fill this vacancy. As the appointment will only be required for the remaining period leading up to the February 1, 2027 transition date (a maximum of two meetings), it is not practical to include this appointment in the regular board and committee selection process. Accordingly, the Clerk's nomination procedure (Attachment 3) will be used to select one member of Council to serve on the GSCA Board until the transition date, after which no further City appointments will be required. A GSCA Board meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2026 at 1:15 p.m. at the GSCA's Administration Office. The newly appointed member will be expected to attend this meeting.

Owen Sound Police Service (OSPS) Board

Section 31(4) of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* provides that:

A municipal board that is composed of five members shall consist of:

a) the head of the municipal council or, if the head chooses not to be or is ineligible to be a member of the board, another member of the municipal council appointed by resolution of the municipality;
b) one member of the municipal council appointed by resolution of the municipality;
c) one person appointed by resolution of the municipality, who is neither a member of the municipal council nor an employee of the municipality; and two persons appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Mayor Thomas has notified the City Clerk that it is his intention to maintain the head of the municipal Council's seat on the OSPS Board. This will leave one (1) position available on the OSPS Board available for Council to select.

Following appointment by Council resolution, the Council representatives must meet the following requirements:

- Take an official oath or affirmation of office prior to assuming the duties as a police board member.
- Complete mandatory provincial training approved by the Solicitor General covering board roles and responsibilities before they may participate at a board meeting. The training focuses strictly on the governance framework, statutory duties, and oversight functions of board members. This training is completed online and will take approximately two (2) hours to complete.
- Complete additional training within six months of the appointment in human rights, anti-racism, and systemic racism, diversity, inclusion, and the rights and cultures of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. This training is completed online and will take approximately two (2) to three (3) hours to complete.
- Adhere to the statutory Code of Conduct for police service board members and understand the responsibilities and duties of a police service board under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* as well as Ontario Regulation 392/23: Adequate and Effective Policing.

Staff will forward the Council member's contact information to the OSPS Board Secretary. The Secretary can then coordinate the official oath or affirmation of office and mandatory training before the December 16, 2026 OSPS Board meeting.

Resilient Community Advisory Committee

In accordance with the Board and Committee By-law, all members of Council are automatically appointed to the Resilient Community Advisory Committee at the beginning of their term of office and shall serve on the Committee for the duration of their Council term.

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee may be any member of Council and shall be elected at the Committee's first meeting in February 2027.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

N/A.

Human Resources

N/A.

Time and Scheduling

Staff will present the 2027 Board and Committee By-law at the December 14, 2026 Council meeting to formally appoint Council members to serve on Boards and Committees, with terms set to begin December 15, 2026.

Technology and Infrastructure

N/A.

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Communication and Engagement:

The staff liaison and recording secretary for each board and committee will be advised of the Council appointments and meeting invitations will be sent out for all scheduled meetings. The Board and Committee By-law will be available on the City's website.

Report Developed in Consultation With:

Tim Lanthier, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority CAO

John Thomson, Owen Sound Police Service Board Chair

Attachments:

1. 2027 Board and Committee Selection Sheet
2. 2027 Council, Board, and Committee Meeting Calendar
3. Nominations and Elections of Members to Boards and Committees Procedure

Reviewed by:
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services

Submission approved by:
Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Staci Landry, Deputy Clerk at slandry@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1235.

2027 Board and Committee Selection Sheet

Advisory Committees - 2-Year Terms	Mayor Thomas	Deputy Mayor Greig	Adams	Carder	Hamley	Kukreja	Middlebro'	O'Leary	Robertson
Sustainable Community (4)									
Tom Thomson Art Gallery (2)									
Vibrant Community (4)									
Community Organizations - 2-Year Terms									
Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force (1)									
Community Safety and Well-Being (1)									
Owen Sound Tourism Development Fund (1)									
Owen Sound Fund Committee (1)									
Local Boards									
Owen Sound Housing Company (1) - 2-Year Term									
Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library (1) - 4-Year Term									
Owen Sound Police Service (Mayor + 1) - 2-Year Term	x								
River District (1) - 4-Year Term									

2027 Owen Sound City Council, Board, and Committee Meeting Calendar

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					ST	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	**ST**	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	**ST**	27
28	**HX**	30	31			

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	**ST**	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				ST	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	**ST**	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	**ST**	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	**HX**		

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	**ST**	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	**HX**	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	**24**	25
26	**ST**	**ST**	29	30	31	

Regular Council - 5:30pm

Special Council - Daytime

Meeting with Police Board - 3:00 p.m.

River District Board of Management 5:30pm

Committee of Adjustment 3:00pm

Resilient Community Advisory Committee 9:00 am

Sustainable Community Advisory Committee 5:30 pm

Vibrant Community Advisory Committee 5:30 pm

Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee 2:00 pm

Office Holiday Closure

ST - Statutory Holiday; **HX** - Other Holiday

GCJAAC - Thursdays, quarterly - 2:00 p.m.

ROMA Jan 24-26 **OGRA** Apr 04-07 **OSUM** Apr 26-28 **FCM** Jun 10-13 **AMCTO** Jun 13-16 **AMO** Aug 20-23

GSCA - 4th Wednesday, monthly - 1:15 p.m. **OSNGUPL** - Last Thursday, Jan-Jun and Sept-Nov - 6:00 p.m.

OSHC - 3rd Tuesday, monthly - 9:00 a.m. **OSPS** - 4th Wednesday, monthly - 9:00 a.m.

Nominations and Elections of Members to Boards and Committees

Lead Division: Clerks

Purpose

1. To provide procedures for nominating and electing members to serve on Boards and Committees when there is a single vacancy or multiple vacancies, and it is outside of the annual Board, Committee and Seat Selection Policy GOV001 timeframe.

Background

2. Each year, Council selects the boards and committees on which they wish to serve.

3. New Council board and committee terms begin February 1 of each year.

4. When a vacancy arises throughout the year on a Board or Committee, Council may follow this procedure to nominate and elect members to fill the vacancy as opposed to following Policy GOV001.

Scope

5. This procedure applies to Standing, Advisory, and Ad Hoc Committees, Community Organizations, and Boards as identified in the Board and Committee By-law.

Definitions

6. For the purposes of this procedure,

   "Ad Hoc Committee" means an ad hoc committee as identified in the City's Board and Committee By-law;

   "Advisory Committee" means an advisory committee as identified in the City's Board and Committee By-law;

   "Board" means a board as identified in the City's Board and Committee By-law;

   "City" means the City of Owen Sound, and a reference to the City is a reference to the geographical area or The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound as the context requires;

   "Clerk" means the City Clerk and includes the position of Recording Secretary for a Board or Committee, where applicable;

"Community Organization" means a community organization as identified in the City's Board and Committee By-law;

"Council" means the Council for the City;

"Mayor" means the head of council and includes the position of Chair for a Board or Committee, where applicable;

"Member" means a member of Council;

"Member-elect" means the person who has been elected to a position but has not yet begun to serve in that capacity; and

"Standing Committee" means a standing committee as identified in the City's Board and Committee By-law.

Procedure

Nominations

7. Nominations may be made by any member including nominations of oneself.
8. A seconder is not required for the nomination to stand.

When a Single Vacancy Exists on a Board/Committee

9. At a meeting, the Mayor announces that the floor is open for nominations. The Mayor then calls for nominations to fill the vacancy on the subject Board or Committee.
10. Members state "I nominate _____ to the _____ Board/Committee." A seconder is not required for the nomination to stand.
11. The Mayor asks the nominee if they will accept the nomination.
12. The Mayor then asks if there are any further nominations.
13. When there are no further nominations, the Mayor declares the nominations closed.
14. Where there is only one nominee, that member is acclaimed to the Board or Committee as a member-elect.
15. Where an election is required, members may only vote once. The Mayor asks for a show of hands in favour of the first nominee and records the number of votes received. If that nominee receives a majority vote of the members present, that nominee is declared the member-elect.
16. Where there is not a majority vote for the first nominee, the Mayor will ask for a show of hands in favour of the second nominee and so forth until one nominee receives a majority vote.

17. Where all nominees have been voted on and no nominee receives a majority vote, the nominee with the highest number of votes is declared the member-elect.

18. Where there is a tie for the highest number of votes, the names of the tied nominees are placed into a 'hat' or like receptacle by the Clerk and one name is drawn by the Mayor. The nominee whose name is drawn is declared the member-elect.

19. Where no members accept a nomination, the names of all eligible members are placed into a 'hat' or like receptacle by the Clerk and one name is drawn by the Mayor. The member whose name is drawn is declared the member-elect.

20. The process is repeated where there are multiple Board/Committees with single vacancies.

When Multiple Vacancies Exist on a Board/Committee

21. At a meeting, the Mayor announces how many vacancies exist for a particular Board/Committee and that the floor is open for nominations. The Mayor then calls for nominations to fill the vacancies on that Board or Committee.

22. Members state "I nominate _____ to the _____ Board/Committee." A seconder is not required for the nomination to stand.

23. The Mayor asks the nominee if they will accept the nomination.

24. The Mayor then asks if there are any further nominations.

25. When there are no further nominations, the Mayor declares the nominations closed.

26. Where the number of nominees is equal to or less than the number of vacancies, all nominees are acclaimed to positions on the Board/Committee.

27. Where an election is required, each member has the same number of votes as there are vacancies to be filled. The Mayor asks for a show of hands for each nominee and records the number of votes received for each nominee. The nominees with the highest number of votes are declared members-elect.

28. If there is a tie in the number of votes for the last vacancy, the names of the tied nominees are placed into a 'hat' or like receptacle by the Clerk and one name is drawn by the Mayor. The nominee whose name is drawn is declared the member-elect for the last vacancy.

29. Where no members accept a nomination or there are fewer nominees than vacancies, the names of all eligible members are placed into a 'hat' or like

receptacle by the Clerk and the number of names equal to the number of vacancies are drawn by the Mayor. The members whose names are drawn are declared members-elect.

30. The process is repeated where there are multiple Board/Committees with multiple vacancies.

Procedure Review

31. The City Clerk will review and update this procedure as needed to ensure it reflects current business processes.

References and Additional Information

Internal

32. Board and Committee By-law

33. Policy GOV001 – Board, Committee and Seat Selection

34. Procedure – Nominations and Elections of Chair and Vice Chair - Committees

External

35. N/A

Appendices

36. N/A

Revision History

Staff Authority	Date	Description of Amendment
City Clerk	2020-09-01	
City Clerk	2024-05-09	Formatted to new template including the addition of standard definitions.
	Click or tap to enter a date.	

Staff Report

Report To: City Council

Report From: Michelle Palmer, Interim Director of Public Works and Engineering

Meeting Date: November 30, 2026

Report Code: OP-26-048

Subject: Renewal of Transport Canada Lease C0307109 for the City's Water Intake Pipe

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-26-048 respecting the renewal of lease C0307109 with Transport Canada for the City's water intake pipe, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the lease agreement as outlined in the report.

Highlights:

- Transport Canada has provided an updated lease agreement for leased lands in the Owen Sound Harbour for the City's water treatment plant intake pipe.
- The agreement spans retroactively from September 1, 2025 to August 30, 2030.

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

Strategic Plan Priority: Green and Resilient City - Strengthening the City's environmental, social, and economic ability to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis. Also, leveraging the city's natural resources and infrastructure to support healthy lifestyles.

Previous Report/Authority:

OP-23-027 Re: Renewal of Transport Canada Lease C0307108 for the City's Water Intake Pipe

Background:

The City has several leases relating to inner and outer harbour lands with Transport Canada. This lease agreement relates to the leased lands in the Owen Sound Harbour for the City's water treatment plant intake pipe. The previous lease has lapsed, and the renewal agreement was delayed because Transport Canada was undergoing a major reorganization, which resulted in administrative delays. As a result, the proposed agreement to be executed spans retroactively from September 1, 2025, through to August 31, 2030.

Analysis and Options:

The agreement was updated to align with Transport Canada's standard licence template. Changes include clauses stating that environmental liability survives termination, as well as a mandatory environmental site assessment upon termination. While these clauses impose additional obligations on the City as the lessee, neither party intends to terminate the lease.

The agreement also amends the annual increase to 2 per cent (reduced from 3.4 per cent in the previous agreement).

The agreement also replaced the existing 1983 property sketch with an updated one (Attachment 1) based on more accurate information about the pipe's location that the City provided.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

With the 2 per cent annual increase, the financial impact for the City for each year within the agreement is as follows:

- September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026: $4,914.06, plus applicable HST.
- September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027: $5,012.36, plus applicable HST

- September 1, 2027 to August 31, 2028: $5,112.59, plus applicable HST
- September 1, 2028 to August 31, 2029: $5,214.84, plus applicable HST
- September 1, 2029 to August 31, 2030: $5,319.84, plus applicable HST

The annual operating budget for this line item in 2026 was $5,000. Future operating budgets for the water services division will be updated to reflect the increases.

Human Resources

N/A.

Time and Scheduling

N/A.

Technology and Infrastructure

N/A.

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Communication and Engagement:

This report has been posted to the City's website with the agenda in advance of the meeting.

Report Developed in Consultation With:

Transport Canada

Attachments:

Visual of Lease Location C0307109

Reviewed by:
Michelle Palmer, Interim Director of Public Works and Engineering

Submission approved by:
Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Michelle Palmer, Interim Director of Public Works and Engineering, at mpalmer@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1246.

Water Intake Pipe Lease C0307109



Staff Report

Report To: City Council

Report From: Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services

Meeting Date: November 30, 2026

Report Code: CR-26-103

Subject: 2025 Draft Audited Financial Statements

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-26-103 respecting the 2025 draft audited financial statements, City Council:

1. Approves the 2025 Consolidated Financial Statements as presented; and
2. Confirms to the municipal auditor, MNP LLP, that, to the best of its knowledge, it is not aware of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud affecting the City up to and including the date of this resolution.

Highlights:

- The draft 2025 consolidated financial statements are accompanied by an unqualified (clean) audit opinion.
- The financial results are consistent with the year-end financial results previously reported to Council.
- The City's overall financial position continues to improve, as evidenced by declining net debt, growing reserve balances, and continued investment in municipal infrastructure, reinforcing a positive multi-year trend.

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

Strategic Plan Priority: The recommendation contributes to core service delivery or a corporate initiative that enables service delivery for one or more strategic priorities.

Previous Report/Authority:

CR-26-037 - 2025 Year End

Background:

The *Municipal Act, 2001* requires municipalities to prepare annual financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for the public sector and to have those statements audited by an independent municipal auditor.

The annual financial statements provide Council and the public with a comprehensive overview of the City's financial position, annual financial performance, and investment in municipal infrastructure. They support financial transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making.

Staff are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Standards (PSAS) and maintaining appropriate internal controls to support the accuracy and integrity of financial reporting. The municipal auditor is responsible for independently examining the financial statements and expressing an opinion on whether they fairly present, in all material respects, the City's financial position and results of operations.

Council, as the governing body, is responsible for overseeing the City's financial reporting process, reviewing and approving the annual financial statements, and communicating to the auditor any known or suspected fraudulent activity as part of the annual audit process.

Analysis and Options:

The City's 2025 draft consolidated financial statements are accompanied by the draft independent auditor's report and the auditor's communications to Council. The draft auditor's report provides an unqualified (clean) audit opinion, indicating that the financial statements fairly present, in all material respects, the City's financial position and results of operations in accordance with Canadian PSAS.

Financial Position

The City continues to demonstrate improvements in its overall financial position. Notable changes over the prior year include:

- Net Debt: Decreased from $12.4 million to $9.5 million, with the repayment of $2.1 million in external long-term debt associated with historical capital projects contributing significantly to this improvement. The City's net debt has declined by approximately 52 per cent since 2023, when it was $19.7 million.
- Tangible Capital Assets: Increased in net book value from $271.8 million to $281.6 million, reflecting continued investment in the replacement and rehabilitation of municipal infrastructure. The City recorded $18.8 million in capital asset additions in 2025.
- Loans Receivable: Increased by approximately $2 million, reflecting the loan issued to the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority.
- Deferred Revenue: Increased from $12.2 million to $17.0 million, reflecting funds received and held for restricted purposes, including obligatory reserve funds.
- Reserves and Reserve Funds: Increased from $42.8 million to $49.3 million.
- Accumulated Surplus: Increased by $12.6 million to $273.2 million.

As detailed in **Note 8**, approximately $234.9 million, or 86 per cent, of the City's accumulated surplus represents its net investment in tangible capital assets. It is important to distinguish accumulated surplus from funds available for spending, as the majority of this balance represents investment in municipal infrastructure.

Note 8 also identifies an increase in unfinanced capital assets from $11.4 million to $17.5 million. While funding has not yet been applied, funding sources have been identified and incorporated into the City's multi-year financial planning. Much of this balance relates to ongoing capital projects and longer-term financing commitments, including the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre (JMRRC) and Sydenham Heights servicing. These longer-term balances are expected to be reduced through future development charge (DC) collections, and, in the case of the JMRRC, interest earned on the GBE reserve. This reinforces the importance of collecting DCs to fund growth-related infrastructure. Where DCs are waived or reduced without an alternative funding source, the financial obligation ultimately shifts to existing taxpayers or water and wastewater ratepayers.

Reconciliation to the Operating Surplus

While expenses reported in the consolidated financial statements exceed budget, this is largely attributable to differences between municipal budgeting practices and PSAS reporting requirements. These differences

include non-cash expenses, such as amortization and changes in post-employment benefit obligations, as well as capital expenditures that do not meet the criteria for capitalization. Amortization alone accounted for approximately $9 million in expenses in 2025.

The annual surplus of $12,608,580 reported in the consolidated financial statements should not be interpreted as the City's operating budget surplus.

Council's attention is directed to **Note 10**, which reconciles the annual surplus reported under PSAS to the City's operating surplus. This reconciliation accounts for non-cash accounting entries as well as budgeted transactions that are not recognized as expenses under PSAS, including transfers to reserves, tangible capital asset acquisitions, and debt principal repayments.

The final operating surplus of $343,042, transferred to the Tax Stabilization Reserve as identified in **Notes 8 and 10**, is approximately $52,000 lower than the surplus of $395,000 reported to Council in April 2026. This difference reflects year-end accounting adjustments, including adjustments to inventory and prepaid expenses, that had not been finalized at the time of the operating year-end report. There are no significant changes to the operating results previously presented to Council.

The year end report provided to the previous term of Council in April of this year is linked under the Previous Report/Authority Section of this report. It may be useful in verifying how operating revenues and expenditures compare to the annual operating budget.

Financial Information Return

The 2025 Financial Information Return (FIR) was submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on November 19, 2026, and is expected to be publicly available on the Ministry's website shortly.

The FIR presents municipal financial information in a standardized format, supporting financial analysis, benchmarking, and comparisons across Ontario municipalities. Key financial balances, including net debt, accumulated surplus, and amounts invested in tangible capital assets, agree with the City's draft consolidated financial statements.

Audit Confirmation

As part of the annual audit process, Canadian Auditing Standard 240 requires the municipal auditor to inquire of Council, as those charged with governance, regarding its knowledge of actual, suspected, or alleged fraud.

Council is being asked to provide this confirmation based on its knowledge as of the date of this report. This confirmation does not require newly elected members of Council to independently investigate activities that occurred prior to their term of office.

Given the transition to the City's new committee structure, the 2025 consolidated financial statements are being presented directly to Council for approval. Beginning in 2027, the annual consolidated financial statements will be reviewed by the Resilient Community Advisory Committee prior to being presented to Council for approval.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

The City's annual audit fees are approximately $71,725 and are budgeted within the Finance Department and funded proportionately through taxation, water, and wastewater rates. The preparation of the annual financial statements also requires specialized external services, including an actuarial valuation to support the reporting of post-employment benefit obligations

Human Resources

Finance staff coordinate and support the annual audit process, relying on inputs from staff across all City departments, including the Owen Sound Police Service Board, Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library Board, and River District Board of Management.

The scope of the annual audit extends well beyond the review of operating revenues and expenditures and includes capital assets, reserves and reserve funds, long-term liabilities, and complex accounting estimates.

In addition to the annual financial statement audit, Finance staff supported several funding-specific audits in 2026, including the Canada Community-Building Fund (formerly Federal Gas Tax) and the infrastructure grant associated with the arena boards and rink improvements at the Bayshore Community Centre. These audits are separate from the annual financial statement audit and require additional staff resources.

Time and Scheduling

The annual audit process begins at the end of the fiscal year and culminates with the presentation of the financial statements. This year's presentation is behind schedule. In future years, staff are targeting September for the presentation of the annual financial statements to the Resilient Community Advisory Committee, prior to Council approval.

Technology and Infrastructure

There are no additional technology or infrastructure requirements used to complete the audit.

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Communication and Engagement:

Following Council approval and receipt of the signed independent auditor's report, the final consolidated financial statements will be published on the City's website.

The annual Financial Information Return (FIR) is publicly available through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's website, providing access to standardized financial information across Ontario municipalities.

All reports related to the City's financial position and performance are publicly accessible through Council and Committee agendas and minutes. These reporting practices support financial transparency, accountability and public access to municipal financial information.

Report Developed in Consultation With:

MNP LLP

Attachments:

1. Draft Financial Statements
2. Auditor’s Letter to Council

Submission approved by:
Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services, at kallan@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1238.

The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound

Consolidated Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2025

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The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound
Consolidated Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2025

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The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound

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To the Members of Council of the City of Owen Sound:

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of City of Owen Sound (the "City"), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2025, and the consolidated statements of operations, accumulated surplus, changes in net debt and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the City as at December 31, 2025, and the results of its consolidated operations, changes in its net debt and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the City in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the City's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the City or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the City's financial reporting process.

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MNP LLP
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Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the City's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the City to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Plan and perform the group audit to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business units within the City as a basis for forming an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and review of the audit work performed for the purposes of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

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We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Owen Sound, Ontario

Date, 2026

Chartered Professional Accountants

Licensed Public Accountants

The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

December 31	2025	2024
Financial assets		
Cash (Note 1)	**$ 35,288,204**	$ 29,016,897
Investments (Note 2)	**9,827,700**	9,827,700
Taxes receivable	**3,955,593**	3,655,750
Trade and other receivables	**9,410,143**	9,866,199
Loans receivable (Note 3)	**2,124,041**	75,000
	60,605,681	52,441,546
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	**12,664,997**	10,240,611
Asset retirement obligation liability (Note 4)	**4,015,136**	4,149,397
Post-employment benefits (Note 16)	**8,072,083**	7,735,228
Deferred revenue (Page 30)	**16,965,116**	12,235,687
Long-term liabilities (Note 6)	**28,412,403**	30,512,141
	70,129,735	64,873,064
Net debt	**(9,524,054)**	(12,431,518)
Non-financial assets		
Inventory of supplies	**756,604**	792,300
Prepaid expenses	**406,560**	424,777
Tangible capital assets (Note 7)	**281,552,340**	271,797,311
	282,715,504	273,014,388
Accumulated surplus (Note 8)	**$ 273,191,450**	$260,582,870

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The accompanying summary of significant accounting policies and notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound
Consolidated Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus

For the year ended December 31	2025 Budget (Note 10)	**2025 Actual**	2024 Actual
Revenue			
Taxation	$ 36,481,648	**$ 36,517,787**	$ 35,396,533
Fees and user charges	20,481,351	**21,149,231**	19,536,742
Government transfers (Note 15)	9,102,059	**13,393,800**	18,449,422
Other income (Note 11)	6,398,608	**6,260,632**	4,829,151
	72,463,666	**77,321,450**	78,211,848
Expenses			
General government	5,949,579	**5,247,589**	6,129,400
Protection services	20,570,780	**23,392,610**	20,774,169
Transportation services	6,248,476	**12,104,893**	9,255,202
Environmental services	14,162,163	**11,413,024**	12,726,796
Health services	371,505	**474,303**	419,911
Recreation and cultural services	7,624,526	**10,687,790**	11,849,442
Planning and development	1,158,698	**1,392,661**	1,265,933
	56,085,727	**64,712,870**	62,420,853
Annual surplus (Note 10)	16,377,939	**12,608,580**	15,790,995
Accumulated surplus, beginning of the year	260,582,870	260,582,870	244,791,875
Accumulated surplus, end of the year	$276,960,809	**$ 273,191,450**	$260,582,870

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The accompanying summary of significant accounting policies and notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound
Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Debt

For the year ended December 31	2025 Budget (Note 10)	**2025 Actual**	2024 Actual
Annual surplus (Page 5)	$ 16,377,939	**$ 12,608,580**	$ 15,790,995
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(29,041,270)	**(18,750,380)**	(18,646,719)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	-	**8,979,079**	8,368,383
Proceeds on disposal of assets	-	**324,895**	140,919
Loss (gain) on disposal of assets	-	**(308,623)**	352,517
	(29,041,270)	**(9,755,029)**	(9,784,900)
Change in prepaid expenses	-	**18,217**	1,258,459
Change in inventories of supplies	-	**35,696**	29,907
	-	**53,913**	1,288,366
(Increase) decrease in net debt	(12,663,331)	**2,907,464**	7,294,461
Net debt, beginning of the year	(12,431,518)	**(12,431,518)**	(19,725,979)
Net debt, end of the year	$ (25,094,849)	**$ (9,524,054)**	$ (12,431,518)

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The accompanying summary of significant accounting policies and notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31	2025	2024
Cash provided by (used in)		
Operating activities		
Annual surplus	**$ 12,608,580**	$ 15,790,995
Items not involving cash		
Amortization	**8,979,079**	8,368,383
Post-employment benefits	**336,855**	424,575
Accretion	**95,794**	99,141
Loss (gain) on disposal of assets	**(308,623)**	352,517
Derecognition of asset retirement obligation	**-**	(73,693)
Deferred revenue recognized	**(3,062,071)**	(8,518,773)
Change in inventory of supplies	**35,696**	29,907
	18,685,310	16,473,052
Changes in non-cash working capital balances		
Taxes receivable	**(299,843)**	(860,397)
Trade and other receivables	**456,056**	(3,996,253)
Inventory held for resale	**-**	4,125
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	**2,424,386**	2,452,359
Deferred revenue received	**7,791,500**	7,863,740
Prepaid expenses	**18,217**	1,258,459
	29,075,626	23,195,085
Capital transactions		
Cash used to acquire capital assets	**(18,750,380)**	(18,646,719)
Proceeds on sale of capital assets	**324,895**	140,919
Asset retirement cash outlays	**(230,055)**	(186,568)
	(18,655,540)	(18,692,368)
Investing activities		
Increase in loans receivable	**(2,049,041)**	-
Financing activities		
Repayment of long-term liabilities	**(2,099,738)**	(2,029,228)
Net change in cash	**6,271,307**	2,473,489
Cash, beginning of the year	**29,016,897**	26,543,408
Cash, end of the year	**$ 35,288,204**	$ 29,016,897

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The accompanying summary of significant accounting policies and notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

December 31, 2025

Management Responsibility

The management of the Corporation of the City of Owen Sound has prepared and is responsible for the integrity, objectivity and accuracy of the financial information presented in these consolidated financial statements. The Corporate Services Committee reviews and approves the consolidated financial statements before they are submitted to Council.

Basis of Accounting

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards established by the Public Sector Accounting Board of Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada as prescribed by the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Revenues and expenses are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. The accrual basis of accounting recognizes revenues as they become available and measurable; expenses are recognized as they are incurred and measurable as a result of receipt of goods or services and the creation of a legal obligation to pay.

Basis of Consolidation

The consolidated statements reflect the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of all municipal organizations, committees, and boards which are owned or controlled by Council. All interfund assets and liabilities and revenues and expenses have been eliminated on consolidation.

The following boards controlled by Council have been consolidated:

Owen Sound and North Grey Union Public Library

Owen Sound River District

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. By their nature, these estimates are subject to measurement uncertainty and actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future. Estimates are used when accounting for items such as accrued grant receivables, accrued liabilities, useful lives of capital assets, post-employment benefits liability, asset retirement obligation liability and taxes receivable.

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Revenue Recognition

Revenues are recognized as follows:

a) Taxes are recorded at estimated amounts when they meet the definition of an asset, have been authorized and the taxable event occurs. For property taxes, the taxable event is the period for which the tax is levied. As taxes recorded are initially based on management's best estimate of the taxes that will be received, it is possible that changes in future conditions, such as reassessments due to audits, appeals and court decisions, could result in a change in the amount of tax revenue recognized. Taxes receivable are recognized net of an allowance for anticipated uncollectible amounts.

b) Fines and donations are recognized when collected.

c) Fees, user charges and other revenues are recorded upon sale of goods or provision of service when collection is reasonably assured. Revenue related to fees or services received in advance of the fee being earned or when the service is performed is deferred and recognized when the fee is earned on the service performed.

d) Investment income earned on surplus funds (other than obligatory reserve funds) are reported as revenue in the period earned. Investment income earned on obligatory reserve funds is recorded directly to each fund balance and forms part of the respective deferred revenue balances.

e) Government transfers are recognized as revenue in the financial statements when the transfer is authorized and any eligibility criteria are met, except to the extent that transfer stipulations give rise to an obligation that meets the definition of a liability. Transfers are recognized as deferred revenue when transfer stipulations give rise to a liability. Transfer revenue is recognized in the consolidated statement of operations as the stipulation liabilities are settled.

f) Revenue restricted by legislation, regulation or agreement and not available for general municipal purposes is reported as deferred revenue on the consolidated statement of financial position. The revenue is reported on the consolidated statement of operations in the year in which it is used for the specified purpose.

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December 31, 2025

Financial Instruments

Cash is measured at fair value. All other financial instruments; investments, taxes receivable, trade and other receivables, loans receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and long-term liabilities are measured at amortized cost.

For financial instruments measured using amortized cost, the effective interest rate method is used to determine interest revenue or expense.

All financial assets except derivatives are tested annually for impairment. When financial assets are impaired, impairment losses are recorded in the statement of operations.

Transaction costs are added to the carrying value for financial instruments measured using cost or amortized cost.

Inventory

Inventory of goods held for resale is recorded at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Cost is determined on the average cost basis.

Inventory held for consumption is recorded at the lower of cost and replacement cost.

Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost which includes all amounts that are directly attributable to acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset. Amortization is provided over the estimated useful life of the assets using the straight-line method. The useful life of the assets is based on estimates made by management. The following useful lives are used:

Land improvements	40 - 75 years
Buildings and structures	15 - 40 years
Vehicles, machinery and equipment	3 - 20 years
Roads and sidewalks	10 - 80 years
Bridges and other structures	40 - 80 years
Water and sewer infrastructure	40 - 90 years

Tangible capital assets received as contributions are recorded at fair value at the date of receipt.

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Intangible Assets

Intangible assets, art and historic treasures are not recognized in these financial statements.

Post-Employment Benefits

The City provides post-employment health, dental, life insurance benefits and other benefits to eligible retired employees. The benefits earned by employees are determined using management's best estimate of expected benefit costs and are expensed as services are rendered.

Previously the City was an employer included under Schedule II of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act. It self-insured the entire risk of its own WSIB claims and was individually liable for reimbursing the WSIB for all costs relating to its workers' WSIB claims. The City is still liable for claims relating to Schedule II employer status. The cost of the claims are determined using management's best estimate.

The contributions to the Ontario Municipal Employers Retirement System ("OMERS"), a multi-employer defined benefit plan, are expensed when contributions are due.

Asset Retirement Obligations

A liability for an asset retirement obligation is recognized when there is a legal obligation to incur retirement costs in relation to a tangible capital asset; the past transaction or event giving rise to the liability has occurred; it is expected that future economic benefits will be given up; and a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made. The liability is recorded at an amount that is the best estimate of the expenditure required to retire a tangible capital asset at the financial statement date. This liability is subsequently reviewed at each financial reporting date and adjusted for the passage of time and for any revisions to the timing, amount required to settle the obligation or the discount rate. Upon the initial measurement of an asset retirement obligation, a corresponding asset retirement cost is added to the carrying value of the related tangible capital asset if it is still in productive use. This cost is amortized over the useful life of the tangible capital asset. If the related tangible capital asset is unrecognized or no longer in productive use, the asset retirement costs are expensed.

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December 31, 2025

Liability for Contaminated Sites

A contaminated site is a site at which substances occur in concentrations that exceed the maximum acceptable amounts under an environmental standard. Sites that are currently in productive use are only considered a contaminated site if an unexpected event results in contamination. A liability for remediation of contaminated sites is recognized when the organization is directly responsible or accepts responsibility; it is expected that future economic benefits will be given up; and a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made. The liability includes all costs directly attributable to remediation activities including post remediation operations, maintenance and monitoring. Management is not aware of any contaminated sites for which a liability needs to be recognized.

County and School Boards

The City collects taxation revenue on behalf of the school boards and the County of Grey. The taxation, other revenues, expenditures, assets and liabilities with respect to the operations of the school boards and the County of Grey, are not reflected in these financial statements.

Trust Funds

Funds held in trust by the City, and their related operations, are not included in these financial statements. The financial activity and position of the trust funds are reported separately on the trust funds statement of continuity and balance sheet.

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1. Cash

	2025	2024
Cash and bank	$ 35,288,204	$ 29,016,897

Interest is earned at the average monthly prime rate less 1.75%.

2. Investments

	2025	2024
Unrestricted	**$ 9,827,700**	$ 9,827,700

Investments include guaranteed investment certificates, government bonds, municipal debentures and commercial paper from chartered banks with effective interest rates of 1.35% to 5.65%. Interest is receivable on a semi-annual basis. Due September 2026 to September 2032.

3. Loans Receivable

	2025	2024
Loan, non-interest bearing, due on demand	**$ 75,000**	$ 75,000
Loan, interest at 4.20%, $95,059 blended semi-annual payments, due April 2040	**2,049,041**	-
	$ 2,124,041	$ 75,000

4. Asset Retirement Obligation Liability

The City's financial statements include an asset retirement obligation related to remediation required for asbestos present in 22 municipal buildings, along with closure and post-closure costs of the City's closed landfill site. As at year-end, an obligation of $4,015,136 has been accrued on the statement of financial position. This amount was determined based on total undiscounted expenditures of $5,273,990 present valued at a discount rate of 2.37% as follows:

Buildings with asbestos	25 - 40 years
Landfill	7 years

Payment to settle the asset retirement obligations will occur at the end of their life in full.

	2025	2024
Asset retirement obligation, opening	**$ 4,149,397**	$ 4,310,517
Accretion expense	**95,794**	99,141
Cash outlays	**(230,055)**	(186,568)
Derecognition of asset retirement obligation	**-**	(73,693)
Asset retirement obligation, closing	**$ 4,015,136**	$ 4,149,397

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5. Temporary Borrowings

The City of Owen Sound has a demand operating facility with a financial institution at prime less 0.75%. At December 31, 2025, the City had a $1,000,000 unused credit facility.

6. Long-Term Liabilities

The balance of long-term liabilities reported on the consolidated statement of financial position is made up of the following:

	2025	2024
Debentures payable, 1.98% to 4.16%, principal and interest payable semi-annually, due 2031 to 2043	**$ 29,225,046**	$ 31,902,687
Less: Debentures issued internally	**(812,643)**	(1,390,546)
	$ 28,412,403	$ 30,512,141

Principal payments for the next five fiscal years and thereafter are as follows:

2026	$ 2,172,833
2027	2,248,609
2028	2,327,164
2029	2,408,610
2030	2,493,144
Thereafter	16,762,043
	$ 28,412,403

Interest paid during the year on external long-term debt was $975,602 (2024 - $1,046,112).

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7. Tangible Capital Assets

	2025							
	Land	Land Improvement	Buildings and Structures	Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment	Roads and Sidewalks	Bridges and Other Structures	Water and Sewer Infrastructure	Total
Cost, beginning of the year	$ 6,757,496	$ 11,432,764	$ 141,082,833	$ 38,161,520	$112,235,880	$13,533,094	$ 124,237,188	$ 447,440,775
Additions	271,472	-	4,454,209	2,138,541	1,037,573	9,646	10,838,939	18,750,380
Disposals	-	-	-	(818,586)	-	-	-	(818,586)
Cost, end of the year	7,028,968	11,432,764	145,537,042	39,481,475	113,273,453	13,542,740	135,076,127	465,372,569
Accumulated amortization, beginning of the year	-	7,451,921	42,618,143	19,373,393	44,414,663	3,901,647	57,883,697	175,643,464
Amortization	-	387,734	2,056,160	2,371,307	1,693,076	188,143	2,282,659	8,979,079
Disposals	-	-	-	(802,314)	-	-	-	(802,314)
Accumulated amortization, end of the year	-	7,839,655	44,674,303	20,942,386	46,107,739	4,089,790	60,166,356	183,820,229
Net carrying amount, end of the year	$ 7,028,968	$ 3,593,109	$ 100,862,739	$ 18,539,089	$ 67,165,714	$ 9,452,950	$ 74,909,771	$ 281,552,340

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7. Tangible Capital Assets - (continued)

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								2024
	Land	Land Improvement	Buildings and Structures	Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment	Roads and Sidewalks	Bridges and Other Structures	Water and Sewer Infrastructure	Total
Cost, beginning of the year	$ 6,511,096	$ 11,432,764	$ 139,137,916	$ 36,075,937	$104,862,265	$13,533,094	$ 118,923,413	$ 430,476,485
Additions	246,400	-	1,944,917	3,028,510	8,021,760	-	5,405,132	18,646,719
Disposals	-	-	-	(942,927)	(648,145)	-	(91,357)	(1,682,429)
Cost, end of the year	6,757,496	11,432,764	141,082,833	38,161,520	112,235,880	13,533,094	124,237,188	447,440,775
Accumulated amortization, beginning of the year	-	7,068,392	40,681,930	18,143,186	43,129,921	3,730,342	55,710,303	168,464,074
Amortization	-	383,529	1,936,213	2,022,219	1,621,146	171,305	2,233,971	8,368,383
Disposals	-	-	-	(792,012)	(336,404)	-	(60,577)	(1,188,993)
Accumulated amortization, end of the year	-	7,451,921	42,618,143	19,373,393	44,414,663	3,901,647	57,883,697	175,643,464
Net carrying amount, end of the year	$ 6,757,496	$ 3,980,843	$ 98,464,690	$ 18,788,127	$ 67,821,217	$ 9,631,447	$ 66,353,491	$ 271,797,311

7. Tangible Capital Assets - (continued)

The net book value of tangible capital assets not being amortized because they are under construction is $16,919,428 (2024 - $4,885,710).

Interest of $Nil (2024 - $124,183) was capitalized to tangible capital assets during the year.

The City holds various works of art and historical treasures. These items are not recognized as tangible capital assets in the financial statements because a reasonable estimate of the future benefits associated with such property cannot be made.

8. Accumulated Surplus

Accumulated surplus consists of individual fund surplus (deficit) and reserves as follows:

	2025	2024
Invested in tangible capital assets		
Tangible capital assets at cost less amortization	**$ 281,552,340**	$271,797,311
Unfinanced capital assets	**(17,474,570)**	(11,399,751)
Capital assets financed by long-term liabilities and to be funded in future years (Note 6)	**(29,225,046)**	(31,902,687)
Total invested in capital assets	**234,852,724**	228,494,873
Unfunded post-employment benefits (Note 16)	**(7,132,103)**	(6,785,884)
Unfunded asset retirement obligation (Note 4)	**(4,015,136)**	(4,149,397)
Unexpended interest on deposits	**89,696**	105,563
Library Adult Learning Centre surplus	**71,175**	94,128
	223,866,356	217,759,283
Reserves and reserve funds (Note 9)	**49,325,094**	42,823,587
Accumulated surplus	**$ 273,191,450**	$260,582,870

During the year, the City's operating surplus of $343,042 was transferred to the tax stabilization reserve, as approved by Council.

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9. Reserves and Reserve Funds Set Aside for Specific Purpose by Council

	2025	2024
Reserves		
Working funds	**$ 587,280**	$ 512,156
Tax stabilization	**1,357,203**	1,117,374
Insurance contingency	**195,580**	100,000
Capital purposes	**3,540,265**	3,096,974
	5,680,328	4,826,504
Reserve funds		
Other	**-**	98,476
Capital purposes	**43,644,766**	37,898,607
	43,644,766	37,997,083
Total reserves and reserve funds	**$ 49,325,094**	$ 42,823,587

10. Budgets

Under Canadian public sector accounting standards, budget amounts are to be reported on the consolidated statement of operations and accumulated surplus and changes in net debt for comparative purposes. The 2025 budget amounts for the City of Owen Sound approved by Council have been reclassified to conform to the presentation of the consolidated statements of operations and accumulated surplus and changes in net debt. The following is a reconciliation of the budget approved by Council.

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2024 Actual
Annual surplus (Page 5)	$ 16,377,939	**$ 12,608,580**	$ 15,790,995
Net transfers from (to) reserves	11,086,247	**(6,158,465)**	(2,986,546)
Capital acquisitions and disposals	(29,041,270)	**(18,734,108)**	(18,153,283)
Change in capital projects not funded	-	**6,074,819**	(230,681)
Amortization	-	**8,979,079**	8,368,383
Proceeds from long-term debt	4,255,000	**-**	-
Debt principal repayments	(2,677,916)	**(2,677,641)**	(2,589,756)
Change in unfunded liabilities	-	**211,958**	218,734
Change in other surpluses	-	**38,820**	2,561
	-	**343,042**	420,407
Surplus transfer to reserves	-	**(343,042)**	(420,407)
	$ -	**$ -**	$ -

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11. Other Income

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2024 Actual
Penalties and interest on taxation	$ 440,000	$ 584,399	$ 520,114
Other fines and penalties	83,000	68,112	81,687
Investment income	310,000	1,444,131	1,838,160
Licenses and permits	589,543	461,047	563,939
Rents	1,411,689	1,638,084	1,569,120
Donations	546,114	262,347	329,617
Gain (loss) on disposal of capital assets	-	308,623	(352,517)
Contributions from developers	2,720,000	1,374,922	86,340
Contributions from non-consolidated entities	33,000	64,071	114,256
Other and miscellaneous	265,262	54,896	4,742
Derecognition of asset retirement obligation	-	-	73,693
	$ 6,398,608	$ 6,260,632	$ 4,829,151

12. Pension Agreements

The City makes contributions to the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement Fund (OMERS), which is a multi-employer plan, on behalf of 413 members of its staff. This plan is a defined benefit plan which specifies the amount of the retirement income to be received by the employees based on length of service and rates of pay. Employees and employers contribute jointly to the plan. The amount contributed to OMERS for 2025 by the City was $2,572,146 (2024 - $2,385,975). The contribution rate for 2025 was 9.0% to 15.8% depending on age and income level (2024 - 9.0% to 15.8%).

OMERS is a multi-employer plan, therefore, any pension plan surpluses or deficits are a joint responsibility of Ontario municipal organizations and their employees. As a result, the City does not recognize any share of the OMERS pension surplus or deficit. The last available report for the OMERS plan was as at December 31, 2025. At that time the plan reported a $1.3 billion actuarial deficit (2024 - $2.9 billion), based on actuarial liabilities of $149.6 billion (2024 - $140.8 billion) and actuarial assets of $148.3 billion (2024 - $137.9 billion). The adequacy of the current contribution rates will continue to be monitored.

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13. Owen Sound River District

The following summarizes the financial position and operations of the Owen Sound River District, which is controlled by the City. The Owen Sound River District has been consolidated into these financial statements.

	2025	2024
Financial assets	$ 195,896	$ 183,805
Liabilities	15,725	15,725
Net financial assets	180,171	168,080
Accumulated surplus	$ 180,171	$ 168,080
Revenues	$ 299,716	$ 289,910
Expenses	287,625	272,815
Annual surplus	$ 12,091	$ 17,095

14. Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library

The following summarizes the financial position and operations of the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library, which is controlled by the City. The Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library has been consolidated into these financial statements.

	2025	2024
Financial assets	$ 1,008,792	$ 1,174,538
Liabilities	811,873	938,845
Net financial assets	196,919	235,693
Non-financial assets	948,118	983,147
Accumulated surplus	$ 1,145,037	$ 1,218,840
Revenues	$ 2,887,119	$ 2,961,362
Expenses	2,960,922	3,034,265
Annual deficit	$ (73,803)	$ (72,903)

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15. Government Transfers

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2024 Actual
Operating			
Province of Ontario			
Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF)	$ 2,133,800	$ 2,133,800	$ 2,070,900
- Other	1,737,635	5,913,282	3,511,907
	3,871,435	8,047,082	5,582,807
Government of Canada			
- Roads	700,000	764,272	315,800
- Other	98,000	99,642	91,889
	798,000	863,914	407,689
Other municipalities			
- Library	-	803,672	790,862
- Police	206,924	144,123	127,335
- Roads	130,000	135,619	138,734
- Other	100,000	498,598	92,909
	436,924	1,582,012	1,149,840
Total operating contributions	5,106,359	10,493,008	7,140,336
Capital			
Province of Ontario			
- Recreation facility	-	-	35,888
- Roads	1,063,300	1,368,650	7,077,589
- Sewer and water	2,841,900	156,227	1,098,461
- Other	63,000	251,763	1,903,385
	3,968,200	1,776,640	10,115,323
Government of Canada			
- Recreation facility	27,500	-	-
- Roads	-	922,665	-
- Sewer and water	-	201,487	1,200,000
- Other	-	-	(11,837)
	27,500	1,124,152	1,188,163
Other municipalities			
- Roads and other	-	-	5,600
Total capital contributions	3,995,700	2,900,792	11,309,086
Total contributions	$ 9,102,059	$ 13,393,800	$ 18,449,422

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16. Post-Employment Benefits

	2025	2024
Sick leave liability	$ 3,471	$ 3,471
Vacation pay liability	1,656,713	1,642,858
Post-employment benefits liability	6,363,899	6,040,899
WSIB future benefit liability	48,000	48,000
	$ 8,072,083	$ 7,735,228

a) Sick leave liability includes amounts earned by employees as defined by applicable union contract but not taken during the year. This amount is funded through reserves.

b) The vacation liability includes vacation earned. The vacation year for an employee begins either on their "start date" anniversary or the date defined by the applicable union contract. The vacation liability includes all carry-forward amounts from the previous vacation year and vacation earned from the vacation start date to December 31, 2025. Of the balance $939,980 has been funded.

c) The City pays certain life insurance, health and dental benefits on behalf of its retired employees to the age of 65. The City recognizes these post-employment costs in the period in which the employees rendered the services. An actuarial valuation has been performed as at December 31, 2025 using the assumption of a 4.6% per year borrowing rate and a 4% per year inflation rate. This amount has not been funded. The post-employment benefit shown above is net of unamortized gain of $600,900, (2024 - unamortized loss of $136,100).

	2025	2024
Current period benefit cost	$ 305,000	$ 292,600
Amortization of actuarial loss	82,300	139,600
Interest costs	270,400	279,700
Contributions paid	(419,200)	(414,700)
Total expense for the year	$ 238,500	$ 297,200

d) The City became a Schedule I employer under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act effective January 1, 2010. The City was a Schedule II employer for the years 1998 to 2009 and, as such, the City self-insured for WSIB benefits.

The City is still liable for events which took place while they were a Schedule II employer. An actuarial valuation has been performed using the projected benefit method. The most recent actuarial report was updated as at December 31, 2021. The total benefits not yet awarded and provision for presumptive cancer legislation for firefighters for the period in which the City was a Schedule II employer was determined using a 2.9% per year borrowing rate and a 2.5% per year inflation rate. This amount has not been funded.

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17. Operations of School Boards and the County of Grey

During the year, the following taxation revenue was raised and remitted to the school boards and the County of Grey:

	2025	2024
School boards	**$ 6,062,667**	$ 6,037,646
County of Grey	**9,810,719**	9,513,765
	$ 15,873,386	$ 15,551,411

18. Trust Funds

The trust funds administered by the City have not been included in the consolidated statement of financial position nor have the operations been included in the consolidated statement of operations. At December 31, 2025, the trust fund balances are as follows:

	2025	2024
Cemetery Care and Maintenance Funds	**$ 1,600,392**	$ 1,559,822
Art Collection and Gallery Building Trust	**143,122**	138,550
	$ 1,743,514	$ 1,698,372

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19. Contractual Commitments

The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound has awarded a construction contract totalling $4,377,600 related to 9th Ave E Road Rehabilitation and Watermain Replacement. At December 31, 2025, $2,286,909 remains to be spent on this contract.

20. Contingencies

a) The City has been named in a number of claims that are in proceedings through their insurance company. The City's liability with respect to these claims is not determinable at this time. Management is of the opinion that the City maintains adequate and appropriate liability and errors and omissions insurance to protect the City against such claims.

b) The City of Owen Sound has been named in a claim for $3,000,000. The City's liability with respect to this claim is not determinable at this time.

21. Subsequent Event

In July 2026, the County of Grey approved transferring urban roads to local municipalities, including 15 km total in Owen Sound. The road transfer and transition funding take effect on June 1, 2027.

22. Financial Instruments

Financial Instrument Risk Management

The City is exposed to credit risk, liquidity risk, and interest rate risk from its financial instruments. This note describes the City's objectives, policies and processes for managing those risks and the methods used to measure them. Further qualitative and quantitative information in respect of these risks is presented below and throughout these financial statements.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The City is exposed to interest rate risk arising from the changes in interest rates on its variable rate bank account, fixed rate investments and loans receivable.

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22. Financial Instruments - (continued)

Credit Risk

The City is exposed to credit risk arising from its cash, taxes receivable, trade and other receivables and loans receivable. On December 31, 2025, the City holds all of its cash deposits in one Canadian chartered bank. The Canadian Deposit Insurance Corporation insures deposits up to a maximum of $100,000 per depositor. There is the possibility of non-collection of taxes receivable, trade and other receivables and loans receivable. The majority of the City's receivables are from ratepayers and government entities. For receivables, the City measures impairment of each receivable type based on how long the amounts have been outstanding. The amounts outstanding at year end, which represent the City's maximum exposure to credit risk related to receivables, had been outstanding for the following periods as at December 31, 2025:

	0 - 30 days	31 - 90 days	91 - 365 days	1 to 2 years	3 to 10 years
Cash	$ 35,288,204	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Investments	9,827,700	-	-	-	-
Taxes receivable	174,778	647,234	1,411,124	1,540,880	181,577
Trade and other receivables	3,656,562	1,767,229	2,950,582	943,559	92,211
Loans receivable	-	-	2,049,041	-	75,000
Total	$ 48,947,244	$ 2,414,463	$ 6,410,747	$ 2,484,439	$ 348,788

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22. Financial Instruments - (continued)

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the City encounters difficulty in meeting its obligations as they fall due. The City has a planning and budgeting process in place to help determine the funds required to support the City's normal operating requirements on an ongoing basis. The City is exposed to liquidity risk through its accounts payable and accrued liabilities and long-term liabilities. The City ensures that there are sufficient funds to meet its short-term requirements, taking into account its anticipated cash flows from operations and its holdings of cash and cash equivalents. Further, the City seeks to maintain an available line of credit balance as approved by the appropriate borrowing by-law to meet, at a minimum, expected requirements for a period of at least 90 days. The following table sets out the contractual maturities (representing undiscounted contractual cash-flows) of financial liabilities:

	Within 6 months	6 months to 1 year	1 - 5 years	Over 5 years
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 4,134,966	$ 3,495,520	4,467,267	$ 567,244
Long-term debt	97,775	2,075,058	6,984,383	19,255,186
Total financial liabilities	$ 4,232,741	$ 5,570,578	11,451,650	$ 19,822,430

23. Comparative Amounts

Comparative amounts have been reclassified to conform to current year presentation.

24. Segmented Information

The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound is a diversified municipal government institution that provides a wide range of services to its citizens such as policing, fire protection, clean water and waste water treatment, waste collection and disposal, recreation and cultural services, library and planning. Distinguishable functional segments have been separately disclosed in the segmented information. The nature of the segment and activities they encompass are as follows:

Administration Services

This item relates to the revenues and expenses that are generated and incurred by the governance operations and are not specifically attributed to a specific segment. This item includes City Council, Clerk and Legal Services, Human Resources, Financial Services and Information Technology.

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24. Segmented Information - (continued)

Operation Services

This item includes all revenues and expenditures as they relate to the City's operations departments. Included in this item are Transportation Infrastructure, Water and Wastewater Services, Engineering, Transit, Air Transportation and Street Lighting.

Community Services

This service area encompasses revenues and expenses associated with services provided to the community that are meant to improve the health and development of the City's citizens. Included in Community Services are the Building and Planning Departments as well as Recreation Programs and Facilities.

Parks and Cemeteries

This service area encompasses revenues and expenses associated with green spaces including Parks, Cemeteries and Playgrounds.

Economic Development

The departments included under the item Economic Development are responsible for Tourism, Small Business Support Services and Downtown Revitalization.

Protection Services

This item includes the services in place to ensure the safety and protection of the citizens and their property. Protection is comprised of police services, fire protection, parking and bylaw enforcement, and animal control.

Cultural Services

This item includes the revenues and expenses generated by both the Art Gallery and the Consolidated Library Board.

Taxation, payments-in-lieu and penalties and interest as well as the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund Grant are allocated to each segment based on the funding requirements for total expenses less segment specific revenues. Amortization expenses are not included in determining this allocation.

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For the year ended December 31	Administration Services	Operation Services	Community Services	Parks and Cemeteries	Economic Development	Protection Services	Cultural Services	2025 Total
Revenue								
Taxation	$ 8,398,967	$ 5,112,513	$ 1,825,897	$ 2,556,256	$ 1,095,538	$ 16,067,898	$ 1,460,718	$ 36,517,787
Fees and user charges	190,436	15,648,956	985,529	222,265	100	3,342,557	759,388	21,149,231
Specific grants	89,197	4,152,552	-	-	-	4,288,781	2,729,470	11,260,000
OMPF grant	490,774	298,732	106,690	149,366	64,014	938,872	85,352	2,133,800
Other revenue	1,929,042	1,265,556	1,408,887	190,903	3,280	1,313,979	148,985	6,260,632
	11,098,416	26,478,309	4,327,003	3,118,790	1,162,932	25,952,087	5,183,913	77,321,450
Expenses								
Salaries and benefits	1,632,313	6,586,132	1,677,657	1,789,569	735,459	19,068,052	1,672,479	33,161,661
Interest on debt	119,612	778,962	5,228	12,513	-	104,411	-	1,020,726
Materials and supplies	2,233,275	6,355,711	863,519	707,635	272,364	1,935,700	537,221	12,905,425
Contracted services	718,505	4,358,364	116,029	186,337	281,779	877,077	43,333	6,581,424
Other transfers	68,600	-	-	-	86,302	354,134	1,244,650	1,753,686
Rents and financial expenses	26,360	76,873	34,780	30,344	14,432	21,449	10,837	215,075
Amortization	448,924	5,317,836	1,195,842	592,945	2,325	1,030,329	390,878	8,979,079
Accretion	-	44,037	-	31,021	-	1,458	19,278	95,794
	5,247,589	23,517,915	3,893,055	3,350,364	1,392,661	23,392,610	3,918,676	64,712,870
Annual surplus (deficit)	***$ 5,850,827***	***$ 2,960,394***	***$ 433,948***	***$ (231,574)***	***$ (229,729)***	***$ 2,559,477***	***$ 1,265,237***	***$ 12,608,580***

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For the year ended December 31	Administration Services	Operation Services	Community Services	Parks and Cemeteries	Economic Development	Protection Services	Cultural Services	2024 Total
Revenue								
Taxation	$ 7,787,237	$ 6,371,377	$ 1,415,861	$ 2,123,792	$ 1,061,896	$ 15,220,509	$ 1,415,861	$ 35,396,533
Fees and user charges	183,311	15,096,397	814,452	235,900	300	2,615,085	591,297	19,536,742
Specific grants	126,394	10,445,004	35,888	-	-	3,828,337	1,942,899	16,378,522
OMPF grant	455,598	372,762	82,836	124,254	62,127	890,487	82,836	2,070,900
Other revenue	2,156,887	277,708	1,339,749	228,161	4,270	631,391	190,985	4,829,151
	10,709,427	32,563,248	3,688,786	2,712,107	1,128,593	23,185,809	4,223,878	78,211,848
Expenses								
Salaries and benefits	2,479,081	6,349,655	1,761,894	1,706,704	821,151	17,468,987	1,600,773	32,188,245
Interest on debt	126,475	843,220	7,729	13,387	-	117,800	-	1,108,611
Materials and supplies	2,349,214	6,278,640	1,370,904	851,775	165,031	2,328,511	712,069	14,056,144
Contracted services	647,147	3,187,873	635,526	34,345	211,471	(135,957)	29,150	4,609,555
Other transfers	68,600	-	-	-	46,594	304,808	1,333,414	1,753,416
Rents and financial expenses	29,174	97,139	32,969	21,955	17,521	28,632	9,968	237,358
Amortization	413,783	5,194,016	1,201,845	548,444	4,164	659,930	346,201	8,368,383
Accretion	-	47,384	-	31,021	-	1,458	19,278	99,141
	6,113,474	21,997,927	5,010,867	3,207,631	1,265,932	20,774,169	4,050,853	62,420,853
Annual surplus (deficit)	***$ 4,595,953***	***$10,565,321***	***$ (1,322,081)***	***$ (495,524)***	***$ (137,339)***	***$ 2,411,640***	***$ 173,025***	***$ 15,790,995***

The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound
Schedule of Deferred Revenue

For the year ended December 31, 2025

	Opening	Contributions Received	Investment Income	Revenue Recognized	Ending
Obligatory Reserve Funds					
Canada Community-Building Fund	$ 1,513,153	$ 707,796	$ 46,743	$ (1,686,937)	**$ 580,755**
Provincial Transit Gas Tax	198,941	-	6,567	-	**205,508**
Development charges	1,729,464	216,244	53,561	-	**1,999,269**
Building development	15,605	619,074	3,047	-	**637,726**
Recreational land	299,709	416,953	9,709	-	**726,371**
Parking in lieu	12,653	36,000	410	-	**49,063**
Municipal Accommodation Tax	-	169,990	-	(19,845)	**150,145**
	3,769,525	2,166,057	120,037	(1,706,782)	**4,348,837**
Other					
Other deferred revenues	5,969,831	951,768	-	(1,330,239)	**5,591,360**
Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund	2,496,331	3,316,224	97,658	(20,250)	**5,889,963**
Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program	-	1,139,756	-	(4,800)	**1,134,956**
	$12,235,687	$ 7,573,805	$ 217,695	$ (3,062,071)	**$ 16,965,116**

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Staff Report

Report To: City Council

Report From: Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services

Meeting Date: November 30, 2026

Report Code: CR-26-102

Subject: Approval to Proceed – Salt and Sand Dome Replacement

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-26-102 respecting the replacement of the salt and sand dome, City Council directs staff to issue the Request for Proposal for the replacement of the salt and sand dome at the public works facility pending confirmation of grant funding.

Highlights:

- The $1.8 million Salt and Sand Dome Replacement Project is necessary to address structural deficiencies, with $900,000 in provincial funding requested through the Development Charges Reduction Program.
- Council approval is sought to initiate design-build procurement, with contract award conditional upon confirmation of provincial funding.

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

Strategic Plan Priority: A City that Moves – Facilitating sustainable transportation options and creating community connectivity.

Previous Report/Authority:

CR-26-066 Re: Development Charges Reduction Program - Application Update

Background:

In June 2026, a structural assessment of the City's existing salt and sand storage domes identified significant deterioration in both facilities. The salt storage dome was recommended to be taken out of service prior to the 2026–2027 winter season, while the sand storage dome was recommended for replacement within the following year. Temporary measures have been implemented to maintain winter operations pending a permanent replacement.

The proposed replacement project has an estimated budget of $1.8 million and was previously identified as unfunded in the City's capital plan.

On July 13, 2026, Council received Staff Report CR-26-066 Re: Development Charges Reduction Program – Application Update, which identified the Sand and Salt Storage Facility as a project included in the City's application for provincial funding. The application seeks $900,000 toward the replacement project. As the report was received for information purposes only, it did not constitute Council approval to proceed with the capital project.

Under Section 9(a)(i) of Procurement Policy AF009, Council authorization is required to initiate procurement. Accordingly, staff are seeking approval to proceed with procurement for the replacement project, pending provincial funding approval.

Analysis and Options:

The replacement of the City's salt and sand storage facilities is necessary to address identified structural deficiencies and ensure the continued delivery of winter maintenance services.

Staff propose proceeding with a design-build procurement approach, whereby a single contractor would be responsible for both the design and construction of the replacement facility. This approach will allow proponents to identify cost-effective solutions that meet the City's operational requirements within the approved project budget.

The estimated project cost is $1.8 million, with $900,000 in funding requested through the Development Charges Reduction Program (DCRP). The remaining $900,000 municipal contribution is anticipated to be funded through the Capital Reserve and will be included in the capital budget updated planned for February 2, 2027.

To maintain the proposed spring 2027 construction schedule, staff are seeking Council authorization to initiate procurement while provincial funding approval remains pending.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

Total replacement budget is $1.8 million with 50 per cent to be funded through the DCRP.

Human Resources

The dome replacement is being led by the Capital and Corporate Facility Project staff in the Corporate Services Division.

Time and Scheduling

The work is planned to be complete in 2027 pending confirmation of grant funding.

Technology and Infrastructure

No new technology or additional infrastructure is required to complete the project.

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

The recommendation supports both the City's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the City's Climate Mitigation Plan.

Communication and Engagement:

All bid opportunities are available through the City’s bids and tenders webpage.

Report Developed in Consultation With:

Purchasing and Claims Coordinator

Manager of Public Works and Engineering

Manager of Corporate Services

Attachments:

None.

Submission approved by:
Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services at kallan@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1238.

Staff Report

Report To: City Council

Report From: Lauren Stewart, Purchasing and Claims Coordinator

Meeting Date: November 30, 2026

Report Code: CR-26-100

Subject: Summary of Delegated Authority Approvals During Restricted Acts Period – September 16, 2026 to November 15, 2026

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-26-100 respecting a summary of the delegated authority approvals between September 16, 2026, and November 15, 2026, during the Restricted Acts period, City Council receives the report for information purposes.

Highlights:

- This report provides Council with a summary of procurement approvals made under delegated authority during the Restricted Acts Period, including the procurement method used for each purchase.
- The City Manager and Director of Corporate Services exercised delegated authority for expenditures and liabilities exceeding $50,000, where permitted, during the Restricted Acts Period.

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

Strategic Plan Priority: The recommendation contributes to core service delivery or a corporate initiative that enables service delivery for one or more strategic priorities.

Previous Report/Authority:

Procurement Policy No. AF009

Delegation of Powers and Duties By-law No. 2014-109

Report CR-26-091 – Summary of Delegated Authority Approvals During Restricted Acts Period – August 24, 2026 to September 15, 2026

Background:

The Restricted Acts Period, also known as Lame Duck, may apply when the nomination for municipal election candidates closes (August 24, 2026), and concludes when a new Council is sworn in on November 16, 2026. Restricted Acts are triggered for several reasons, including circumstances when it is determined that a future Council will include less than three-quarters of its current members. This was triggered through the 2026 City of Owen Sound election.

The *Municipal Act, 2001*, s.275 provides that there are certain restrictions for Council actions:

- the appointment or removal from office of any officer of the municipality;
- the disposition of any real or personal property of the municipality which has a value exceeding $50,000 at the time of disposal; and
- making any expenditures or incurring any other liability which exceeds $50,000.

The City's Delegation of Powers and Duties By-law No. 2014-109 allows the City Manager and Director of Corporate Services acting jointly to make expenditures or incur any other liability that exceeds $50,000 if the lame duck provision applies.

This is also referenced in the Procurement Policy No. AF009.

Analysis and Options:

The attached summary report provides the details of the delegated authority approvals during the Restricted Acts period from September 16, 2026, to November 15, 2026. It also includes the procurement method used by staff.

If relevant, the bid opportunities were awarded in compliance with the City's Purchasing Policy.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

As detailed in the attached summary and detailed executed decisions.

Human Resources

The Purchasing and Claims Coordinator is responsible for preparing, developing, coordinating, awarding, and executing all phases of bid opportunities, including Requests for Tenders, Quotations, Proposals, and Non-Standard Procurement. Additionally, the Purchasing and Claims Coordinator is responsible for issuing Purchase Orders when necessary.

Relevant department heads or their delegates are responsible for preparing scopes of work, specifications, and managing internal communication related to procurement requirements.

During the Restricted Acts period, the City Manager and Director of Corporate Services have delegated authority.

Time and Scheduling

N/A

Technology and Infrastructure

N/A

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Communication and Engagement:

This report has been posted to the City's website with the agenda in advance of the meeting.

Report Developed in Consultation With:

City Manager; Director of Corporate Services; City Clerk

Attachments:

1. Delegated Authority Approvals During Restricted Acts Period from September 16, 2026 to November 15, 2026
2. Executed Decisions

Reviewed by:
Jason Hoffman, Manager of Corporate Services
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services

Submission approved by:
Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Lauren Stewart, Purchasing and Claims Coordinator at lstewart@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1242.

Attachment 1 (CR-26-100)
Delegated Authority Approvals during Restricted Acts Period
from September 16, 2026 to November 15, 2026

Award Decisions

Bid Type	Bid Title	Description	Award Date	Vendor	Award Amount (excluding HST)	Budget/Supplementary Information
Exempt Procurement – Insurance Claim	Insurance Claim – Replacement of Fire Apparatus – Engine 5	Purchase of a 2025 Maximetal Maxisaber Pumper to replace Fire Apparatus – Engine 5, which was deemed a total loss following a motor vehicle collision on December 15, 2025. The procurement is exempt under Appendix A of the City's Procurement Policy AF009, as the purchase is associated with an insurance claim.	September 18, 2026	Commercial Emergency Equipment Co.	$1,281,000	The City received a total payout of $1,281,755 (including the $10,000 deductible) for the written-off apparatus. The City's policy provides Full Replacement Value insurance. The purchase price exceeds the insurance proceeds by $21,790.60. This deficit will be funded through reserves. The municipality's financial exposure includes the applicable policy deductible of $10,000. All eligible costs incurred to date, including towing and storage expenses have been advanced and/or reimbursed by the insurer in accordance with the policy terms and conditions.
Tender RFT-26-024	Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Playground Site Works	The scope of this project/service generally consists of site improvements including removal of existing play structures and wood safety surface, new asphalt paving, new concrete paving, new concrete curbing for future playground and fine grading within Kelso Beach at Nawash Park.	October 26, 2026	Bluewater Lawn Care & Landscaping Ltd. o/a Bluewater Landscaping & Construction	$154,191.50	The approved budget for the project is $638,800, including consulting services and construction for the entire project. This project is funded through a combination of the tax levy, reserves, and donations.

Bid Type	Bid Title	Description	Award Date	Vendor	Award Amount (excluding HST)	Budget/Supplementary Information
Non-Standard Procurement (OECM)	Non-Standard Procurement – Supply, Delivery and Installation – Playground Equipment	The project's scope of work includes the supply, delivery and installation of playground equipment for Kelso Beach at Nawash Park	October 26, 2026	Openspace Solutions Inc.	$242,940	The approved budget for the project is $638,800, including consulting services and construction for the entire project. This project is funded with a combination of tax levy, reserves and donations.
Proposal RFP-26-027	Monitoring, Sampling and Reporting of Closed Landfill Sites	The project's scope of work includes the monitoring program, sampling and reporting requirements for the closed Genoe Landfill site and the closed Derby Landfill site. The term of the contract is for approximately three years, expiring September 1, 2029. The City shall have the option to renew the contract for two (2) additional 24-month terms upon mutual agreement.	November 5, 2026	Azimuth Environmental Consulting	$152,378.14	Funded through Environmental Services operating budget.

Budget Amendments

Project Number	Bid Title	Description	Decision Date	Vendor	Budget Amendment Amount (excluding HST)	Budget
CAP-26-0109 / RFT-25-006	Wastewater Treatment Plant – Intermediate Bar Screens	The additional work is required to account for the dam within the raw sewage inlet channel during construction, unforeseen conditions encountered in the screening room channels, including existing slide gates encased in concrete and a concrete mound extending into the channels, discrepancies between the contract documents and the electrical requirements and increased contract administration.	October 13, 2026	Baseline Constructors and J.L. Richards	$257,728	Approved project budget is $2,498,064, including consulting and construction services
20N.2	Water Modelling	The additional work is required to account for project delays due to City staff capacity issues, updated infrastructure data, revisions and execution to the watermain fire flow c-factor field testing plan, and associated project administration activities.	October 14, 2026	CIMA+	$50,000	Approved project budget is $20,000.

Purchase Decision

Replacement of Fire Apparatus – Engine 5 – Insurance Claim

Authority and Background:

The following is a decision respecting a purchase decision made by delegated or authorized approval authority having jurisdiction under the City's Delegation of Powers and Duties By-law No. 2014-109, which allows the City Manager and Director of Corporate Services acting jointly to make expenditures or incurring any other liability that exceeds $50,000 if the lame duck provision applies.

Previous Report/Authority:

Report CR-26-021 Update on Fire Apparatus – Engine 5

Background:

On March 12, 2026, the City's Fire Chief provided an update to Corporate Services Committee respecting the Fire Apparatus – Engine 5 that was involved in a motor vehicle collision December 15, 2025.

Over the following eight months, the Fire Chief worked with the City's insurance broker and insurer to determine whether the vehicle could be repaired or would require replacement.

The vehicle was ultimately determined to be a total loss, as it no longer met applicable structural safety standards and was not considered structurally sound.

As identified in Appendix A to the City's Procurement Policy AF009, insurance claims are exempt from the requirements of the Procurement Policy. Accordingly, the replacement vehicle was purchased in connection with the insured loss.

This memorandum seeks approval for the replacement fire apparatus from Commercial Emergency Equipment Co. for $1,303,545.60, including the non-refundable portion of HST.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

Vehicle Costs

The City received a total payout of $1,281,755 (including the $10,000 deductible) for the written-off apparatus. The City's policy provides Full Replacement Value insurance.

The Fire Chief worked with Commercial Emergency Equipment Co. to identify a comparable replacement vehicle. On September 8, 2026, the City finalized a proposal for the purchase of a 2025 Maximetal Maxisaber Pumper at a total cost of $1,303,545.60, inclusive of the non-refundable portion of HST.

The replacement vehicle is anticipated to be delivered mid October 2026.

The purchase price exceeds the insurance proceeds by $21,790.60. This deficit will be funded through reserves.

Commercial Emergency Equipment is part of the Commercial Group of Companies and is Canada's largest supplier of emergency apparatus.

The municipality's financial exposure includes the applicable policy deductible of $10,000. All eligible costs incurred to date, including towing and storage expenses have been advanced and/or reimbursed by the insurer in accordance with the policy terms and conditions.

Insurance Premiums Costs

The extent of any impact on future premiums is unknown at this time. This will be determined upon renewal of the policy and reported by the Manager of Corporate Services at the February 2027 Resilient Community Advisory Committee.

Decision Declaration:

Decision Declaration
I, **Tim Simmonds, City Manager for the City of Owen Sound and I, Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services for the City of Owen Sound**, render the following decision based on the information contained in this memorandum and the recommendation above:

☑ **Approved**
☐ **Refused**

Reason for refusal:

Decision Date: 9/18/26
City Manager Signature: Tim Simmonds
Director of Corporate Services Signature: K Allan

We affirm that we are authorized to render this decision under the City of Owen Sound's Delegation of Powers and Duties By-law No. 2014-109 and applicable legislation.

Award Decision

Award of RFT-26-024 – Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Playground Site Works and Approval of Non-Standard Procurement – Supply, Delivery and Installation – Playground Equipment (CAP-26-0042)

Authority and Background:

The following is a decision respecting an Award made by delegated or authorized approval authority having jurisdiction under the City's Delegation of Powers and Duties By-law No. 2014-109, which allows the City Manager and Director of Corporate Services acting jointly to make expenditures or incurring any other liability that exceeds $50,000 if the lame duck provision applies.

Previous Report/Authority:

Report CR-26-091 - Summary of Delegated Authority Approvals During Restricted Acts Period – August 24, 2026 to September 15, 2026 - Award Decision – Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Playground and Splashpad Improvements (Splashpad)

Report CS-26-057 Kelso Beach at Nawash Park – Playground Replacement and Splash Pad Revitalization Final Concept Design

Report CS-26-036 Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Playground Replacement and Splash Pad Revitalization

Multi-Year Capital Plan (2026-2030)

Background:

In Fall 2025, the City issued RFP-25-020 for Landscape Architect Services for concept development, public consultation, detailed design, tender preparation, and construction administration for the project. The City

awarded the project to C.F. Crozier & Associates Inc. The work will be completed in three parts:

- Splash pad components will be purchased directly from ABC Recreation (supplier of existing splash pad components) utilizing a Vendor of Record program
- Playground will be purchased directly utilizing a Vendor of Record program;
- The civil work will be tendered separately with work expected to start in the Fall of 2026 with completion in spring 2027 (RFT).

Supply, Delivery and Installation - Playground Equipment

Section 24 of Policy AF004 Procurement Policy permits non-standard procurement under a series of options, including the procurement of goods, services, construction, or consulting services through a Vendor of Record (VoR) program, where analysis supports the best value. The City became an OECM procurement program member to leverage pricing received under the competitive procurement programs available.

The project's scope of work includes the supply, delivery and installation of playground equipment.

This memorandum seeks approval for the award of the above-noted project to Openspace Solutions Inc. for $247,215.74, including the non-refundable portion of HST.

Award of RFT-26-24 – Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Playground Site Works

The above-mentioned tender was posted in compliance with the City's Procurement Policy on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, and closed on Monday, October 5, 2026; five compliant bids were received.

The scope of this project/service generally consists of site improvements including removal of existing play structures and wood safety surface, new asphalt paving, new concrete paving, new concrete curbing for future playground and fine grading within Kelso Beach at Nawash Park. The project has a substantial completion date of May 14, 2027 to allow the playground equipment and splash pad equipment to be installed.

This memorandum seeks approval for the award of the above-noted project to Bluewater Lawn Care & Landscaping Ltd. o/a Bluewater Landscaping & Construction for $156,905.27, including the non-refundable portion of HST. This award includes a $19,000 contingency that must not be expended without written City consent.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

The approved budget for the project is $638,800, including consulting services and construction for the entire project. This project is funded with a combination of tax levy, reserves and donations.

The project's total costs to date include:

Consulting Services	
Topographic Survey	$4,400
Landscape Architecture Design	$68,200
Total Consulting Services	$72,600
Construction	
Hardscape/Paving	$154,191.50
Playground	$242,940
Splashpad	$63,795.98
Contingency	$45,000
Total Construction	$505,927.48
Total (Consulting Services & Construction)	$578,527.48

Openspace Solutions Inc. is a Canadian company that will source all major goods and services from Canada.
Bluewater Lawn Care & Landscaping Ltd. o/a Bluewater Landscaping & Construction is a Canadian company that will source all major goods and services from Ontario.

This is compliant with the Municipal Buy Ontario Procurement Directive requirements.

Decision Declaration:

Decision Declaration

I, **Tim Simmonds, City Manager for the City of Owen Sound and I, Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services for the City of Owen Sound**, render the following decision based on the information contained in this memorandum and the recommendation above:

☑ **Approved**

☐ **Refused**

Reason for refusal:

Decision Date: 10/26/26

City Manager Signature: Tim Simmonds

Director of Corporate Services Signature: K Allan

We affirm that we are authorized to render this decision under the City of Owen Sound's Delegation of Powers and Duties By-law No. 2014-109 and applicable legislation.

Award Decision

Award of RFP-26-027 – Monitoring, Sampling and Reporting of Closed Landfill Sites

Authority and Background:

The following is a decision respecting an award decision made by delegated or authorized approval authority having jurisdiction under the City's Delegation of Powers and Duties By-law No. 2014-109, which allows the City Manager and Director of Corporate Services acting jointly to make expenditures or incurring any other liability that exceeds $50,000 if the lame duck provision applies.

Previous Report/Authority:

N/A

Background:

The above-mentioned proposal was posted in compliance with the City's Procurement Policy on August 24, 2026, and closed on September 21, 2026; six (6) submissions were received.

The Evaluation Committee recommends the award of the RFP to Azimuth Environmental Consulting Inc. as the highest-ranked proposal meeting the City's requirements.

The project's scope of work includes the monitoring program, sampling and reporting requirements for the closed Genoe Landfill site and the closed Derby Landfill site.

This memorandum seeks approval for award to Azimuth Environmental Consulting for $155,060.00, including the non-refundable portion of HST. The term of the contract is for approximately three years, expiring

September 1, 2029. The City shall have the option to renew the contract for two (2) additional 24-month terms upon mutual agreement.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

The approved budget for this work is funded from the Environmental Services budget.

Decision Declaration:

Decision Declaration
I, **Tim Simmonds, City Manager for the City of Owen Sound and I, Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services for the City of Owen Sound**, render the following decision based on the information contained in this memorandum and the recommendation above:

☑ **Approved**
☐ **Refused**

Reason for refusal:

Decision Date: 11/05/2026
City Manager Signature: Tim Simmonds
Director of Corporate Services Signature: K Allan

We affirm that we are authorized to render this decision under the City of Owen Sound's Delegation of Powers and Duties By-law No. 2014-109 and applicable legislation.

Budget Amendment Decision

Wastewater Treatment Plant – Intermediate Bar Screens CAP-26-0109

Authority and Background:

The following is a decision respecting a Budget Amendment Approval made by delegated or authorized approval authority having jurisdiction under the City's Delegation of Powers and Duties By-law No. 2014-109, which allows the City Manager and Director of Corporate Services acting jointly to make expenditures or incurring any other liability that exceeds $50,000 if the lame duck provision applies.

Previous Report/Authority:

CR-25-115 - Award of RFT-25-006 – Wastewater Treatment Plant Fine Screens

Background:

On September 8th, 2025, City Council approved the award of RFT-25-006 Wastewater Treatment Plant Fine Screens Construction to Baseline Constructors Inc, for $2,177,664.00, including the non-refundable allocation of HST. As part of the award of the construction contract, the engineering design services and contract administration budget was also increased to $320,400, due to additional requirements of a structural assessment of the building, value engineering associated with the complexities of the new screen replacements, and the inclusion of a by-pass channel.

The original project scope of work included:

- Installation of self-cleaning intermediate bar screens
- Waste disposal conveyor and associated waste depository
- HVAC, electrical, and programming updates
- Building and site remediation including siding and asphalt replacement

Section 33 of the Procurement Policy authorizes the Purchasing Agent or delegate to disperse additional funds where any purchase of Goods, Services, Construction or Consulting Services has been authorized under the policy, provided that the additional funds:

i) are available within the relevant budget; and
ii) are required to complete works that are necessary as part of the original contract.

This memorandum seeks approval for a budget increase of $257,728 to allow staff to execute the change orders which are required to complete this project.

The additional work is required to account for the dam within the raw sewage inlet channel during construction, unforeseen conditions encountered in the screening room channels, including existing slide gates encased in concrete and a concrete mound extending into the channels, discrepancies between the contract documents and the electrical requirements and increased contract administration.

The original project budget did not include a contingency. A small contingency allowance has been incorporated into this project budget amendment for any unforeseen conditions. The contingency allowance shall not be expended without the City's written consent.

Impacts on Project Timeline

The construction period originally had a planned substantial completion date of February 27, 2026, but due to contractual delays, shop drawing reviews, high seasonal influent flows delaying bypass channel installation and discovery of failed underground infrastructure (air supply header). The anticipated substantial completion date has been revised to October 30th, 2026.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

This project is funded by water rates. The deficit of $257,728 is proposed to be funded from water reserves.

The total recommended project funding is as follows:

Description	Approved Project Funding	Required Project Funding	Variance
Construction	$2,177,664.00	$2,335,392	$157,728
Engineering	$320,400	$370,400	$50,000
Contingency	$0	$50,000	$50,000
Total Budget	$2,498,064	$2,755,792	$257,728

Decision Declaration:

Decision Declaration
I, **Tim Simmonds, City Manager for the City of Owen Sound and I, Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services for the City of Owen Sound**, render the following decision based on the information contained in this memorandum and the recommendation above:

☑ **Approved**
☐ **Refused**

Reason for refusal:

Decision Date: 10/13/26
City Manager Signature: Tim Simmonds
Director of Corporate Services Signature: K Allan

We affirm that we are authorized to render this decision under the City of Owen Sound's Delegation of Powers and Duties By-law No. 2014-109 and applicable legislation.

Budget Amendment Decision

Water Modelling 20N.2

Authority and Background:

The following is a decision respecting a Budget Amendment Approval made by delegated or authorized approval authority having jurisdiction under the City's Delegation of Powers and Duties By-law No. 2014-109, which allows the City Manager and Director of Corporate Services acting jointly to make expenditures or incurring any other liability that exceeds $50,000 if the lame duck provision applies.

Previous Report/Authority:

n/a

Background:

The water system modeling project was approved in the 2020-2024 Multi-Year Capital Plan with a budget of $20,000 (20N.2).

The Owen Sound water distribution model requires updating to ensure it remains an accurate and reliable tool for planning, operating, and maintaining the City's water system. The model is used to evaluate current system performance, identify potential capacity constraints and flow bottlenecks, assess the impacts of aging infrastructure, and support long-term capital planning for watermain, storage, and pumping infrastructure upgrades.

It also plays an important role in evaluating system resiliency under emergency and high-demand conditions, such as fire flow events, infrastructure failures, and future development growth. The update is necessary to incorporate recent system changes, maintain model accuracy, and provide reliable information for future operational and infrastructure investment decisions.

Section 33 of the Procurement Policy authorizes the Purchasing Agent or delegate to disperse additional funds where any purchase of Goods, Services, Construction or Consulting Services has been authorized under the policy, provided that the additional funds:

i) are available within the relevant budget; and
ii) are required to complete works that are necessary as part of the original contract.

This report seeks authorization to approve the noted contemplated increase of $50,000.00 to allow staff to proceed with issuing a change order.

The additional work is required to account for project delays due to City staff capacity issues, updated infrastructure data, revisions and execution to the watermain fire flow c-factor field testing plan, and associated project administration activities.

This water model is a required resource for the City of Owen Sound's Water and Wastewater Master Plan, which is anticipated to begin in 2027.

The original project budget did not include a contingency. A contingency allowance has been incorporated into this project budget amendment for any unforeseen conditions. The contingency allowance shall not be expended without the City's written consent.

Impacts on Project Timeline

This work is anticipated to be completed by December 2026.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

This project is funded by water rates. The deficit of $34,711.48 is proposed to be funded from water reserves.

The total recommended project funding is as follows:

Description	Approved Funding	Recommended Funding	Difference
Engineering	$20,000	$70,000	($50,000)

Decision Declaration:

Decision Declaration

I, **Tim Simmonds, City Manager for the City of Owen Sound and I, Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services for the City of Owen Sound**, render the following decision based on the information contained in this memorandum and the recommendation above:

☑ **Approved**
☐ **Refused**

Reason for refusal:

Decision Date: 10/14/2026

City Manager Signature: Tim Simmonds

Director of Corporate Services Signature: K Allan

We affirm that we are authorized to render this decision under the City of Owen Sound's Delegation of Powers and Duties By-law No. 2014-109 and applicable legislation.

Staff Report

Report To: City Council

Report From: Sabine Robart, Senior Planner

Meeting Date: November 30, 2026

Report Code: CS-26-098

Subject: Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting 026-1075 – Consultation on Watershed Councils

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-26-098 respecting the consultation on watershed councils through Environmental Registry of Ontario posting 026-1075, City Council directs staff to:

1. Send this report to the Province of Ontario as the City's comments on Environmental Registry of Ontario posting 026-1075; and
2. Forward this report to Paul Vickers, MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound and the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority.

Highlights:

- The City of Owen Sound will be represented by the County of Grey, as the upper tier municipality, on the Board of Directors of the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority which will come into existence on February 1, 2027.
- The province is currently consulting on further legislative and regulatory changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA), *Clean Water Act*, and *Lake Simcoe Protection Act*. The Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) posting 026-1075 is seeking input regarding the creation of local watershed councils by regional CAs.
- Given the immense range of the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority (LHRCA), watershed councils will perform a key role in

identifying local priorities with respect to the authority's programs and services and to ensure that local interests are considered as part of the authority's decision-making process.

- Given the lack of lower-tier municipal representation on the Board of Directors, it will be important that the watershed councils include elected representatives from all lower-tier municipalities within the regional Conservation Authority (CA).

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

Strategic Plan Priority: The recommendation contributes to core service delivery or a corporate initiative that enables service delivery for one or more strategic priorities.

Previous Report/Authority:

Report CS-25-123 – Proposed Changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*

Grey County Committee of the Whole – November 12, 2026 (CAOR-CW-29-26 – *Conservation Authorities Act* Regulatory Amendments - County Comments)

Background:

Conservation Authorities

Conservation authorities (CAs) are local public sector organizations established by the Province and governed by the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA), which is administered by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. CAs are watershed-based; that is their boundaries follow water flow across the landscape rather than socio-political boundaries. With regulatory changes in 2023, the province changed the jurisdiction of the Cas. There are now three categories of programs that Cas carry out that serve provincial and municipal interests:

Mandatory programs (Category 1) O. Reg. 686/21 sets out the mandatory programs and services which must be delivered by CAs in Ontario:

- natural hazard management including:
  - flood and erosion control
  - drought/low water program

    - regulating impacts of development and activities in hazardous land (such as floodplains, shorelines or wetlands), natural hazards, and public safety through a permitting process (O. Reg 41/24 Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits)
- management of conservation authority owned land
- drinking water source protection under the *Clean Water Act*
- surface water and groundwater monitoring programs

Municipal programs and services (Category 2)

- Advice to municipalities on natural hazard management and other matters under the *Planning Act*:
    - Through Memorandum of Agreement, GSCA provides *Planning Act* application review and technical clearance services to the City of Owen Sound
    - Contracted services to manage Grey County Forests, forest trails, and CP Rail Trail
    - Contracted services to oversee Grey County Forest Management By law
    - Drinking Water Source Protection Risk Management Services to 14 municipalities on a fee for service basis (including Owen Sound)

Other programs and services (Category 3)

- Local conservation authorities develop and deliver additional local natural resource programs and services, including:
    - Environmental education and community outreach (day camp, school education programs)
    - Land stewardship programs
    - Stakeholders, committees, "friends of" groups, partnerships to provide value in delivery of programs and services e.g. Bruce Trail connectivity into Owen Sound through GSCA properties
    - Conservation areas – recreational activities and camping

See Attachment 1 for a graphic overview of CA funding and program and services.

2025-2026 – Amalgamation, Project Executives, and Transition Committees

In 2025, the province introduced legislation to establish the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA). The purpose of the agency is to oversee the implementation of a regional, watershed-based consolidation of conservation authorities.

Ontario's 36 CAs are to be consolidated into nine (9) regional CAs on February 1, 2027. Owen Sound will be located within the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority (LHRCA) consisting of the following former CAs:

- Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
- Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
- Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
- Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
- Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

The OPCA has appointed a Project Executive for each new Regional CA. The Project Executive will lead the transition and will become the CAO of the new CA for the first two (2) years.

- The Project Executive for the LHRCA is Don Goodyear, former CAO of the Lake Simcoe Region CA.
- Communication from Don Goodyear to the watershed municipalities of the LHRCA is provided in Attachment 2 and includes a conceptual map of the LHRCA.
- A transition committee was established for each new Regional CA to develop a transition plan. The committee is comprised of the current General Manager/CAO (Tim Lanthier) and one board member (elected representative) of each original CA and is headed by the Project Executive.
- The transition committees are working to support continuity of programs and services, while developing longer-term plans to guide organizational integration, governance, and operations.
- A webpage providing updated information on the transition is available on each local CAs website - LHRCA Transition – Grey Sauble Conservation Authority

Regional CAs & Governance

The new CAs will be governed by boards of directors appointed from the "participating" upper and single tier municipalities. The Conservation Authorities Act (CAA) defines a participating municipality as a municipality that is designated by or under the CAA as a participating municipality for a Regional CA and consequently is entitled to representation on the future Board of Directors. The LHRCA will include:

Upper Tier:

- Bruce County
- Dufferin County
- Durham Region
- **Grey County**
- Huron County
- Lambton County
- Middlesex County
- Perth County
- Simcoe County
- Wellington County
- York Region

Single Tier:

- City of Barrie
- City of Kawartha Lakes

The City of Owen Sound is a lower-tier municipality and will therefore not be a 'participating' member of the CA and not have a seat on the Board of Directors. Grey County will also participate in the Eastern Lake Erie Region Conservation Authority; however, this does not include any area within the Owen Sound geographic boundary. As described in more detail below, Owen Sound will be represented on the LHRCA Board of Directors through Grey County representatives.

The province consulted on a draft proposal outlining how many seats each single and upper tier municipality may have on the new regional CA's Board of Directors through ERO 026-0740 in Summer 2026. Under the proposed tiered allocation formula, the number of members each participating municipality appoints to a Regional CA would be based on its share of the CA's total population. Participating municipalities (upper and single tier

municipalities) are to be assigned to one of four population-based tiers, with each tier corresponding to a set number of members. See Attachment 3 for an extract of additional information provided with ERO 026-0740 for details and the anticipated breakdown for the LHRCA. The draft regulations propose that Grey County appoint two members to the Lake Huron RCA and one member to the Eastern Lake Erie RCA.

The population-based formula will result in York Region having four members on the LHRCA Board even though only 53 per cent of its area is within the CA whereas Huron County which has 99 per cent of its land area in the CA will only receive one board member. Similarly, Bruce County, which for all intents and purposes is completely located within the LHRCA, will only be allowed one board member (Northern Bruce Peninsula is not within the regional CA and is not within GSCA currently). The LHRCA board will have 21 members in total with Grey County being represented by two (2) members.

Chart 1 – Comparison of Population vs Land Area and Apportionment of Board Members – Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority

	Total Pop.	**Total Area***	**% of Mun. within LHRCA**	**Area within LHRCA***	**% of total LHRCA area***	**% of total LHRCA Pop.**	**# of Board Mem.**
Grey County	100,905	453,078	98.7	447,187	21.9	6.4	2
Bruce County	72,071	399,874	80.2	320,698	15.7	3.7	1
Huron County	58,459	341,511	99.1	338,437	16.6	3.7	1
York Region	1,173,103	176,073	53.0	93,318	8.6	40.1	4

**Numbers are approximate based on available mapping*

Since the ERO posting, no further communication has been provided, and it is anticipated that the province will initiate Regulations in coming months to formalize the tiered allocation formula. Once the governance model has been finalized, municipalities (upper and single tier) will be informed of how many seats they are responsible for to facilitate the appointment of board

members by January 31, 2027. The current board members will continue to serve until January 31, 2027.

Starting with the 2028 budget, only single and upper tier municipalities will be invoiced for their apportionment/CA levy.

Current ERO Postings

The province is currently consulting on further legislative and Regulatory changes with comments due between November 21 and December 6, 2026. Changes are proposed to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, *Clean Water Act*, and *Lake Simcoe Protection Act*. Attachment 4 provides a list and brief description of each posting.

ERO posting 026-1075 is seeking input regarding the creation of local watershed councils by regional CAs. The watershed councils would have multiple roles including:

- fulfilling the role of Source Protection Committee (SPCs); and
- assisting regional CAs in identifying local priorities with respect to the CA's programs and services and to ensure that local interests are considered as part of the CA's decision-making process.

The LHRCA will be the authority for three SPCs including the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Protection Region. Owen Sound is a member municipality of the Grey Sauble Source Protection Committee. The other SPCs are Ausable Maitland Source Protection Region and South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region.

Analysis and Options:

Many of the proposed changes are administrative in nature to facilitate the amalgamations, address governance and funding, and transfer responsibilities regarding source water protection to the new regional CAs and future watershed councils.

County staff have provided comments on these matters from an upper tier perspective and future 'participating' municipality through CAOR-CW-29-26 *Conservation Authorities Act* Regulatory Amendments - County Comments. City staff generally concur and support the County comments.

There are several matters that are noteworthy from a lower tier perspective:

Finance

As noted above, starting with the 2028 budget, only single and upper tier municipalities will be invoiced for their apportionment/CA levy. The CA levy will no longer be a line item in the City's budget. Rather, the CA levy will become part of the City's transfer to the County. A majority of the CA funding will continue to come from the municipal levy and consequently be based on the property tax base.

Governance

Under the current system, Owen Sound is represented by two (2) elected officials on the GSCA Board which has eleven (11) members. Lower-tier municipalities such as Owen Sound will no longer have direct representation on the Board of Directors of the Regional CAs. The decision to base the number of board members of the Regional CAs on population numbers rather than land area or a combination of land area and population has weighted representation on the board of the LHRCA to the highly urban, northern GTA municipalities. The LHRCA Board will have eleven (11) members representing York, Simcoe, Durham, and Barrie and ten (10) members representing Grey, Bruce, Dufferin, Huron, Middlesex, Wellington, Perth, Lambton, and Kawartha Lakes. As such, the majority of the board members will represent less than a third of the total land area of the regional CA.

The range and diversity of natural, economic, and social issues facing the various member municipalities of the LHRCA is significant. Essentially the only common dominator between the participating municipalities is that their watersheds flow into Lake Huron. The natural environment and economic realities differ widely from Lambton County in the south to the Bruce Peninsula in the north and to southern Georgian Bay, Lake Simcoe, and the northern GTA in the east. Even within Grey County, being limited to two (2) Board members may result in a scenario where Owen Sound has no direction representation on the LHRCA Board of Directors.

Watershed Councils

Given the immense range of the LHRCA as noted above, watershed councils will perform a key role in ensuring that local needs and priorities are identified and conveyed to the regional CA's Board of Directors. The current ERO posting notes that the local watershed councils are intended to assist

the regional CA in identifying local priorities with respect to the authority's programs and services and to ensure that local interests are considered as part of the CA's decision-making process. In addition, the watershed councils would assume the responsibilities of the Source Protection Committee. Currently, there are nine (9) Source Protection Committees across the province which have developed 38 local Source Protection Plans.

Within the LHRCA, there are currently three Source Protection Committees/regions. The chart below provides the total number of members in each Committee and the representative composition of each committee as per the Clean Water Act Regulation.

Chart 2 – Composition of Source Protection Committees in the LHRCA

Committee	Committee Members	No.
Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region	Municipal – 4 Agriculture – 3 Commercial/Industrial – 1 Other Interests – 4 Environmental Health Public/Environment Public/Environment	12
Ausable Maitland Valley Source Protection Region	Municipal – 4 Economic – 4 Agriculture - 2 Industry - 1 Commerce - 1 Other Interests – 4 Environment – 2 Property Owner – 1 Public-at-large – 1	12
South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Region	Municipal – 7 Public – 7 Economic – 7 Chippewas of Rama First Nation – 1	22

Watershed Council – Composition, Number, Procedure

The Watershed Councils would be bottom-up organizations that provide a local perspective to the Regional Board. The number of Watershed Councils per Regional CA will depend on a variety of factors including the diversity of land types, economies, and communities within the Regional CA. Given the lack of lower-tier municipal representation on the Board of Directors, it will be important that the Watershed Councils include elected representatives from all lower-tier municipalities within the Regional CA.

If the watershed councils are to take on the responsibilities of the Source Protection Committees, then representation on the council will need to conform to the Regulations of the *Clean Water Act* and include members that:

- reflect the interests of the agricultural, commercial, or industrial sectors of the source protection area; and
- reflect the environmental, health and other interests of the general public.

Watershed planning will benefit from the mixture of expertise and perspectives provided by the makeup of the Source Protection Committees. Additional representatives from environmental/naturalist groups, 'friends' of the CA, recreational (hiking, hunting, fishing, etc.) organizations would enrich the contribution of the Watershed Council to the Regional Board.

Representation from First Nation communities in whose traditional territories the Regional CA is located would be valuable to inform the work of the Regional CA as well. As noted in the County staff report, this would be an avenue through which traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) could be incorporated into RCA practices and applied on a local basis through Watershed Councils.

The existing Source Protection Committees and CAs are likely a practical starting point for the number of Watershed Councils as well as the composition. City staff recommend that at least three Watershed Councils be established for the LHRCA in accordance with the current Source Water Protection Committees. The three existing Source Protection Committees are grouped/located in a way that makes sense from a geographic, environmental, and economic perceptive:

- Ausable Maitland covers the intensively farmed areas and central Lake Huron shoreline developments of Huron, Perth, Middlesex, etc.

- Saugeen Grey Sauble covers the northern Bruce and Grey County area characterized by increasing karst geology with less overburden, diverse rural development, and shoreline communities.
- South Georgian Bay Lake Simoce covers the areas of Simoce, Dufferin, York characterized by increasing urban development and sensitive natural environments.

The Source Protection Committees have an in-depth understanding of their local communities and with the addition of elected representatives from the lower-tier municipalities and other stakeholders could form the initial Watershed Councils. These Committees have existing process procedures in place and are often supported by the existing CA staff.

City staff recommend that each RCA should establish a formal appointment process defining how representatives are identified and selected for its Watershed Councils. As noted previously, representation from the elected lower-tier municipal councils will be essential. City staff recommend that governance of the watershed council should be subject to procedures like those of Source Protection Committees and municipal boards. Watershed Councils should have scope to guide local RCA activities while making recommendations to, collaborating with, and remaining accountable to the RCA board.

Watershed Council – Functions and Activities

Previous City staff reports on the CA amalgamation have noted concerns with significant loss of representation, reduced prioritization of local issues and priorities, and community focused service delivery. The creation of Watershed Councils could somewhat alleviate those concerns and City staff concur with the County that:

- Watershed Councils could champion local plans, advise the RCA board, and seek resources for local initiatives.
- Watershed Councils could operate similarly to standing committees in a municipal context, with each council responsible for oversight of a specific area and providing a tangible connection to the larger RCA board.
- Watershed Councils would have the most direct contact with communities and support local staff teams in delivering services.
- Watershed Councils would advocate for local priorities to the RCA board, seeking support and resources to deliver on those priorities.

- Watershed Councils could be the appropriate body for the municipal-specific watershed planning as required by the PPS

City staff recommend that the province provide additional opportunities to engage regarding watershed councils over the coming months and years as the amalgamation process unfolds and is refined.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

Overall financial implications are unknown at this time.

The City will receive its final CA levy invoice in 2027. From 2028 onward, the levy will be included in the City's transfer to Grey County.

The cost of operating the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) is intended to be funded by the regional CAs over time. Grey County as the participating municipality will be addressing the levy request from the OPCA.

Human Resources

Changes to the structure and operations of the CA will impact a number of City departments and necessitate staff education and training as the new regional CA develops its procedure and policies. New relationships will need to be established with the staff at the various levels of the new CA.

Time and Scheduling

Amalgamation Date is February 1, 2027.

Implementation timeline for the watershed councils is unknown at this time.

Technology and Infrastructure

N/A.

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Communication and Engagement:

It is recommended that this report and its attachments be provided to the Province of Ontario as the City's response to the Environmental Registry of Ontario posting 026-1075, and that the report be forwarded to Paul Vickers, MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound and the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority.

Report Developed in Consultation With:

Staff regularly consult a range of professional sources to inform their analysis and recommendations. Links to resources are included throughout this report and in the attached schedules.

Attachments:

1. Conservation Authorities – Funding Sources and Programs and Services
2. Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority – Conservation Authority Consolidation Information (Don Goodyear – Project Executive)
3. Appointment of Members by Participating Municipalities to Regional Conservation Authorities under a Proposed Tiered Allocation Formula (ERO 026-0740)
4. Summary of Current ERO Postings related to *Conservation Authorities Act*, *Clean Water Act*, and *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* Changes Fall 2026

Reviewed by:
Pamela Coulter, BA, RPP, Director of Community Services

Submission approved by:
Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Sabine Robart, Senior Planner at srobart@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1236.

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES
Partners for a More Resilient Ontario

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

Protect Ontarians and their property from flooding and erosion hazards. They protect natural areas and open space; restore and protect aquatic and natural habitats and provide recreational and educational opportunities to local residents.

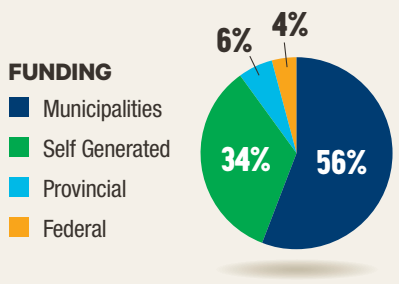
Are governed by a board of municipally appointed members, **80%** of whom are also elected municipal councillors.

Provide science-based advice and services within their watersheds. This includes review of municipal Official Plans and input into the planning processes of the majority of Ontario's municipalities.

More than 13 million people, almost **95% of Ontario's Population**, live in the watersheds managed by Conservation Authorities



FUNDING



$67 / Year per Household

PROGRAM SERVICES INCLUDE:
Watershed planning, flood management, flood warnings, stormwater management, conservation areas, habitat restoration, water protection, monitoring watersheds and much, much more.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Conservation Authorities deliver programs and services totaling almost **$390 MILLION ANNUALLY**

AND EMPLOY **3,902** full time, seasonal and part time staff

On the ground delivery agencies in partnership with municipal, provincial and federal governments, as well as landowners and other groups, to deliver community-based, practical solutions to a range of natural resource challenges.

PROTECTING PEOPLE AND PROPERTY AGAINST FLOODING

Conservation Authorities manage

$3.8 BILLION worth of flood control and prevention infrastructure including **900** dams, dykes, channels and erosion control structures.

Protect Lives & Prevent more than $150 MILLION/YEAR in flood damages and business disruptions.

Programs and services to prevent and control flooding offered by Conservation Authorities include:

- Monitoring conditions
- Modeling and forecasting flooding
- Issuing of flood warnings
- Regulation of development in flood prone areas
- Providing planning support and advice to municipalities to minimize the impacts of flooding
- Protecting significant ecosystems such as wetlands and forests that help to control flooding
- Educating the public about flooding hazards.

LANDHOLDINGS

Collectively Conservation Authorities are the ***second biggest landholders*** in Ontario, and own and protect almost

150,000 Hectares INCLUDING:

- Forests
- Wetlands
- Areas of Natural & Scientific Interest
- Recreational Lands
- Natural Heritage
- Cultural Sites
- Land for Floor & Erosion Control

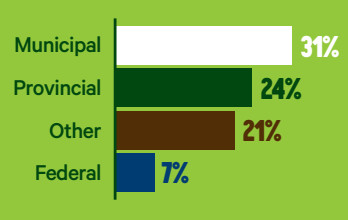
NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO BUILD RESILIENCY

Conservation authorities implement activities such as tree planting, agricultural stewardship, rural water quality projects, green infrastructure and habitat restoration activities to improve watershed health and build resiliency to the impacts of climate change.

Tree Planting Programs

2,000,000 Trees Planted with **1,859 Landowners**

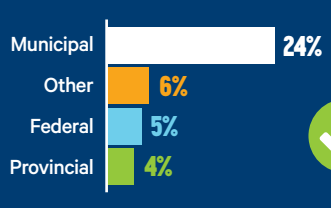
Funding Partnerships



40% of the projects were **AGRICULTURAL**

Water Quality Improvement Projects

$2M in grants FROM



to carry out **702 Water Quality Improvements**

535 Landowners Engaged & provided **$4.9M** in grants

88% of the projects were **AGRICULTURAL**

Habitat Rehabilitation / Restoration Projects

321 Landowners Engaged → Resulting in **643 Projects**

- **105** Wetland Projects
- **206** Shoreline Riparian Projects
- **262** Habitat Projects
- **70** Stream / Fish Habitat Projects

400 hectares **1,123 km** of stream Restored or Rehabilitated

Of the Habitat-Restoration / Reforestation Projects Listed

- **82** aimed at INVASIVE SPECIES
- **173** aimed at SPECIES AT RISK

MONITORING AND REPORTING ON THE HEALTH OF OUR WATERSHEDS

- **682** GROUNDWATER MONITORING SITES
- **1,101** SURFACE WATER MONITORING SITES
- **812** BENTHIC MONITORING SITES

Healthy land and water resources ensure safe drinking water and resilient forests, wetlands and wildlife

33 Conservation Authorities have produced **WATERSHED** Report Cards

Watershed Checkup

StateofOntarioWatersheds.ca

Step Into Nature Healthy Hikes

Join us at HealthyHikes.ca

- **299** Conservation Areas
- **3,551 km** of Trails
- **9,124,024** Visitors
- **7,767** Campsites

Conservation Areas improve our mental and physical health. Visitors provide spillover economic benefits to nearby towns and cities.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

In partnership with the Province and Municipalities, Conservation Authorities support Source Protection Committees (SPC) in

19 REGIONS

PROTECTING MORE THAN 10,000,000 People through the ***Ontario Drinking Water Source Protection Plan***

EDUCATION

Conservation Authority outdoor education programs are aligned with Ontario's curriculum Programs and delivers programs to

485,000 Ontario Students at more than **+ 4,000 Schools for**

= $7 / student per year *(average)*

#StepIntoNature #HealthyHikes #NaturalChampions

conservationontario.ca

@con_ont @conont Ontario's Conservation Areas Conservation Ontario

** Statistics based on 2019 Conservation Ontario CA Survey*

Conservation Authority Consolidation Information
Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority

October 23, 2026

Watershed Municipalities
Attention: Clerks and Chief Administrative Officers

Dear Watershed Municipality,

Re: Municipal Partnership, Governance and Transition Actions

On February 1, 2027, Ontario's 36 conservation authorities will be consolidated into nine regional conservation authorities, and your municipality is located within the regional jurisdiction of the future Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority (LHRCA).

This consolidation will bring together the experience, local knowledge and established partnerships of our founding conservation authorities, with a shared priority to support a well-coordinated transition and to build a regional conservation authority that serves local municipalities and communities effectively.

The following outlines the changes and actions needed to prepare for February 1, 2027.

Summary of Membership and Governance Changes
Historically, single, upper and lower-tier municipalities have been participating municipalities of a conservation authority, which meant that they:

- Appointed members to their conservation authority's Board of Directors;
- Received a draft of their conservation authority's budget for comment; and
- Were invoiced for their municipal apportionment.

Earlier this year, the *Conservation Authorities Act* was amended to recognize counties as upper-tier municipalities, and to make only single and upper-tier municipalities the participating municipalities of the new consolidated regional conservation authorities. This means that under the new regional structure the responsibilities outlined above will rest with single and upper-tier municipalities.

Appointment of Board Members
Following the upcoming municipal election, single and upper-tier municipalities will be responsible for appointing members to the Board of Directors to the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority (subject to final seat allocations by the province).

- These appointments must be made through a resolution of council, a copy of which should be forwarded to the LHRCA once passed. Contact information for resolution submission will be communicated to watershed municipalities in early January 2027.
- The LHRCA must receive council resolutions **no later than January 31, 2027,** as the new Board of Directors will meet in early February to operationalize the new regional authority.
- Normally, appointments are for the four-year term of council, but a municipality may appoint a member for a shorter term or replace them during the term.

- The province recently consulted on a draft proposal regarding how many seats single and upper-tier municipalities could receive on the new regional conservation authority Boards of Directors. Once the province finalizes a governance model, we will inform your municipality about:
  - How many seats each municipality will have on the new Board; and
  - Any eligibility criteria for who can be appointed (e.g. resident of a municipality in the conservation authority's jurisdiction, elected official).

Continuation of Current Board
As per section 14 (4.2) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, current members continue to serve on the conservation authority's Board of Directors until a municipality appoints or reappoints a member for **the new term, which will take effect as of February 1, 2027**.

To support continuity through the final months of the transition, where possible, we encourage single, upper and lower-tier municipalities, where possible, to retain their current conservation authority board representatives through January 31, 2027. Their experience will support the completion of remaining governance, budget and transition responsibilities.

Budget and Invoicing
Conservation authorities were directed by the province to complete their 2027 budget and ensure apportionment invoices are issued to single, upper and lower-tier municipalities for a final time, before January 31, 2027.

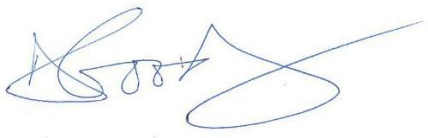
Starting with the 2028 budget, **only** single and upper-tier municipalities will receive draft conservation authority budgets for review and will be invoiced for their apportionment moving forward.

As Project Executive and CAO Designate for the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority, I look forward to working with our municipalities across the jurisdiction to build a strong partnership and shape the future of watershed management and conservation in our region.

Attached, please find additional information about conservation authority consolidation and the transition process. If you have questions, need more information, or would like to book a deputation or a council information session, please contact Trish Barnett 905-895-1281 ext. 223 or t.barnett@lsrca.on.ca

Thank you for your leadership and partnership. Your participation will be essential as we work together to build a regional authority that protects and strengthens the communities we serve.

Sincerely,



Don Goodyear
Project Executive
Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority
905-895-1281 ext. 305 | d.goodyear@lsrca.on.ca

Conservation Authority Consolidation
Key Information
Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority

Ontario is undertaking a significant transformation of its conservation authority network, bringing together 36 existing conservation authorities to establish nine regional conservation authorities effective February 1, 2027.

As part of this provincial initiative, six conservation authorities will come together to form the new Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority: Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA), Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA), Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA), Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA).

The transition will bring together the experience, expertise and resources of these six organizations under a new regional structure, with a continued focus on watershed management, conservation and the communities they serve.

Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency

To support this transformation, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks established the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) to provide provincial oversight of the regional consolidation of conservation authorities.

OPCA is guiding the consolidation process, providing direction, resources and support to Project Executives and Transition Committees as they prepare for the establishment of the new regional conservation authorities. This coordinated approach is intended to support an organized transition while maintaining continuity in conservation authority programs and services.

Project Executive

To lead consolidation efforts at the local level, the province has selected a Project Executive for each region, who will become the first Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the new regional conservation authority. Project Executives are responsible for leading local transition planning and ensuring their new regional conservation authority is operational on February 1, 2027.

OPCA has appointed Don Goodyear as Project Executive and CAO Designate for the new Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority.

With 30 years of experience spanning the conservation authority and municipal government sectors, Don brings a strong record of leadership in watershed management, source water protection and environmental services. During his career, including 15 years with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, he has also led significant organizational transformation initiatives, with a focus on risk management, strategic regional programs and change management.

As the transition progresses, Don will provide updates to municipal partners and other stakeholders at key milestones, supporting continued communication and engagement as the six conservation authorities prepare to become one regional organization on February 1, 2027.

Transition Committee
Each Project Executive is being supported by a Transition Committee that will meet monthly from September to January to support the development of a Transition Plan for their region.

Each conservation authority was requested to appoint two representatives – the General Manager/CAO and a Board member, to the Transition Committee.

The Transition Committee for the Lake Huron region has begun meeting. Members provide input on how to keep stakeholders and partners informed throughout the transition process and oversee progress and provide input on the development of the Transition Plan.

Members of the Transition Committee for the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority include:

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority:

- Ray Chartrand, Board Chair & Councillor, Municipality of Huron East
- Nathan Schoelier, Acting General Manager

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority:

- Tom Hutchinson, Board Chair & Deputy Mayor, Municipality of West Grey
- Erik Downing, General Manager, Secretary-Treasurer

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority:

- Jennifer Shaw, Board Vice Chair & Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Arran-Elderslie
- Tim Lanthier, CAO

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority:

- Jonathan Scott, Board Chair & Councillor, Township of Bradford West Gwillimbury
- Jennifer Vincent, CAO

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority:

- Clare Riepma, Board Vice Chair & Councillor, City of Barrie
- Mark Critch, Acting CAO

Since formation of the Transition Committee, the General Manager and Board Chair for the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority have chosen not to participate. We respect their decision and thank them for their contributions.

Staff from Maitland Valley Conservation Authority continue to actively contribute through a number of transition working groups, providing subject matter expertise to support the ongoing planning process.

Watershed Councils
The province will require regional conservation authorities to establish one or more watershed councils with representation from local partners, sectors and stakeholders. The province will provide further details on the establishment, size, membership and role of these councils in 2027.

Board of Directors
The Board of Directors of the new regional conservation authority will be responsible for implementing the Transition Plan and governing the new organization to ensure business continuity.

The new Board of Directors will be appointed by single and upper tier municipalities in the region. The participating municipalities in the new Lake Huron region are:

Upper Tier

- Bruce County
- Dufferin County
- Durham Region
- Grey County
- Huron County
- Lambton County
- Middlesex County
- Perth County
- Simcoe County
- Wellington County
- York Region

Single Tier

- City of Barrie
- City of Kawartha Lakes

Recently the province consulted on a draft proposal outlining how many seats each single and upper tier municipality may have on the new regional conservation authority Boards of Directors.

Once the governance model has been finalized, municipalities will be informed of how many seats they have, to facilitate the appointment of board members **by January 31, 2027**.

To ensure conservation authorities remain operational and the transition is smooth:

- Municipalities are encouraged, where possible, to maintain their current board members on their local conservation authority board until January 31, 2027 (this is permitted under section 14 (4.2) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.
- Conservation authority boards were also directed by the province to finalize their 2027 budgets and issue apportionment invoices before February 1, 2027. This will mark the final year that lower-tier municipalities receive apportionment invoices, as beginning in 2028, invoices will be issued exclusively to participating member upper-tier and single-tier municipalities.

Next Steps
Project Executives and Transition Committees play key roles in preparing for the establishment of the new regional conservation authorities on February 1, 2027.

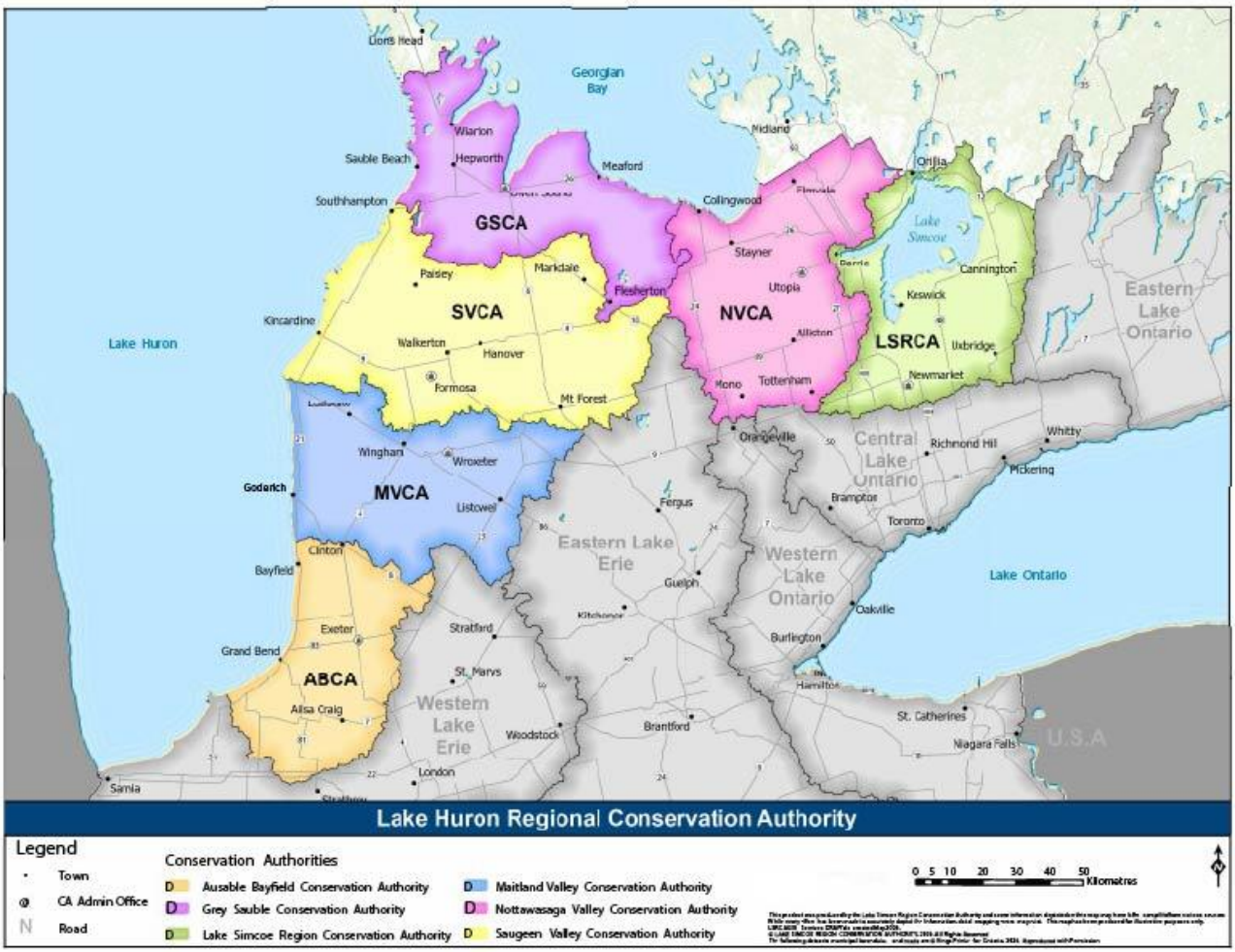
This work includes identifying and addressing immediate operational priorities to support continuity of programs and services, while also developing longer-term plans to guide organizational integration, governance and operations. Together, these efforts will support a coordinated transition and provide a foundation for the future success of the new regional conservation authorities.

Summary of Changes

Below is an at-a-glance list of what stays the same and what changes following the consolidation of conservation authorities:

Who is Affected	What Stays the Same	What Is Changing
Residents, businesses, community stakeholders	**Programs and services:** The programs and services provided by conservation authorities are not changing. **All offices will remain open:** Programs and services will continue to be delivered out of all existing offices. **Boundaries remain the same:** The consolidation will not expand existing conservation authority boundaries. Only lands currently within a conservation authority's jurisdiction will fall within the new regional conservation authority. Where a municipality is only partially within an existing conservation authority's jurisdiction, that same portion will remain within the jurisdiction of the new regional authority.	**Regional Organization**: Six conservation authorities will come together to form one organization - the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority. **Watershed Councils**: One or more watershed councils will be established with representation from local partners, sectors and stakeholders. Further provincial direction is expected in 2027.
Single-Tier Municipalities	**Participating Municipality Status:** Single-tier municipalities will continue to appoint Board members, review draft budgets and receive apportionment invoices. Conservation authority services will continue within their communities.	**Regional Governance:** Board appointments will be made to the new regional conservation authority. **Budgets and Apportionment:** Beginning with the 2028 budget, draft budgets and apportionment invoices will come from the regional authority.
Upper-Tier Municipalities (counties and regions)	**Programs and Services:** Conservation authority services will continue within their geographic areas, and existing jurisdictional boundaries will remain unchanged.	**Participating Municipality Status:** Upper-tier municipalities will become participating municipalities effective February 1, 2027.

Who is Affected	What Stays the Same	What Is Changing
		Board Appointments: They will assume responsibility for appointing members to the regional Board of Directors. **Budgets and Apportionment:** Beginning with the 2028 budget, they will receive draft budgets for review and comment and receive apportionment invoices.
Lower-Tier Municipalities (towns, townships, municipalities with upper tier counties)	**Continued Local Services:** Conservation authority programs and services will continue, with no changes to jurisdictional boundaries. Lower-tier municipalities will remain important local partners. **2027 Budget:** They will receive their 2027 budgets and apportionment invoices under the existing structure for a final time.	**Participating Municipality Status:** Lower-tier municipalities will no longer be participating municipalities effective February 1, 2027. **Watershed Councils**: To ensure local participation influences the work of the regional conservation authority, one or more watershed councils will be established with representation from local partners, sectors and stakeholders. **Board Appointments:** Responsibility will transfer to upper-tier municipalities. **Budgets and Apportionment:** Beginning with the 2028 budget, draft budgets and apportionment invoices will be directed to upper-tier municipalities.



For More Information, contact Don Goodyear, Project Executive, Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority at d.goodyear@lsrca.on.ca



Improving Ontario's Conservation Authority System

Ontario

Regulatory Registry and Environmental Registry Posting #026-0740 - Supplemental Document: Appointment of members by participating municipalities to regional conservation authorities under a proposed Tiered Allocation Formula

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks



Proposed Tiered Allocation Formula

The ministry is proposing to make a regulation under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA) to set out the method for determining the number of members each participating municipality appoints to a regional CA by way of a **Tiered Allocation Formula** as follows:

- **Tier 4**: Where a participating municipality's population represents more than 30 percent of the total population within the regional CA, they appoint four members.
- **Tier 3**: Where a participating municipality's population represents 15 percent or more but less than 30 percent of the total population within the regional CA, they appoint three members;
- **Tier 2**: Where a participating municipality's population represents 5 percent or more but less than 15 percent of the total population within the regional CA, they appoint two members.
- **Tier 1**: Where a municipality's population represents less than 5 percent of the total population within the regional CA, they appoint one member.

Tier	Percent of Regional CA Population	Number of Members
4	**≥ 30%**	4
3	**≥ 15% to < 30%**	3
2	**≥ 5% to < 15%**	2
1	**< 5%***	1

The process for applying this formula is described on the next page.

Applying Proposed Tiered Allocation Formula

- A municipality's representation on a regional conservation authority is based on its share of the regional conservation authority's total population. That share determines which population tier the municipality falls into and, in turn, how many members it appoints.
- To determine a municipality's share:
  - If the municipality is entirely within the regional conservation authority area, its full population is used.
  - If only part of the municipality is within the regional conservation authority area, its population is adjusted based on the percentage of the municipality's geographic area that falls within the conservation authority area.
    - For example, if 50% of a municipality's geographic area is within the regional conservation authority area, then 50% of its total population is used in the calculation.
  - The populations of all participating municipalities are added together to determine the total population of the regional conservation authority, and the municipality's share of that total population is calculated as a percentage.

Municipal Agreements

- Under the CAA, all participating municipalities of a regional CA may enter into an agreement setting out an alternative method for determining the number of members each municipality appoints to the regional CA.

- An agreement does not need to provide every participating municipality with a minimum of one member but must be in accordance with other prescribed maximums:

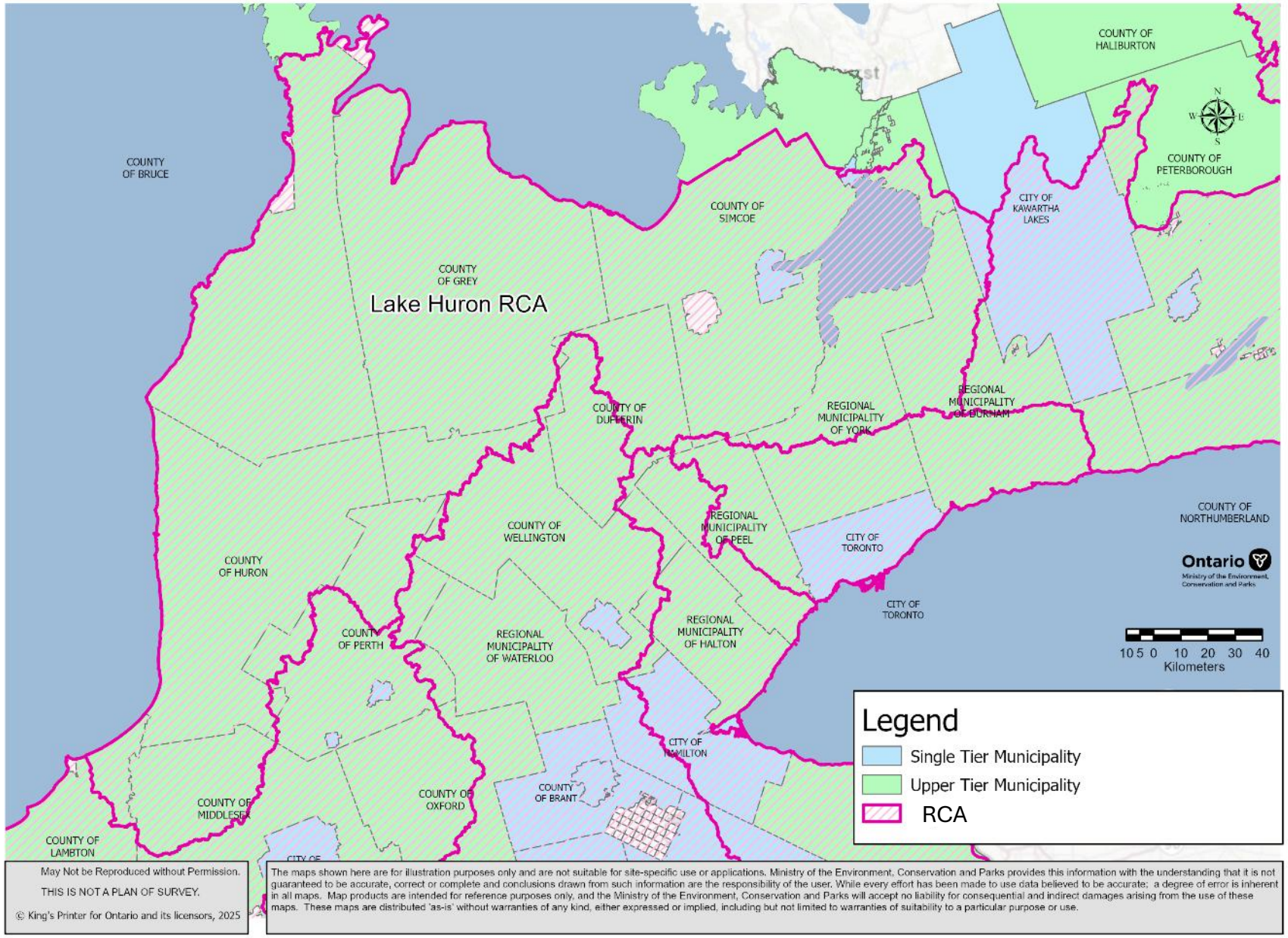
    - It is proposed that no municipality may appoint more than 5 members.

    - It is proposed that total regional CA membership cannot exceed the number of members that would be allocated under the proposed Tiered Allocation Formula.

Important note:

- Municipalities would be required to use the proposed Tiered Allocation Formula for the first appointments to regional conservation authorities.

5 – Lake Huron Regional CA – Participating Municipalities



5 – Lake Huron Regional CA | Total Population within RCA : 1,550,950

Number of members allocated under proposed Tiered Allocation Formula

Municipality	Total Population	% of Municipality within RCA	Population within RCA (% of total RCA population)	Number of Members:
York Region	1,173 103	52.96%	621,275 (40.1%)	4
Simcoe County	350,222	70.39%	246,521 (15.9%)	3
Durham Region	696,942	31.02%	216 191 (13.9%)	2
Barrie	147,829	100%	147,829 (9.5%)	2
Grey County	100,905	98.69%	99,583 (6.4%)	2
Huron County	58,459	99.12%	57,945 (3.7%)	1
Bruce County	72,071	80.17%	57,736 (3.7%)	1
Dufferin County	66,257	47.95%	31,770 (2.0%)	1
Middlesex County	78,110	32.54%	25,417 (1.6%)	1
Wellington County	97,286	20.45%	19,895 (1.3%)	1
Perth County	40,947	34.31%	14,049 (0.9%)	1
Lambton County	126,273	7.91%	9,988 (0.6%)	1
Kawartha Lakes	79,247	3.47%	2,750 (0.2%)	1
Total Number of Members Appointed				**21**

--- The dashed lines denote tier differentiation per the proposed Tiered Allocation Formula (see slide 3)

Attachment 4

Summary of ERO Postings

Consultation on regulatory proposals under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, *Clean Water Act*, and *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* to align with legislative changes and the regional consolidation of conservation authorities (026-1069)

An overview of the planned legislative changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA), the *Clean Water Act, 2006* (CWA), and the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008* (LSPA) to align with the regional consolidation of conservation authorities.

Regulatory Proposal under the *Conservation Authorities Act* to support the implementation of the Regional Conservation Authority Framework (026-1067)

- Updated provisions related to the processes for restructuring of Conservation Authority (CA) boundaries should this be considered at a future date.
- Minister's regulation making power to describe the jurisdiction and participating municipalities of the regional CAs.
- A requirement that the ministry publish a list of participating municipalities and digital maps identifying the areas of jurisdiction for each of the regional CAs. The intention is to have one authoritative source of the regional CA jurisdictions and list of participating municipalities.
- A power for Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) to direct a regional CA to employ their first chief administrative officer and define the terms of the employment contract.
- Refinements to the direction making powers of OPCA to provide clarity around the scope of their authority, including matters on which they could not issue binding direction such as directing a CA to acquire land or other property or appoint or terminate employees.
- The ability to waive, by regulation, the requirement that all participating municipalities have a seat on an RCA board, and to allow more than one participating municipality to collaborate in appointing a shared member.

Proposed regulatory changes under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, to align with new regional structure of conservation authorities (026-1070)

- Maintain 38 source protection areas (SPAs) and the related 38 source protection plans.
- Maintain the current 19 source protection committees (SPC) until watershed councils are established under the CAA, at which point watershed councils will fulfill the role of SPCs.
- Transferring some roles from SPCs to source protection authorities once watershed councils are established.
- Add a Minister's regulation-making authority to identify which SPC each regional CA is required to support.
- Provide that each new regional CA will be the responsible source protection authority for the SPAs that its predecessor CAs were responsible for.

As source protection authorities, CAs deliver mandatory programs and services that implement the drinking water source protection program under the CWA. To support the regional consolidation of CAs, the government plans to introduce legislative amendments to the CWA and propose related regulatory changes to ensure consistency and coordination between the CWA and CAA. These amendments will support the efficient delivery of the drinking water source protection program through the transition to the new regional CA framework, including maintaining local watershed priorities in decision-making after consolidation.

Proposed regulatory amendments under the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* to align with regional conservation authorities (026-1071)

- The planned amendments to the LSPA to align with the regional CA framework and ensure the continued effective implementation of the LSPA and Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP).

Discussion questions to seek early input for the development of a future regulation governing watershed councils under the Conservation Authorities Act (026-1075)

Seeking input to inform development of a regulation under the *Conservation Authorities Act* for the watershed councils that regional conservation authorities must establish to strengthen watershed management and support drinking water source protection.

Local expertise and relationships are vital to CAs delivering their work – which is why our plan includes the creation of local watershed councils by regional CAs for the purposes of assisting the authority in identifying local priorities with respect to the authority's programs and services and to ensure that local interests are considered as part of the authority's decision-making process.

The intent is that at a future date, after consolidation, the requirement for regional CAs to establish one or more watershed councils, per s.18.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, would come into force concurrently with a watershed council regulation (to be developed and finalized).

Staff Report

Report To: City Council

Report From: Jen Wright, Events and Activation Coordinator

Meeting Date: November 30, 2026

Report Code: CS-26-093

Subject: Grey Bruce Home and Lifestyle Show – 2 Year Agreement

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-26-093 respecting a two-year agreement for the Grey Bruce Home and Lifestyle Show, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement with the Grey Bruce Home Builders & Trades Association and the Knights of Columbus for the 2027 and 2028 Grey Bruce Home and Lifestyle Shows.

Highlights:

- Annual Event – The Grey Bruce Home and Lifestyle Show takes place the first weekend of May.
- Established Community Partnership – The partnership with the Grey Bruce Homebuilders & Trades Association and the Knights of Columbus has existed for several years.
- Economic Impact – The event supports local businesses, trades, contractors, suppliers, and service providers while encouraging spending within the community.
- Proceeds – The City receives $2,800 under the two-year agreement recognizing staff's major role in developing, planning, administering, marketing, and implementing the Show. This is in addition to the City's equal partnership revenue share. The event pays costs associated with the facility rental.

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

Strategic Plan Priority: Prosperous City – Supporting initiatives that increase competitive economic advantages for current and new businesses and their employees.

Previous Report/Authority:

Council previously approved the existing partnership/agreement with the City of Owen Sound, the Grey Bruce Home Builders & Trades Association, and the Knights of Columbus through report CS-24-087. The proposed agreement is a renewal of the existing partnership.

Background:

The Grey Bruce Home and Lifestyle Show is an established community event that provides residents and visitors with an opportunity to connect with local and regional businesses, explore home improvement and lifestyle products and services, and learn about projects and services available within the community.

The Show is delivered through a partnership between the City of Owen Sound, the Grey Bruce Home Builders & Trades Association, and the Knights of Columbus. The partnership brings together the resources, expertise, and community connections of each organization and supports the continued success and growth of the event.

The event also provides an opportunity to promote the City of Owen Sound as a destination for residents, visitors, businesses, and prospective homeowners, while generating economic activity for local businesses and attracting attendees from throughout Grey and Bruce Counties and surrounding communities.

Postal codes are tracked via the passport program, and on average 60 per cent of attendees are local, with 40 per cent coming from outside a one-hour radius. On average, there are approximately 2,200-2,800 attendees over the two days of the Show. In 2026, there were 128 businesses indoors which consisted of marketplace and commercial vendors with various booth sizes, including single, double, triple, and quad booths, plus one vendor that commits to eight booths. The Show also hosts, on average, 25 businesses outdoors utilizing booth sizes from 25’x25’ to 50’x50’.

Analysis and Options:

Entering into a two-year agreement will provide greater consistency and certainty for all three partners and allow planning for the event to begin further in advance. A multi-year agreement will also allow the partners to establish longer-term marketing, sponsorship, exhibitor, and programming strategies.

The proposed agreement will maintain the collaborative partnership between the City, the Grey Bruce Home Builders & Trades Association, and the Knights of Columbus while clearly establishing the respective responsibilities and expectations of each organization.

The partnership agreement outlines the roles and responsibilities of each organization, including event administration, financial management, marketing, sponsorship, exhibitor coordination, site logistics, admissions, security, and volunteer support. Under the agreement, the City receives $2,800 prior to the remaining net revenue being distributed equally among the three partners. This collaborative approach leverages the expertise and resources of each organization, supports the financial sustainability of the event, promotes local businesses, and contributes to community initiatives.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

The Grey Bruce Home and Lifestyle Show pays the full cost of the rental for the halls and arena for the Show.

The Show Committee establishes a budget which is aligned with approved City budgets.

The revenue after expenses is shared between the three partners, with the City receiving additional resources for staff time. In 2026, the partner share was $12,354.37 with the City receiving an additional $1,750.00 for staff time.

Human Resources

The Grey Bruce Home Builders & Trades Association and the Knights of Columbus will work collaboratively with the City to develop the facility and site plan, ensure the safe and responsible operation of the Show, comply with all applicable legislation, City by-laws and policies, provide appropriate security and trained volunteers for traffic and parking control, coordinate

directional signage, and ensure all equipment and materials are removed and the facility is left in good condition following the event. The City will be responsible for facility bookings, security, site plans, budgets and financial administration, sponsorship procurement, committee coordination, exhibitor registration and insurance collection, marketing, vendor setup and teardown coordination, setup supervision, and staffing throughout the weekend. The Grey Bruce Home Builders & Trades Association will assist with the set up/tear down of indoor exhibit space, provide setup supervision, and provide volunteers to produce product bags. The Knights of Columbus will manage door admission, provide parking volunteers, assist with outdoor vendor set up and teardown, provide food and beverage carts for vendors, and coordinate golf carts for the outdoor parking areas.

Bayshore facility staff also support the event and City staff collect entrance fees.

The participation of the City's Building and Planning Divisions along with the Tourism Division and River District at the Grey Bruce Home and Lifestyle Show provides an opportunity to engage directly with residents, homeowners, and contractors, while increasing awareness of municipal services, building permit requirements, zoning regulations, housing opportunities, and sustainable building practices. This proactive approach encourages early consultation, supports regulatory compliance, promotes safe and responsible development, and enhances the accessibility of municipal services within the community.

Time and Scheduling

Planning for the event starts in July each year. The event takes place the first weekend of May. Annually, there is a wrap-up report following the event.

Technology and Infrastructure

Exhibitors use an online registration and payment link through the City's website.

Attendees pay the entry fee using cash or debit/credit at the door.

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

The recommendation supports both the City's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the City's Climate Mitigation Plan.

The Grey Bruce Home and Lifestyle Show provides a platform for businesses and organizations to showcase innovative products, services and technologies that support green infrastructure, renewable energy, and environmental sustainability. Exhibitors have the opportunity to educate residents on energy-efficient home improvements, solar energy systems, heat pump technology, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, sustainable building materials, water conservation, rainwater harvesting, permeable landscaping, and native plant gardening. The event also provides opportunities to connect residents with industry professionals and information on available rebates, incentives, and funding programs that support environmentally responsible home and property improvements. These opportunities encourage sustainable investment within the community while supporting local businesses and broader climate action objectives.

Communication and Engagement:

The City will promote the Grey Bruce Home and Lifestyle Show, attract exhibitors and attendees, and highlight the event's benefits to local businesses and the community.

Report Developed in Consultation With:

The Grey Bruce Home Builders & Trades Association and the Knights of Columbus.

Attachments:

None.

Reviewed by:
Aidan Ware, Director and Chief Curator – Art Gallery, Tourism, and Culture
Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services

Submission approved by:
Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Jen Wright, Events and Activation Coordinator, at jwright@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1237.

Staff Report

Report To: City Council

Report From: Staci Landry, Deputy Clerk

Meeting Date: November 30, 2026

Report Code: CR-26-096

Subject: Lottery Licence for Sydenham Sportsmen's Association

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-26-096 respecting a lottery licence for the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association, City Council approves the issuance of a lottery licence as outlined in the report.

Highlights:

- The Sydenham Sportsmen's Association is applying for their annual boat and recreational draw lottery licence with a total prize value of $48,185.70.
- Tickets will be sold from January 1, 2027, until September 5, 2027.
- The City's Lottery Licensing By-law requires that all raffle lottery licence applications with total prize values exceeding $10,000 be presented to Council for consideration.

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

Strategic Plan Priority: The recommendation contributes to core service delivery or a corporate initiative that enables service delivery for one or more strategic priorities.

Previous Report/Authority:

Lottery Licensing By-law No. 1994-079 – Section 5.2

Background:

On October 29, 2026, staff received a raffle lottery application from the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association for their annual boat and recreational draw.

In accordance with the City's Lottery Licensing By-law, all raffle lottery licence applications with total prize values exceeding $10,000 are to be placed before Council for consideration. Such applications shall be accompanied by security covering the total amount of the prize value in the form of a certified cheque, cash, or letter of credit from a chartered bank.

Analysis and Options:

In order to be eligible to receive a licence, the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association must have certain documentation up to date as required by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO). Staff note that all documents required for licensing have been received and all licensing requirements have been met.

The Sydenham Sportsmen's Association also provided the required securities with their application as required by the Lottery Licensing By-law.

It is staff's recommendation that Council approve the raffle licence application so that the Licensing and Marriage Coordinator can issue the licence.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

The City will receive a lottery licence fee of $1,445.57 which is 3 per cent of the prize value of the draw, as required by the AGCO.

Human Resources

The Licensing and Marriage Coordinator will process the application as part of their regular duties.

Time and Scheduling

N/A.

Technology and Infrastructure

N/A.

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Communication and Engagement:

This report has been posted to the City's website with the agenda in advance of the meeting. The Sydenham Sportsmen's Association will be notified of Council's decision.

Report Developed in Consultation With:

Licensing and Marriage Coordinator

Attachments:

None.

Reviewed by:
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services

Submission approved by:
Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Staci Landry, Deputy Clerk at slandry@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1235.

Staff Report

Report To: City Council

Report From: Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk

Meeting Date: November 30, 2026

Report Code: CR-26-094

Subject: Acting Mayor By-law 2026-2030

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-26-094 respecting the Acting Mayor By-law, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to appoint Acting Mayors for the 2026-2030 Council term as outlined in the report.

Highlights:

- The Acting Mayor By-law provides a contingency where the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are absent, refuse to act, or the offices are vacant.
- The Acting Mayor By-law provides a schedule of the Acting Mayor rotation for Councillors.
- The Acting Mayor By-law does not apply to strong mayor powers.

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

Strategic Plan Priority: The recommendation contributes to core service delivery or a corporate initiative that enables service delivery for one or more strategic priorities.

Previous Report/Authority:

Municipal Act, 2001, section 242 – Absence of Head

Municipal Act, 2001, Part VI.1 – Strong Mayor Powers

Procedural By-law No. 2026-052

Background:

The *Municipal Act, 2001*, subsection 242 provides that:

> A municipality may, by by-law or resolution, appoint a member of the council to act in the place of the head of council or other member of council designated to preside at meetings in the municipality's procedure by-law, when the head of council or designated member is absent or refuses to act or the office is vacant, and while so acting such member has all the powers and duties of the head of council or designated members, as the case may be, with respect to the role of presiding at meetings.

This report is being brought forward for Council's consideration to ensure that a contingency is in place if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are absent or refuse to act. The Acting Mayor By-law will not apply to strong mayor powers in accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Analysis and Options:

The City's Procedural By-law dictates that the Deputy Mayor is the Mayor's alternate, and the Acting Mayor is the second alternate where both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are absent, refuse to act, or the offices are vacant.

The Acting Mayor is chosen by an alphabetical rotation of councillors, each appointed for a month at a time. If the appointed councillor is unavailable, the councillor appointed for the next succeeding month steps into the Acting Mayor role.

In addition to presiding over meetings, the Acting Mayor rotation designates who will represent the Mayor at meetings, functions, and other activities when the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are both unavailable.

The draft Acting Mayor By-law is attached to the report for Council's consideration.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

There are no financial implications from the passing of the Acting Mayor By-law.

Human Resources

The passing of the Acting Mayor By-law provides staff with the guiding document required for scheduling.

Time and Scheduling

The agenda includes both the report and the Acting Mayor By-law to begin scheduling as soon as possible.

Technology and Infrastructure

N/A.

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Communication and Engagement:

This report has been posted to the City's website with the agenda in advance of the meeting. The by-law will be posted on the City's website once approved by Council.

Report Developed in Consultation With:

Committee and Executive Support Coordinator

Attachments:

Draft Acting Mayor By-law

Reviewed by:
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services

Submission approved by:
Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk at bbloomfield@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1247.

The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound

By-law No. 2026-1XX

A By-law to appoint a member of Council to act in place of the Mayor during the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (2026-2030)

WHEREAS section 242 of *The Municipal Act, 2001*, provides that a municipality may, by by-law, appoint a member of the council to act in the place of the head of council or other member of council designated to preside at meetings in the municipality's procedure by-law when the head of council or designated member is absent or refuses to act or the office is vacant, and while so acting such member has all the powers and duties of the head of council or designated member, as the case may be, with respect to the role of presiding at meetings; and

WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound (the "City") deems it necessary and expedient to appoint a member of Council to act in the place of the Mayor where the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are absent, refuse to act or the offices are vacant, for the purpose of attending meetings, functions and other activities; and

WHEREAS on November 30, 2026, City Council passed a resolution directing staff to bring forward a by-law to appoint Council members as Acting Mayors as outlined in staff report CR-26-094;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF OWEN SOUND HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Where the Mayor is absent or refuses to act, or the office of Mayor is vacant, the Deputy Mayor may act as the Mayor and, while so acting, has all the powers and duties of the Mayor.

2. Where the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are absent or refuse to act, or the office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor are vacant, the following members of Council are appointed to act as Mayor during the time indicated next to their name, and while acting as Mayor, the Councillor shall have all the powers and duties of the Mayor and shall be referred to as the "Acting Mayor":

2026	
Councillor D. Adams	November 2026
Councillor J. Carder	December 2026
2027	
Councillor B. Hamley	January 2027
Councillor S. Kukreja	February 2027
Councillor M. Middlebro'	March 2027
Councillor B. O'Leary	April 2027
Councillor M. Robertson	May 2027
Councillor D. Adams	June 2027
Councillor J. Carder	July 2027

Councillor B. Hamley	August 2027
Councillor S. Kukreja	September 2027
Councillor M. Middlebro’	October 2027
Councillor B. O’Leary	November 2027
Councillor M. Robertson	December 2027
2028	
Councillor D. Adams	January 2028
Councillor J. Carder	February 2028
Councillor B. Hamley	March 2028
Councillor S. Kukreja	April 2028
Councillor M. Middlebro’	May 2028
Councillor B. O’Leary	June 2028
Councillor M. Robertson	July 2028
Councillor D. Adams	August 2028
Councillor J. Carder	September 2028
Councillor B. Hamley	October 2028
Councillor S. Kukreja	November 2028
Councillor M. Middlebro’	December 2028
2029	
Councillor B. O’Leary	January 2029
Councillor M. Robertson	February 2029
Councillor D. Adams	March 2029
Councillor J. Carder	April 2029
Councillor B. Hamley	May 2029
Councillor S. Kukreja	June 2029
Councillor M. Middlebro’	July 2029
Councillor B. O’Leary	August 2029
Councillor M. Robertson	September 2029
Councillor D. Adams	October 2029
Councillor J. Carder	November 2029
Councillor B. Hamley	December 2029
2030	
Councillor S. Kukreja	January 2030
Councillor M. Middlebro’	February 2030
Councillor B. O’Leary	March 2030
Councillor M. Robertson	April 2030
Councillor D. Adams	May 2030
Councillor J. Carder	June 2030
Councillor B. Hamley	July 2030
Councillor S. Kukreja	August 2030
Councillor M. Middlebro’	September 2030

Councillor B. O'Leary	October 2030
Councillor M. Robertson	November 2030

3. Where a Councillor appointed as Acting Mayor is unavailable or unable to fulfil the duties of Mayor, the next Councillor alphabetically will be called upon to take the place of the Acting Mayor.

4. This by-law shall come into full force and effect on the date it is passed.

FINALLY PASSED AND ENACTED this 30th day of November 2026.

_____

Mayor Richard Thomas

_____

Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk

Staff Report

Report To: City Council

Report From: Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk

Meeting Date: November 30, 2026

Report Code: CR-26-093

Subject: Appointment of Existing Staff Member as Deputy Clerk for Administrative Purposes

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-26-093 respecting the appointment of an existing staff member as a Deputy Clerk for administrative purposes, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to amend the Appointed Officers By-law No. 2015-054 to appoint Alexandra Del Degan as a Deputy Clerk as outlined in the report.

Highlights:

- The *Municipal Act, 2001* provides that a municipality may appoint deputy clerks who have all the powers and duties of the clerk.
- Due to staffing changes in the organization, an update to the Appointed Officers By-law is necessary.

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

Strategic Plan Priority: The recommendation contributes to core service delivery or a corporate initiative that enables service delivery for one or more strategic priorities.

Previous Report/Authority:

Municipal Act, 2001, subsection 228(2)

Appointed Officers By-law No. 2015-054

Background:

The *Municipal Act, 2001* provides that a municipality may appoint deputy clerks who have all the powers and duties of the clerk. The City has an Appointed Officers By-law that ensures that all appointments are in one place.

Analysis and Options:

Due to staffing changes in the organization, the Appointed Officers By-law needs to be amended as follows:

1. Remove Desiree van Dijk as a Deputy Clerk; and
2. Appoint Alexandra Del Degan as a Deputy Clerk, effective immediately, for the purpose of:
    - Acting as a Commissioner of Oaths and a Deputy Division Registrar; and
    - Providing certified copies under seal of the municipality of any record referred to in subsection 253(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Alexandra Del Degan is the Records, Access, and Privacy Coordinator for the City. There are times that she supports Clerk services by commissioning documents, issuing burial permits or marriage licenses, and certifying City records. This appointment will provide her with the authority required to complete these tasks.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

There is no financial impact by undertaking this appointment. It is a current position at the City of Owen Sound.

Human Resources

N/A.

Time and Scheduling

The agenda includes both the report and amending by-law to permit the Records, Access, and Privacy Coordinator to undertake these tasks as soon as possible.

Technology and Infrastructure

N/A.

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Communication and Engagement:

This report has been posted to the City's website with the agenda in advance of the meeting. The Appointed Officers By-law will be updated, and the consolidated version of the by-law will be available on the City's website.

Report Developed in Consultation With:

N/A.

Attachments:

None.

Reviewed by:
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services

Submission approved by:
Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk at bbloomfield@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1247.

Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force
Minutes, 16 Oct 2026

10am-11:00 am via Zoom

- **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**



We acknowledge that our work across Grey and Bruce counties takes place within the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, comprised of Saugeen First Nation and the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation at Neyaashiinigmiing.

We honour their enduring relationships with these lands and waters, and the generations who have cared for them. We recognize their rights, knowledge and continuing leadership, and acknowledge the First Nations, Métis and Inuit people who make this region their home.

Today's discussion on affordable childcare invites us to reflect on what children and families need to thrive: safety, belonging, connection to culture, and the resources to live with dignity. We recognize the lasting harms of residential schools and colonial policies that separated Indigenous children from their families, languages and communities. We honour Survivors and affirm the importance of Indigenous leadership in services that support their children and families.

Accessible, affordable and culturally safe childcare supports children's development and enables parents and caregivers to pursue employment, education and greater income security. It is an essential part of our shared work to reduce poverty.

As the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force, we commit to listening, strengthening respectful relationships and challenging barriers to equitable access. May today's conversation helps us move from acknowledgement to practical action, so that every child and family has the opportunity to thrive.

Key Takeaways

- The federal and provincial governments signed an agreement on September 29th to extend the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELC) program until March 31, 2031, maintaining parent fee caps at a maximum of $22/day until at least June 30, 2027.
- Both Grey and Bruce Counties face a freeze on licensed childcare space expansion due to funding constraints, despite significant waitlists (approximately 2,400 children in Grey County alone).
- A new provincial workforce recruitment website, BeginHere.ca, was launched to promote ECE careers and provide pathways, funding information, and local job boards.
- The current RECE wage floor is $25.86/hour in 2026, but wage equity for non-registered staff remains an ongoing advocacy issue.

- Childcare fee subsidy income thresholds have not been updated since 2007, leaving many families ineligible despite financial hardship.
- Child poverty in Canada has risen for the third consecutive year, with nearly 1.4 million children (18.3%) living in poverty.
- Municipal election candidate education on poverty was held in September, with 63 candidates attending a two-hour Poverty 101 session.

Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELC) System Overview

Tara Cockerill and Cindy Tanner provided a comprehensive overview of the CWELC program, its current status, and recent federal-provincial agreement extension. CWELC is a multi-billion dollar federal-provincial partnership that lowers licensed childcare costs to an average of $19/day, capped at $22/day, for children under age 6 enrolled in participating programs. The program also focuses on expanding licensed spaces and increasing compensation for Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) between 2022 and 2026. On September 29th, the federal and provincial governments agreed to extend the CWELC program until March 31, 2031, maintaining current parent fee levels until at least June 30, 2027. The local service system managers have not yet received 2027 operational guidelines or budgets.

Conclusion: 1) The extension is a positive development for families and operators, preventing a sudden fee increase from $22 to $60+/day as of January and 2) further details on the new agreement are still forthcoming.

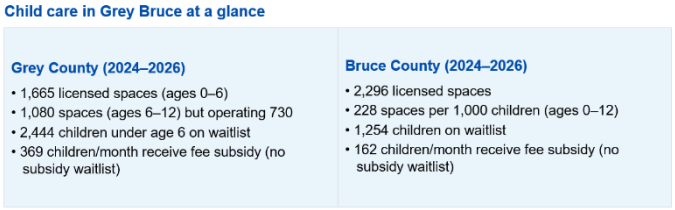
Cost-Based Funding Model and Operational Pressures

Tara Cockerill and Cindy Tanner discussed the shift to a cost-based funding model and the operational challenges it presents for childcare operators. Explained that last year marked the first year of cost-based funding, where operators are funded based on occupied spaces rather than parent fee revenue supplemented by subsidies. Grey County and Bruce County operators find the new system more stable and predictable, receiving monthly allocations with year-end reconciliation.

A key pressure is that operators must maintain 95% of licensed operating capacity or face funding recovery for empty spaces. This creates challenges around gradual entry for new children (e.g., starting with 6 instead of 8 toddlers), which negatively impacts funding eligibility. Currently there is a freeze on space expansion — operators with available rooms and waitlists cannot expand because funding is unavailable to support additional spaces. Multiple operators from other service system areas want to open in Grey County and Bruce County but are being placed on a waitlist pending additional space allocations.

Conclusion: 1) The cost-based funding model improves stability but introduces new pressures around occupancy requirements and limits operational flexibility, and 2) space expansion is currently frozen, creating significant unmet demand.

Childcare Waitlists and Access for Families



Approximately 2,400 children on waitlists across all age groups in Grey County as of Q2, with approximately 1,800 under age 6, primarily waiting for toddler and preschool spaces. A drop-off in school-age enrollment in Grey County, as families face full fees for children aged 7+ during summer, representing a significant cost increase from the $22 cap. Bruce County also has significant waitlists, particularly for toddlers (13–30 months) and before-and-after school care. Home childcare recruitment has also been challenging as a strategy to offset licensed space shortages.

Conclusion: 1) Demand for licensed childcare significantly exceeds current supply in both Grey and Bruce Counties and 2) school-age care is experiencing declining enrollment due to cost increases for children over age 6.

Childcare Fee Subsidy and Income Threshold Advocacy

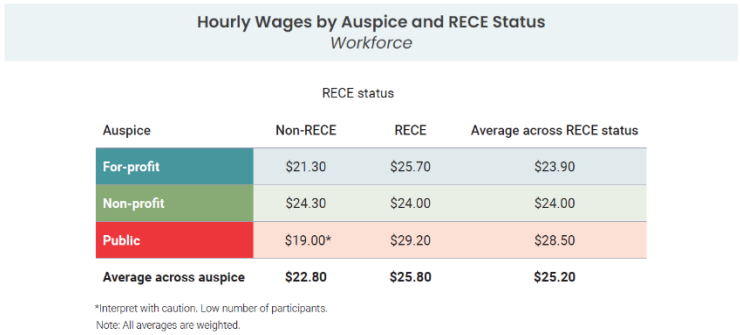
The gap between the $22/day fee cap and affordability for families who do not qualify for fee subsidies. The childcare fee subsidy is available for families meeting financial eligibility requirements, but income thresholds have not been updated since 2007. Many families earn more than the 2007 threshold but still face budget shortfalls — citing data showing families could still be $500/month short even after paying the $22 cap, when accounting for rent and cost of living. Grey County recently made an AMO delegation to advocate for revised income thresholds, and that service system managers have no flexibility on this provincially mandated threshold. Advocated for thresholds to be modernized and ideally indexed annually to reflect wage changes. The same challenge exists in Bruce County, noting families with multiple children under age 6 could pay $66/day and still not qualify for subsidy.

Connecting this to the broader poverty reduction work, it was commented that partners like the United Way are working to reduce housing and utility costs to help families afford childcare.

Conclusion: 1) Income thresholds for fee subsidy eligibility are outdated and must be updated to reflect current cost-of-living realities and 2) ongoing advocacy to the province is required to modernize and index these thresholds.

ECE Workforce: Wages, Equity, and Retention

The group discussed the RECE wage floor, wage equity for non-registered staff, and workforce retention challenges. The latest **Knowing Our Numbers** for Bruce County and Grey County supported this discussion. bgdisc.ca/post/counties-of-bruce-and-grey-knowing-our-numbers-report



Hourly Wages by Auspice and RECE Status
Workforce

RECE status

Auspice	Non-RECE	RECE	Average across RECE status
For-profit	$21.30	$25.70	$23.90
Non-profit	$24.30	$24.00	$24.00
Public	$19.00*	$29.20	$28.50
Average across auspice	**$22.80**	**$25.80**	**$25.20**

*Interpret with caution. Low number of participants.
Note: All averages are weighted.

The 2026 RECE wage floor is $25.86/hour for registered ECEs working in CWELC-enrolled programs across the province. This is just above the living wage calculation for the Grey Bruce region at $24.60.

Tara highlighted that CWELC funding only covers the wage floor for registered ECE staff; non-registered staff (those not members of the College of Early Childhood Educators) are only technically funded at minimum wage, creating an equity gap. Operators who wish to pay non-registered staff equally must find the difference themselves.

Raised the comparison between ECEs in childcare (working 12 months) versus ECEs in school boards (working 10 months) for similar annual wages, affecting work-life balance and recruitment. Younger workers prefer 5-hour shifts over 8-hour shifts, creating staffing challenges for programs running 12-hour days. Long operating hours and mandatory ratio maintenance create work-life balance challenges for childcare staff.

Conclusion: 1) Wage equity for non-registered childcare staff remains a key advocacy priority, 2) work-life balance and shift structure are increasingly important recruitment and retention factors and 3) continued advocacy is needed to raise the professional profile and compensation of the ECE sector.

BeginHere.ca — ECE Workforce Recruitment Website

A new provincial workforce recruitment initiative developed through OMSSA (Ontario Municipal Social Services Association). Multiple service system managers pooled funding to create BeginHere.ca, a one-stop resource for individuals interested in ECE careers. Features including: career pathway information, a quiz to assess fit, eligibility guidance, college listings with program details (online/asynchronous options), funding opportunities, and a localized job board. The site is available in English and French, with a "Talk to an Advisor" feature directing users to their local service system manager. Both Georgian College and Fanshawe College have expanded flexible and asynchronous programming post-COVID to support those already working in the sector. Bruce County produced a video a few years ago promoting ECE careers and is currently finalizing a new video focused on males in ECE.

Conclusion: 1) BeginHere.ca is a new and promising tool to promote ECE as a professional career and support workforce recruitment and 2) partners are encouraged to share the website and use it as a promotional resource.

Knowing Our Numbers — ECE Workforce Data Report

Findings from the provincial "Knowing Our Numbers" workforce data project led by Dr. Amos Akbari at the Atkinson Center, University of Toronto was presented. bgdisc.ca/post/counties-of-bruce-and-grey-knowing-our-numbers-report

The 2023–2024 report collected demographic and workforce data across Ontario, with Grey and Bruce combined due to smaller sample sizes. Approximately 36% of the early learning workforce in Grey-Bruce is over age 45, signaling significant upcoming retirements. The report covers workforce demographics, compensation, benefits, racialized worker experiences, job satisfaction, and plans to stay or leave the sector. Benefits such as paid sick days, professional development time, and retirement plans are increasingly important recruitment and retention factors. Phase 2 of the project will begin in 2026–2027, providing updated comparative data to inform future service plans.

A question was posed on whether data exists on where ECE graduates are trained (e.g., Georgian College) and suggested advocating for increased local graduation capacity if shortages exist. This data is collected by the project and the College of ECEs and expressed anticipation for more localized data in the next report.

Conclusion: 1) Workforce aging is a significant concern requiring proactive recruitment to offset upcoming retirements, 2) Phase 2 data will be critical for planning future childcare service expansion in Grey and Bruce and 3) Advocating for increased local ECE graduation capacity is a potential action item.

Action: Share the Bruce County ECE recruitment video link and the upcoming males-in-ECE video once finalized.

Population Growth and Childcare Demand Projections

A question was posed about population trends and their implications for childcare demand relative to seniors' services. The lakeshore area of Bruce County is seeing higher demand for childcare due to population growth. Grey County is updating its projected growth plan and identified Dundalk, Markdale, and the Town of Blue Mountains/Meaford areas as experiencing significant housing development with family-style homes.

Four County Labour Planning Market Board shared Labour Force Survey data showing that the largest population increase between 2024 and 2026 in the four-county region is in the 65+ age group. A youtube series by Four County shares population data and workforce needs E3-Navigating the Future of Care

Conclusion: 1) Grey and Bruce Counties are experiencing population growth in both family and senior demographics and 2) Grey County is proactively updating its growth plan to be ready for future childcare space expansion opportunities.

Municipal Election Candidate Education — Poverty 101 Session

Jill Umbach provided an update on the Poverty Task Force's pre-election education initiative. In September, a two-hour Poverty 101 education session was held for municipal election candidates, replacing the regular Poverty Task Force meeting. 233 candidates were identified, 231 were reached by email, and 63 candidates attended the session. Housing was the dominant topic of discussion, even though the session covered broader social determinants of health and the roles of municipal, upper-tier, provincial, and federal governments. Candidates left with more questions than answers, recognizing the complexity of poverty and housing issues, but with a clearer sense that municipal councillors have a meaningful role to play.

Councillor Joan John reminded participants that advanced voting begins today and encouraged everyone to vote.

Partner Updates

Dress Purple Day (Bruce Grey Child and Family Services)

Chelsea Donohue announced that October 29th is Dress Purple Day, a day to highlight the community's role in keeping children and youth safe. An open house is being held today (October 22nd) from 1–3 PM at Owen Sound and Walkerton offices, featuring a dirty soda bar, treats, crafts, and information on community supports. Participants encouraged to wear purple on October 29th and share photos on Instagram or Facebook tagging the organization.

Grey County Climate Change Adaptation Plan - Megan Myles

Megan Myles provided an update on Grey County's climate change adaptation planning work. Megan Myles introduced herself as Interim Climate Change Initiatives Manager at Grey County, covering for Linda during extended educational leave. Work on the climate change adaptation plan has resumed, with a new public engagement platform (Resilient Grey) launched. The engagement process included climate personas to reflect how climate change disproportionately impacts different populations. The plan is expected to be presented to Council in Spring 2027, with a short public engagement planned for January.

Grey County's climate adaptation plan is progressing, with a focus on equitable impacts. Collaboration between climate resilience and poverty reduction work is ongoing, particularly around rental housing and tenant protections.

RentSafe Owen Sound Collaborative Roundtable – Jill Umbach

The RentSafe Owen Sound Collaborative Roundtable held a one-day workshop at the Community Impact Lab/Georgian College/Sydenham Campus which examined climate resiliency and rental housing from the perspective of lower-income renters. An environmental scan was carried out on policy/planning for climate resiliency in rental housing and the opportunity to link to Grey County Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

Members of the Poverty Task Force and Community Voices will be participating in a province-wide RentSafe Ontario roundtable in Toronto on Oct 19th/20th. Our local work will be recognized as Bright Spot.

The City of Owen Sound's Vital Services By-law passed in September, and ongoing work by the United Way is happening with Kincardine and Saugeen Shores on utility billing reforms to protect tenants. RentSafe Update: From Local Research to Stronger Rental Housing Standards in Owen Sound – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force

Community Foundation Events and Vital Signs Report – Stuart Reid

The Vital Signs report, released in June, is available for free download and contains data on shifting demographics, children, school-age children, and childcare relevant to the day's discussion. bgdisc.ca/post/vital-signs-2026

- November 6th Lunch and Learn for financial professionals will be held at Grey Roots, featuring Ryan Gibson from the University of Guelph on rural wealth transfer and philanthropy.
- November 13th Changemaker Evening at Harmony Center will focus on community wealth building, including speakers and music.
- December 3rd Season of Giving event at Grey Roots, screening a film about the Community Foundation's 30+ years of impact.

Campaign 2000 — National Strategy for Children and Youth Act (Bill S-2112) - Jill Umbach

Jill provided an update on federal advocacy related to child poverty. Campaign 2000, an organization focused on poverty reduction, is advocating for Bill S-2112, an Act Respecting a **National Strategy for Children and Youth**. The bill was deferred because the sponsoring parliamentarian was absent during its scheduled review, but it remains on the docket. Child poverty rates in Canada have risen for the third consecutive year, with nearly 1.4 million children (18.3%) living in poverty — more than double the 2020 rate. Join the call: endorse Bill 212 open letter for Canada's children - Campaign 2000

Action: Jill Umbach will share the bill information with partners and bring it to the steering committee for approval before any organizational sign-on.

Action: Explore collective advocacy actions for 2027, including potential alignment with national and provincial coalitions on childcare.

Next Poverty Task Force Meeting will be on **November 20th, 2026, 10am.** Anne Coleman, Ontario Living Wage Network, will be speaking to the 2026 Living Wage Rate.

Strengthening the Early Years Workforce
and
Supporting Economic Participation

Workforce Participation

- Quality child care helps parents enter, remain, and advance in the workforce.
- Investments in early learning support economic growth while improving outcomes for children and families.
- Women continue to face workforce participation barriers related to caregiving responsibilities.
- Expanded child care access supports greater workforce equity and economic opportunities for women.

Current CWELCC System Update

The **Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC)** system in Ontario is a multi-billion dollar federal-provincial partnership that lowers the cost of licensed child care to an average of **$19 per day** (capped at a maximum of **$22 per day**).

Between 2022 and 2026, the initiative also focused on expanding licensed child care spaces across Ontario and increasing compensation for Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) to support long-term sustainability and quality.

Current CWELCC System Update

On September 29, 2026, the federal and provincial governments reached an agreement to extend the Canada Wide Early Learning & Child Care (CWELCC) program until March 31, 2031.

While further details are still forthcoming, highlights of the recent agreement include:

- Maintaining current parent fee levels until at least June 30, 2027.
- Stabilizing the delivery of the CWELC program over the long term.

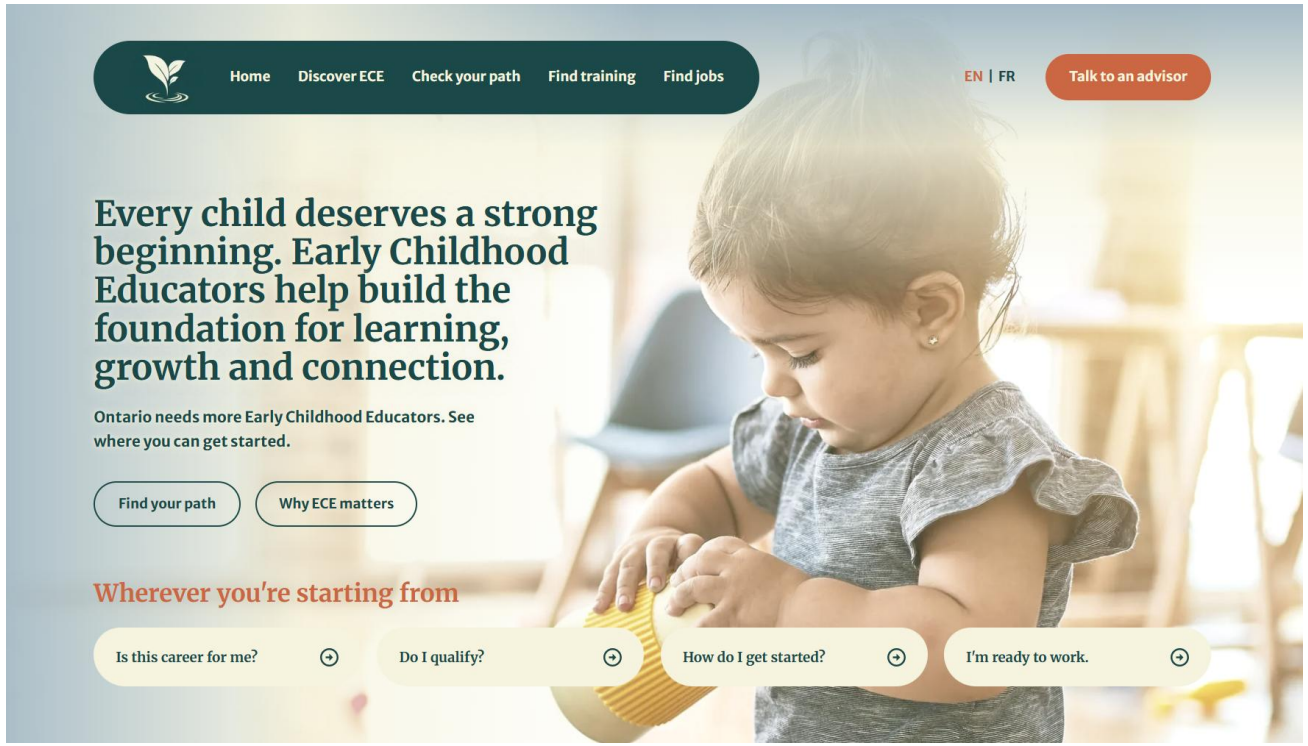
No commitments or indications regarding further sector expansion were announced at the press conference.

Further updates will be shared with the community as they become available.

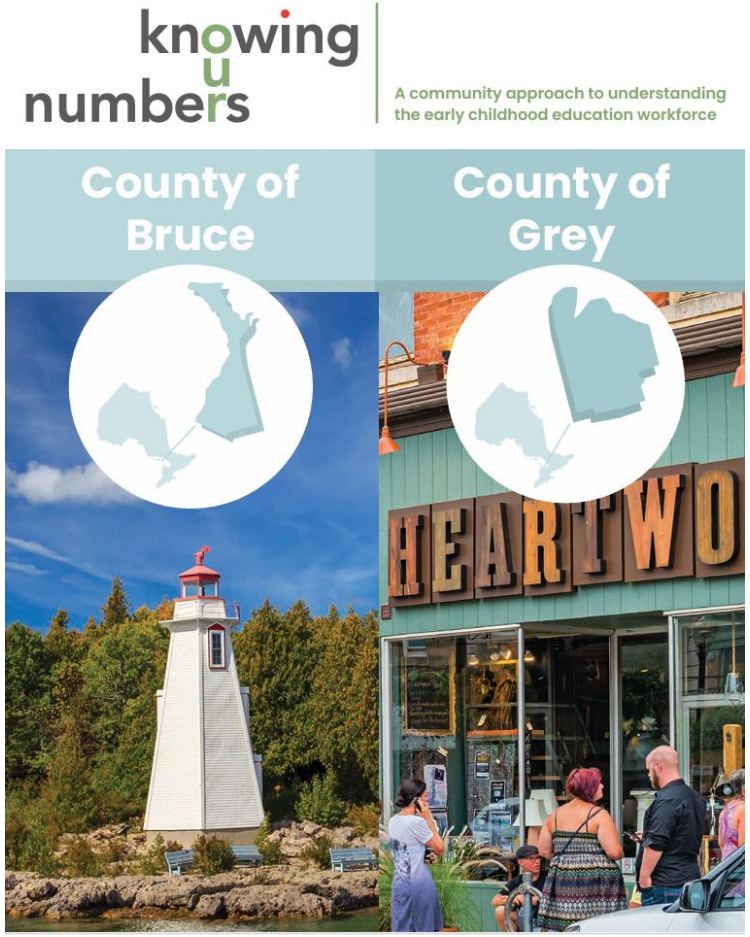
ECE Recruitment & Retention

Workforce strategies have focused on attracting and retaining Early Childhood Educators through advocacy, professional recognition, career pathways, and improved compensation awareness.

Developed in partnership with OMSSA, BeginHere.ca promotes careers in the early years and child care sector by highlighting educational pathways, career opportunities, and the value of the ECE profession



Knowing Our Numbers



The Knowing Our Numbers project provides workforce and system data to support evidence-based planning. Insights on labour trends, recruitment challenges, and future workforce needs help shape sustainable child care solutions.

knowing u numbers

A community approach to understanding the early childhood education workforce

County of Bruce



County of Grey





Counties of Bruce and Grey

The regional data presented here are part of the larger provincial early childhood education workforce study **Knowing Our Numbers** (KON). Bruce and Grey Counties are two of 43 regional children's service districts that participated in the study representing over 91% of all regions in Ontario. Details on the project, methodology, and province-wide results can be found **here**. The data from the Counties of Bruce and Grey were merged in consultation with regional officials. In the **Executive Report**, the counties are part of the 'West' data region. Census data provided on the following page allow readers to put the results into the context of regional demographics.

This report should be cited as:

Akbari, E., McCuaig, K., Schurter, M. Varmuza, P., Akbari, S., Mudie, S. (2024). *Knowing Our Numbers: A Provincial Study with a Local Lens on the Early Childhood Education Workforce in Ontario. The Counties of Bruce and Grey.*

All communication and inquiries should be made to
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and Kerry McCuaig — kerry.mccuaig@ece-rpa.ca

County of Bruce

Population and Family

Population	
2021	73,396
2016	68,147
Change since 2016:	*+7.70%*
Population density per sq km	18.0
Median age	48.0 years
Racialized population	3.8%
Multi-generational households	1.6%
Immigrant population	7.6%
Indigenous identity	4.5%
Education	
No certificate, diploma, or degree	17.1%
High school diploma or equivalent	28.0%
Post secondary certificate, diploma or degree	55.0%

**15+ years old*

Education obtained outside Canada	4.5%

**25–64 years old*

Average number of children per family	1.9
One-parent families	11.3%
Lone-parent families	
Women	8.4%
Men	2.9%
Marital status	
Married or living common-law	64.4%
Not married or living common-law	35.6%
Married or common-law with children	36.2%
Language most often spoken at home	
English	95.5%
French	0.2%
Other	3.6%

**Estimates associated with Indigenous languages are more affected than most by the incomplete enumeration of certain reserves and settlements in the Census of Population.*

Home ownership	
Owner	81.1%
Renter	18.3%
Spending more than 30% on shelter costs	15.1%

Employment and Income

Labour force participation rate	
Women	53.3%
Men	62.2%
Unemployment rate	
Women	9.5%
Men	6.5%
Prevalence of low income (LIM)	
0-17	12.4%
0-5	13.7%
18-64	9.8%

**LIM: Low Income Measure reflects those whose incomes are below half of the median of the adjusted income distribution*

Median employment income	$33,200
Median employment income in 2020 for full-year full-time workers	$64,000
Median total income of household in 2020	$87,000
Median after-tax income of household in 2020	$76,000

Commuting duration (mins)	Total %	% Men	% Women
Less than 15	38.8	32.4	46.9
15 to 29	31.3	31.3	31.2
30 to 44	18.9	21.9	14.9
45 to 59	6.3	7.7	4.5
60 minutes and over	4.8	6.6	2.5

Income distribution	Total %	% Men	% Women
In bottom half of the distribution	45.4	43.9	46.9
In bottom decile	9.1	8.7	9.4
In second decile	9.2	8.5	9.9
In third decile	9.0	8.6	9.3
In fourth decile	9.0	9.0	9.0
In fifth decile	9.1	9.1	9.2
In top half of the distribution	54.6	56.1	53.2
In sixth decile	9.6	9.6	9.6
In seventh decile	9.7	9.8	9.6
In eighth decile	10.2	10.3	10.1
In ninth decile	12.0	12.5	11.5
In top decile	13.1	13.8	12.3

Reference: https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=Bruce&DGUIDlist=2021A00033541&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&HEADERlist=0

County of Grey

Population and Family

Population	
2021	100,905
2016	93,830
Change since 2016:	*+7.50%*
Population density per sq km	22.4
Median age	49.6 years
Racialized population	4.2%
Multi-generational households	2.2%
Immigrant population	8.5%
Indigenous identity	2.6%
Education	
No certificate, diploma, or degree	19.4%
High school diploma or equivalent	30.4%
Post secondary certificate, diploma or degree	50.2%

**15+ years old*

Education obtained outside Canada	4.0%

**25–64 years old*

Average number of children per family	1.9
One-parent families	13.3%
Lone-parent families	
Women	9.9%
Men	3.3%
Marital status	
Married or living common-law	62.0%
Not married or living common-law	38.0%
Married or common-law with children	35.3%
Language most often spoken at home	
English	95.1%
French	0.2%
Other	4.7%

**Estimates associated with Indigenous languages are more affected than most by the incomplete enumeration of certain reserves and settlements in the Census of Population.*

Home ownership	
Owner	78.1%
Renter	21.9%
Spending more than 30% on shelter costs	19.1%

Employment and Income

Labour force participation rate	
Women	53.4%
Men	61.7%
Unemployment rate	
Women	10.6%
Men	8.0%
Prevalence of low income (LIM)	
0-17	13.8%
0-5	15.5%
18-64	11.1%

**LIM: Low Income Measure reflects those whose incomes are below half of the median of the adjusted income distribution*

Median employment income	$31,200
Median employment income in 2020 for full-year full-time workers	$55,200
Median total income of household in 2020	$78,000
Median after-tax income of household in 2020	$70,000

Commuting duration (mins)	**Total %**	**% Men**	**% Women**
Less than 15	39.4	34.3	45.6
15 to 29	29.2	27.6	31.2
30 to 44	15.1	15.9	14.0
45 to 59	6.1	7.2	4.8
60 minutes and over	10.3	14.9	4.5

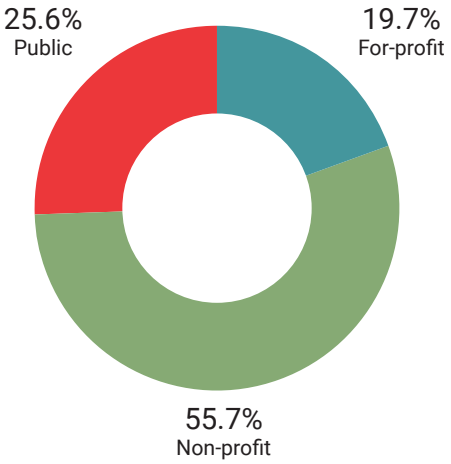
Income distribution	**Total %**	**% Men**	**% Women**
In bottom half of the distribution	53.4	52.3	54.5
In bottom decile	10.2	10.1	10.3
In second decile	11.3	10.6	12.0
In third decile	11.0	10.9	11.2
In fourth decile	10.7	10.4	10.9
In fifth decile	10.2	10.3	10.0
In top half of the distribution	46.6	47.7	45.6
In sixth decile	10.0	10.1	9.8
In seventh decile	9.7	9.9	9.6
In eighth decile	9.4	9.6	9.2
In ninth decile	8.7	9.0	8.4
In top decile	8.8	9.1	8.5

Reference: https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=Grey&DGUIDlist=2021A00033542&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&HEADERlist=0

Sample Characteristics

A total of 65 individuals working in early years services in the Bruce and Grey Counties responded to the survey (referred to as the '*workforce survey*'). Of these, 76.9% are RECEs and 23.1% are non-RECEs (referred to as the '*workforce*'). Over half of the respondents are from non-profit programs (55.7%). Additionally, 15 directors responded to the survey. As the number of respondents who are licensed home child care providers in the counties is low (n=9), data are not presented here; these data are included in the **Executive Report**.

Percentage Respondents by Auspice
Workforce

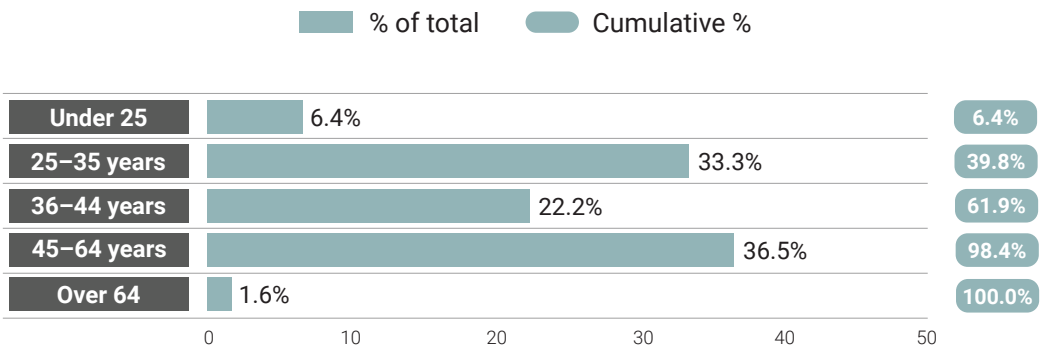




AGE

Approximately 62% of *workforce* respondents are under the age of 45. Due to low numbers of participants, data are not presented by auspice. The age of director/supervisor respondents in the counties is on par with the provincial findings. Across participating regions, 42.7% of director/supervisor participants are under the age of 45 years compared to 40% in Bruce and Grey Counties.

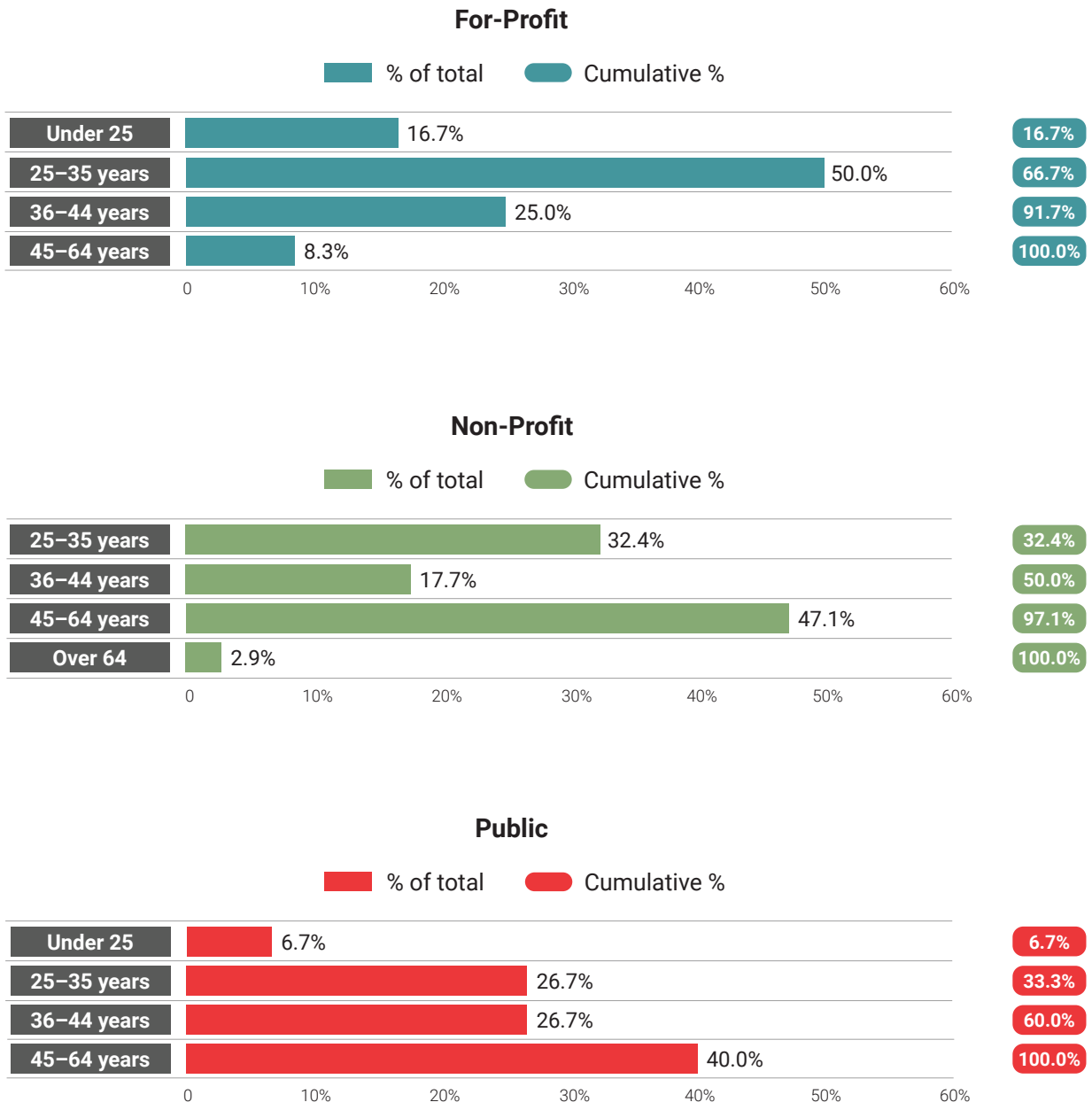
Age Distribution of Respondents
Workforce





Respondents working in for-profit organizations are much more likely to be younger. Approximately 92% of *workforce* participants from for-profit programs are under the age of 45 years. By comparison, 50% and 60% are under 45 years of age in non-profit and public programs respectively.

Age Distribution by Auspice
Workforce



YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Participants who work in for-profit programs have the fewest years of experience. In contrast, public and non-profit programs tend to have more experienced educators.

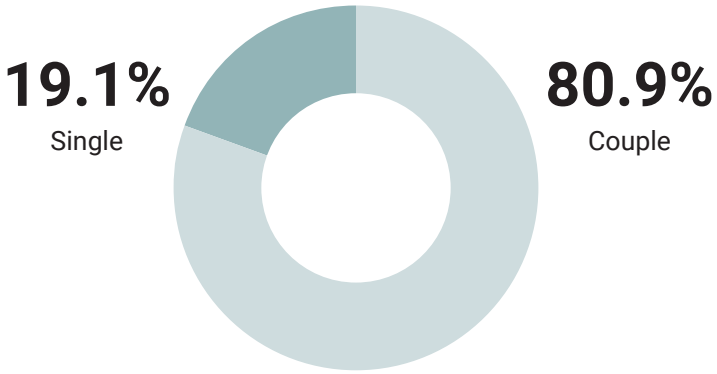
Years of Experience by Auspice
Workforce

Auspice	Mean	Minimum	25th percentile	Median	75th percentile	Maximum
For-profit	6.2	0.0	2.0	6.0	9.0	17.0
Non-profit	17.7	1.0	8.0	17.0	25.0	38.0
Public	17.2	1.0	7.0	16.0	30.0	41.0

FAMILY STATUS

Approximately 19% of the *workforce* survey respondents are single.

Respondents' Family Status
Workforce



RACIALIZATION

Only 5% of the *workforce* sample identify as racialized.

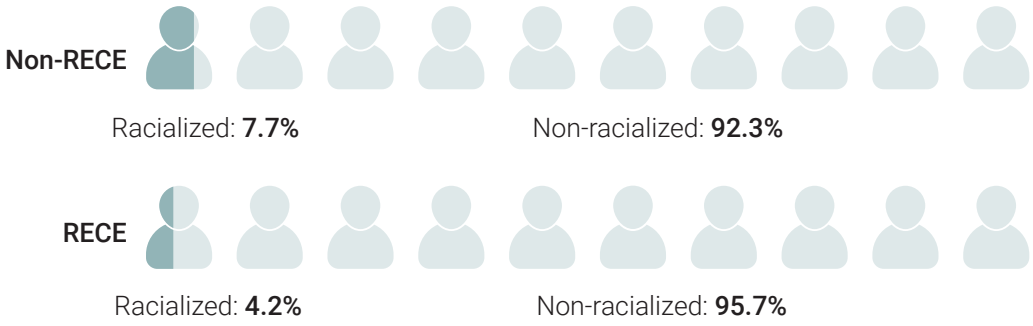
Percentage Racialized
Workforce



Racialized: **5.0%** Non-racialized: **95.0%**

Non-RECEs are more likely than RECEs to identify as racialized. This is similar to the province-wide findings. However, data should be interpreted with caution due to low numbers of racialized workforce participants in this region.

Percentage Racialized by RECE Status
Workforce



Of the 15 directors/supervisors who responded to the survey, 13 report they are RECEs. Of these, all have been registered with the College of ECE for less than five years.



Compensation

WAGES

Wages of RECEs are higher than for non-RECEs, while those working in for-profit programs have the lowest wages. However, in Bruce and Grey Counties, RECE respondents working in non-profit programs have the lowest wages. Approximately 17% of *workforce* respondents report having additional employment to supplement their primary wages.

Hourly Wages by Auspice and RECE Status
Workforce

	RECE status		
Auspice	**Non-RECE**	**RECE**	**Average across RECE status**
For-profit	$21.30	$25.70	$23.90
Non-profit	$24.30	$24.00	$24.00
Public	$19.00*	$29.20	$28.50
Average across auspice	**$22.80**	**$25.80**	**$25.20**

*Interpret with caution. Low number of participants.
Note: All averages are weighted.

Reported director/supervisor median wages in Bruce and Grey Counties are on par with provincial findings. The provincial median director/supervisor hourly wage is $30 per hour, with a minimum of $18 per hour and a maximum of $80 per hour.

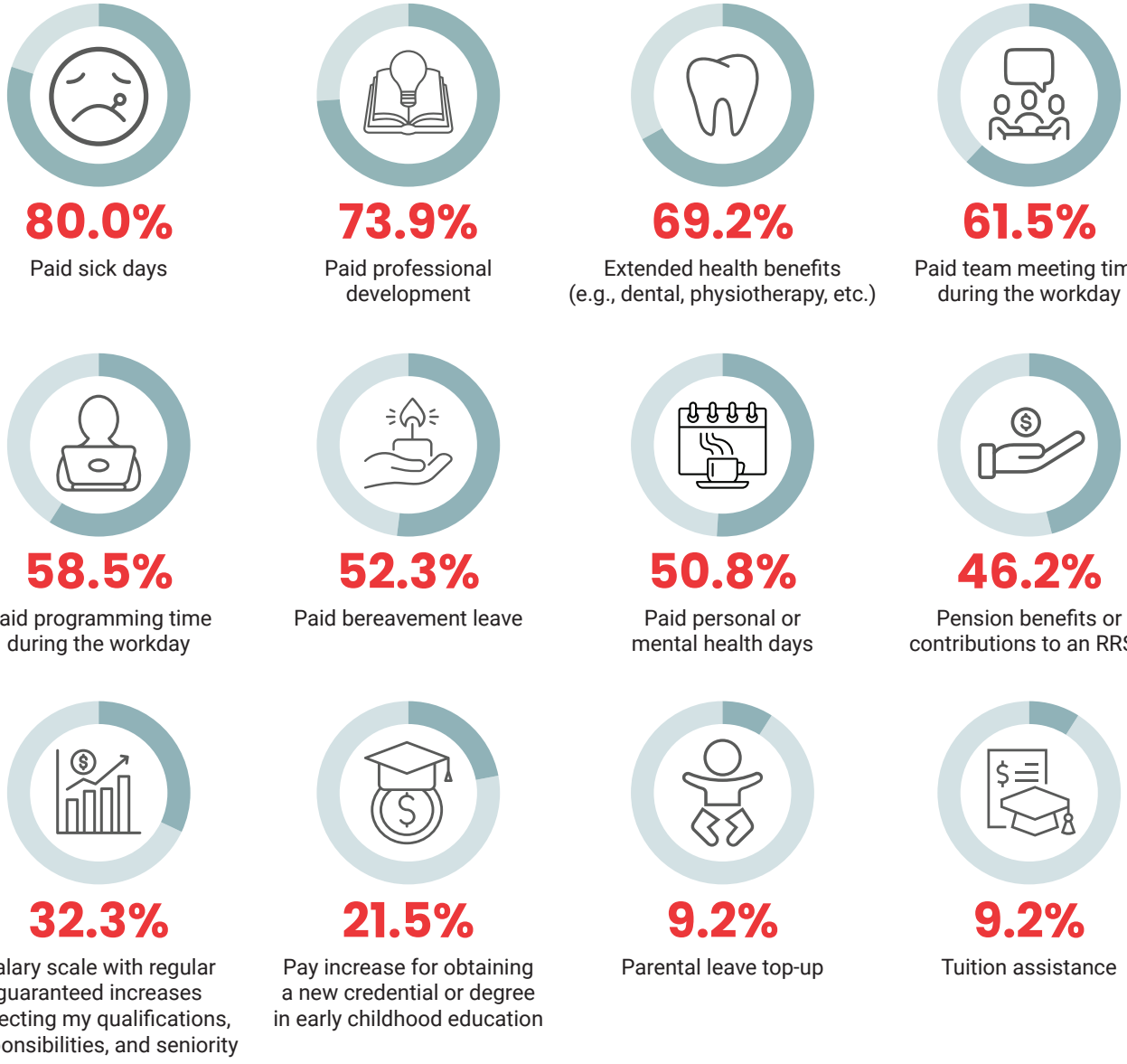
Counties of Bruce and Grey Director/Supervisor Wage Range

Position	Average	Minimum	25th percentile	Median	75th percentile	Maximum
Director	$33.67	$22.00	$29.50	$30.50	$39.50	$52.00

BENEFITS

The majority (80%) of *workforce* respondents report having access to paid sick days. In addition, about 69% have extended health benefits. Fewer than half (46.2%) report having pensions or RRSP contributions through their employer. Almost three-quarters (73.9%) have access to paid professional learning opportunities. Approximately 59% of respondents have paid programming time during the workday, while 62% have paid meeting time. Pay increases for obtaining a new credential or degree in early education is not common (21.5%) and tuition assistance is rare (9.2%).

Percentage of Respondents with Access to Non-Mandatory Benefits
Workforce



Workforce Stability, Stress, and Job Satisfaction

DISCRIMINATION

Twenty per cent of *workforce* respondents report having experienced workplace discrimination. The types of discrimination experienced vary, with education/seniority being the most common, followed by mental health and ageism. Note that bullying may involve, or be rooted in, other forms of discrimination (e.g., racism or ageism).

Percentage of Respondents Reporting Experiences of Workplace Discrimination
Workforce



Experiencing discrimination: **20.0%** Not experiencing discrimination: **80.0%**

Types of Discrimination
Workforce

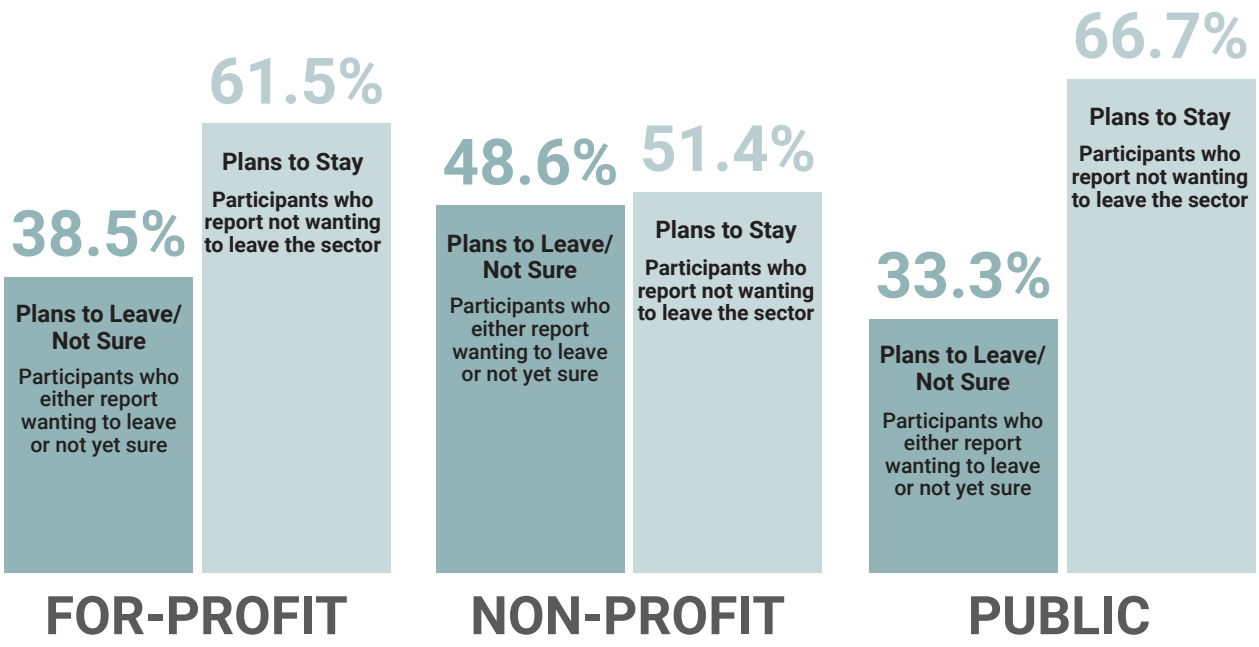
Education/seniority	38.5%
Mental health	23.1%
Ageism	23.1%
Bullying	15.4%
Homophobia	15.4%
Racism	7.7%
Sexism	7.7%
Body prejudice	7.7%
Religious belief	0.0%
Ableism	0.0%
Immigration status	0.0%



JOB SATISFACTION

Across all auspices, only 55% of respondents report plans to stay in the sector, with 24.6% stating they are unsure. Those who work in non-profit programs are most likely to report plans to leave or say they are unsure (48.6%). Those who work in public programs are most likely to report plans to stay (66.7%). While the differences among auspice types are trends, they do not reach statistical significance.

Plans to Leave the Sector by Auspice
Workforce

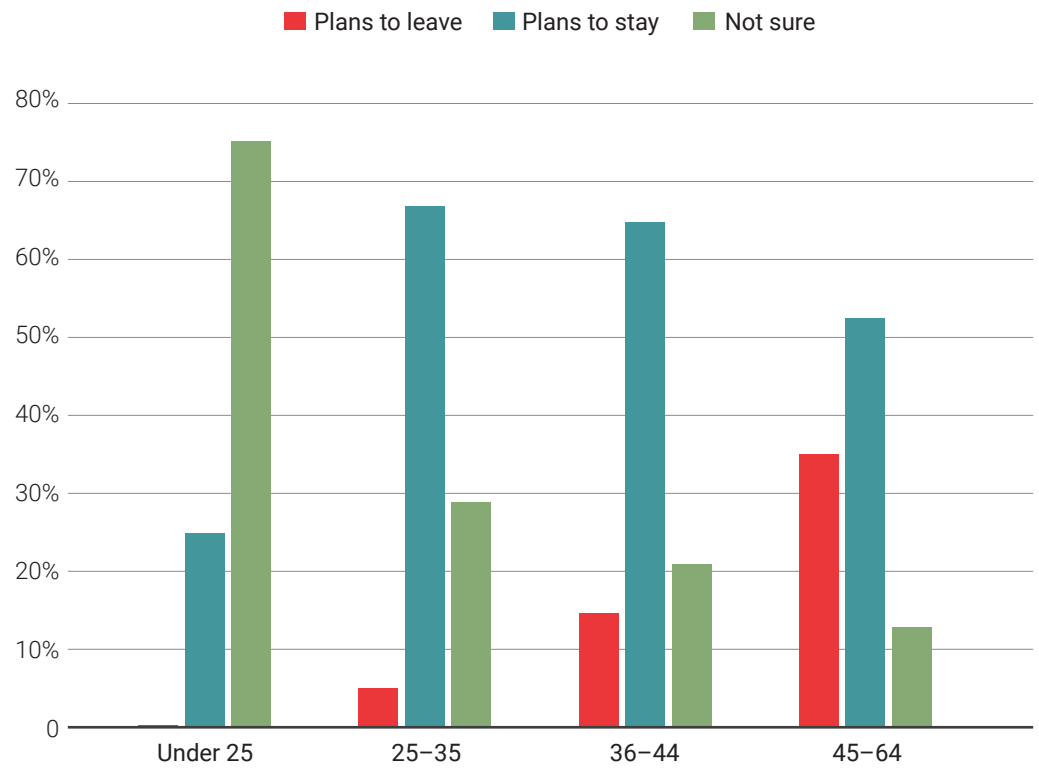






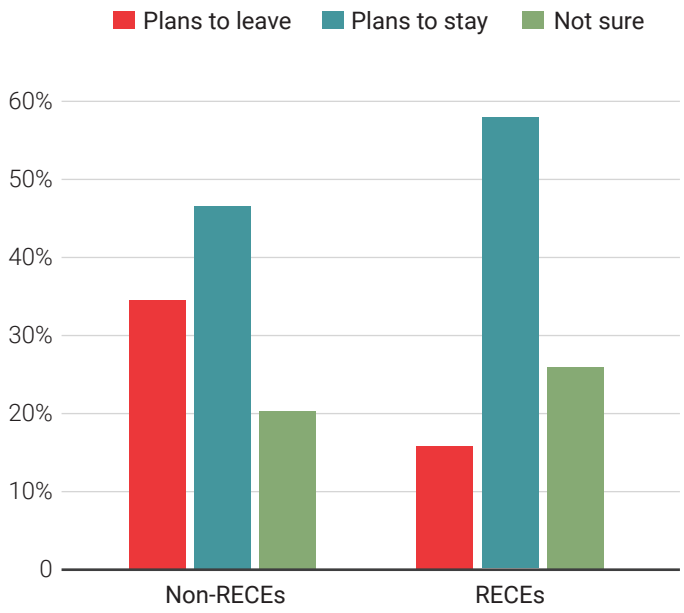
Those between the ages of 45 and 64 are more likely to report plans to leave the sector (34.8%). This is of concern as this age group is much more likely to have established experience in the early years sector. Those under 25 years of age are not definite in their intentions to leave the section, but are much more likely to report uncertainty in their plans. Note that those 65+ are not included in these findings as plans for retirement would confound results.

Plans to Leave the Sector by Age of Respondent
Workforce



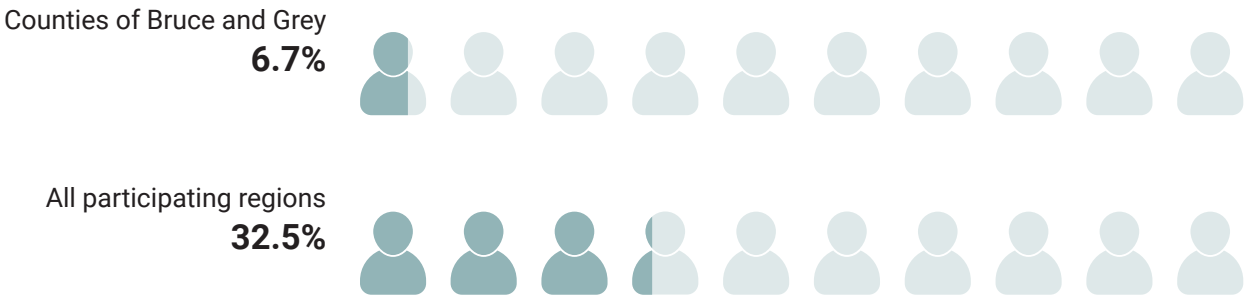
Non-RECEs are more likely to report plans to leave the sector (33.3%) compared with RECEs (16%). Note that plans to leave the sector by experiences of discrimination are not reported due to the small sample size.

Plans to Leave by RECE Status
Workforce



Only 6.6% of director/supervisor respondents in Bruce and Grey Counties report wanting to stay in the sector compared with 32.5% across all participating regions. In addition, over half (60%) report they are unsure. This has important implications for policy development and investment in retention strategies.

Percentage of Directors/Supervisors with Plans to Stay in the Sector
Counties of Bruce and Grey Versus All Participating Regions



WORKPLACE STRESS

Workplace stress is known to impact staff retention. On a scale of 1 (low stress) to 5 (high stress), non-RECEs report higher stress levels than RECEs except for in public programs. The lowest levels of stress are reported by those in for-profit programs.

Average Level of Stress by Auspice
Workforce

(1=low stress; 5=high stress)

	RECE status		
Auspice	**Non-RECE**	**RECE**	**Average across RECE status**
For-profit	3.1	2.5	**2.9**
Non-profit	3.6	2.9	**3.1**
Public	2.5	3.3	**3.3**
Average across auspice	**3.3**	**3.0**	**3.1**

Note: All averages are weighted.

Participants in Bruce and Grey Counties generally report a low level of job satisfaction. On a scale of 1 (low job satisfaction) to 5 (high job satisfaction), study participants' level of satisfaction is 2.93 out of 5.

Average Level of Job Satisfaction by Auspice and RECE Status
Workforce

(1=low job satisfaction; 5=high job satisfaction)

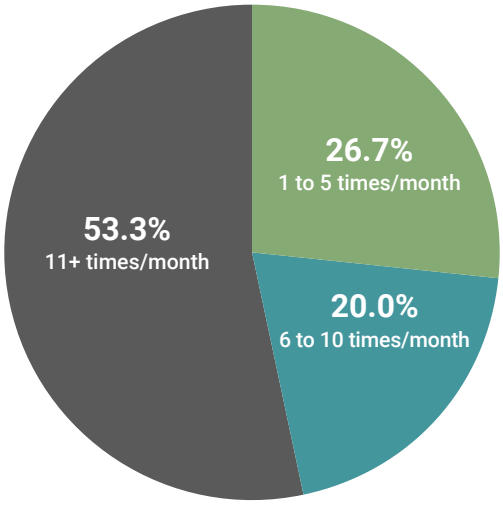
	RECE status		
Auspice	**Non-RECE**	**RECE**	**Average across RECE status**
For-profit	2.6	3.1	**2.8**
Non-profit	3.0	2.9	**2.9**
Public	3.7	3.0	**3.0**
Average across auspice	**2.9**	**3.0**	**2.9**

Note: All averages are weighted.

WORKPLACE STABILITY

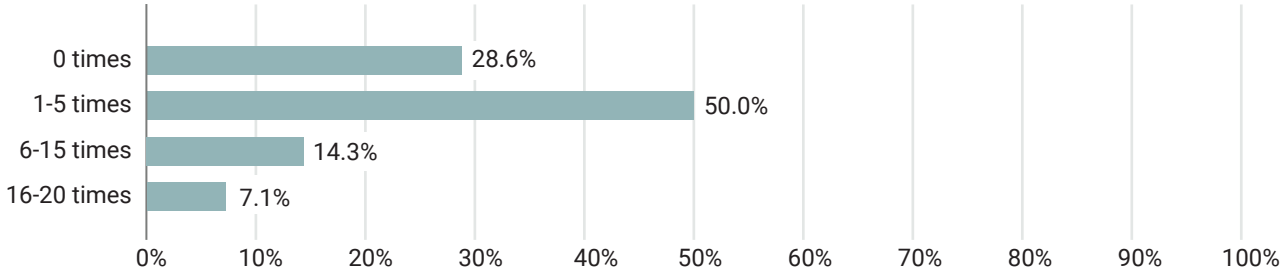
Directors often stand in for absent staff by necessity, taking them away from their leadership and administrative duties. Almost three-quarters of management staff report having to fill in six times or more per month to maintain ratios, with over 50% reporting this occurs more than 11 times per month. This is higher than the overall provincial findings.

Number of Times per Month Directors/Supervisors Fill in Ratio



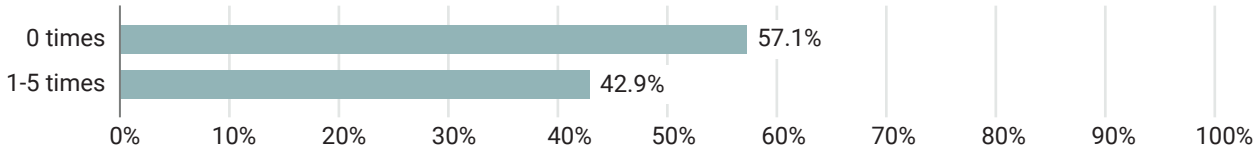
Staff shortages also have deleterious effects on the inclusion of children with disabilities or varying needs. Almost 72% of director/supervisor respondents report they have had to send a child(ren) with a disability home due to staffing shortages over the last 12 months. This is much higher than the provincial sample average of 26.6%.

Percentage Reporting Frequency of Times in the Previous 12 Months Directors/Supervisors Sent Children with Disabilities Home Due to Staffing Shortages



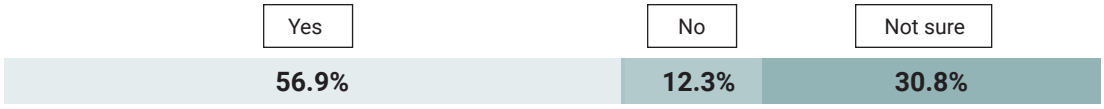
Almost 43% of Bruce and Grey County director/supervisor respondents report they have de-enlisted at least one child with a disability from their program in the previous 12 months due to staffing shortages. This is higher than the provincial sample average of 15.8%. Furthermore, 80% report they have refused admission to a child with a disability in the previous 12 months. Again, this is much higher than the provincial sample average of 27.3%.

Percentage Reporting Frequency of Times in the Previous 12 Months Directors/Supervisors De-enlisted Children with Disabilities Due to Staffing Shortages



Over half (56.9%) of *workforce* respondents in Bruce and Grey Counties report they would recommend a career in the early years to others who are interested. Another 31% state they are unsure if they would recommend child care as a career option.

Percentage of Workforce Respondents Who Recommend a Career in the Early Years



The vast majority of respondents (92.2%) state they would recommend their program to a family member or friend looking for child care (data not shown).



Professional Development

FORMS OF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Bruce and Grey County respondents report that the most common form of professional learning in the previous 12 months was online delivery (92.3%), followed by in-person workshops (72.3%). Just over 61% of respondents engage in ongoing communities of practice and performance reviews. Less than one-quarter of respondents report having taken a course in the previous 12 months.

Although online delivery is the most common form of professional learning received, respondents report it is among the least desired formats (16.9%)—second only to self-study (15.4%). Respondents prefer regular and scheduled opportunities for team discussions for reflective practice (36.9%) and small group coaching conversations (32.3%), both of which are forms of collective learning.

Forms of Professional Learning Received by Region in the Previous 12 Months and Desired Forms of Professional Learning
Workforce

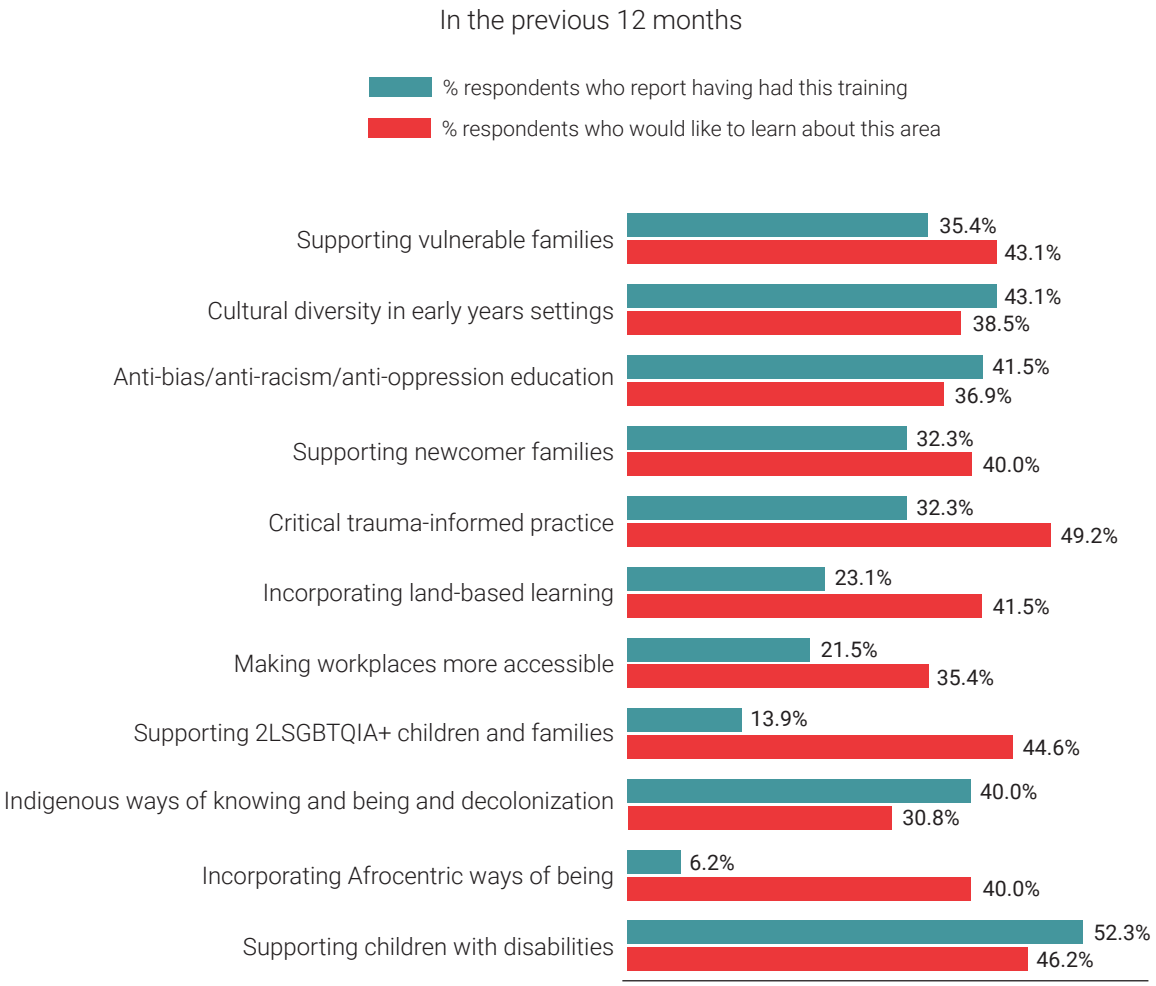


CONTENT OF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Over half of respondents report receiving training in supporting children with disabilities (52.3%) in the previous 12 months. Other types of training include cultural diversity (43.1%), anti-bias/anti-racism (41.5%), and Indigenous ways of knowing and being and decolonization (40%). Participants report the least amount of professional learning in the areas of incorporating Afrocentric ways of being (6.2%) and supporting 2LSGBTQIA+ children and families (13.9%). Census data for the regions help contextualize results.

The most wanted professional learning is centred around critical trauma-informed practice (49.2%) and supporting children with disabilities (46.2%). Participants also report wanting more professional learning centred around supporting 2LSGBTQIA+ children and families (44.6%), supporting vulnerable families (43.1%), supporting newcomer families (40%), incorporating land-based learning (41.5%), and incorporating Afrocentric ways of being (40%).

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Learning of Respondents in Bruce and Grey Counties
Workforce



To:
The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Members of the Cabinet
The Honourable Secretaries of State
Members of the House of Commons

Re: Passage of Bill S-212, An Act respecting a national strategy for children and youth

Dear Prime Minister, Ministers, Secretaries of State and Members of Parliament,

Campaign 2000: End Child and Family Poverty is a diverse, national coalition of community-based organizations which came together in response to the 1989 unanimously adopted House of Commons resolution to end child poverty by the year 2000. We conduct research, engage communities and advance evidence-based, achievable policy solutions to some of the most pressing issues related to poverty in Canada.

We write to urge the Government of Canada to champion the swift passage of Bill S-212, *A National Strategy for Children and Youth Act through the House of Commons*. The Senate has done its part. The federal government and all parties must now make this legislation a priority.

We recognize that the government is facing many urgent and competing pressures, including the economic uncertainty and rising costs created by the trade war. These challenges demand serious attention. They also make it more important, not less, to invest in children and families who are least able to absorb further hardship. Such investments are not only socially responsible, they are economically sound. Adequate incomes and robust public services support healthy development, enable parents to participate in the labour market, build strong communities and future-proof our workforce.

Campaign 2000's 2025 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada, *Investing in Tomorrow: A Future Without Poverty*, shows why, twenty-five years after the goal to eradicate child poverty, action cannot wait. Rates of child poverty rose for the third consecutive year. Child poverty has more than doubled since 2020, according to Canada's official measure, to 10.7%, or 802,000 children. According to annual tax filer data, nearly 1.4 million children, or 18.3%, lived in poverty in 2023.

Poverty is deepening and its impacts remains profoundly unequal. Families with children were living, on average, more than $15,000 below the poverty line and 2.5 million children across the provinces lived in food insecure households. More than half of children living on First Nations reserves lived in poverty, nearly half of children in lone-parent families lived in poverty and 99% of young people under the age of 18 who did not live in families lived in poverty.

These outcomes are not inevitable. They are the result of policy choices, inadequate supports and systemic inequities. Failing to invest now carries avoidable costs, weakens productivity and in effect, drags on the economy.

We are concerned that without significant new investments, Canada is unlikely to meet its 2030 commitment to reduce poverty by 50% under Opportunity for All, Canada's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Bill S-212 provides a practical and urgently needed framework for change. It would require the federal government to work with provinces and territories, First Nations, Inuit and Métis leaders, partners, families and children and youth themselves, to develop a coordinated national strategy with measurable objectives, an action plan and regular reporting to Parliament. This is the kind of rights-based, cross-jurisdictional leadership Canada requires on all issues related to children and youth.

We urge the Government to publicly support Bill S-212, allocate the parliamentary time needed to advance the legislation through second reading and committee, and work across party lines to secure its passage without delay.

Sincerely,

The Campaign 2000 Steering Committee:

1. Leila Sarangi, Campaign 2000: End Child and Family Poverty
2. Chris Brillinger, Family Service Toronto
3. Mary Boyd, MacKillop Centre for Social Justice and PEI Coalition for a Poverty Eradication Strategy
4. Kimberly Dreaddy, Jimmy Pratt Foundation
5. Lesley Frank, Acadia University
6. Sid Frankel, University of Manitoba
7. Martha Friendly, Childcare Resource and Research Unit
8. Randy Hatfield, Human Development Council of Saint John
9. Kate Kehler, Social Planning Council of Winnipeg
10. Anita Khanna, Ex Officio Campaign 2000
11. Brad LaFortune, Public Interest Alberta
12. Brittany Lambert, UNICEF Canada
13. Adrienne Montani, First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Society
14. Laurel Rothman, Ex Officio Campaign 2000
15. Diana Sarosi, Oxfam Canada
16. Christine Saulnier, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Nova Scotia

Endorsed by:

17. Advancement of Women Halton
18. Adverse Childhood Experiences & Resilience Coalition of Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington (ARC)
19. Algoma Family Services
20. Bereaved Families of Ontario-Toronto
21. Canadian Arab Federation
22. Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives
23. Canadian Child Care Federation
24. Canadian Paediatric Society
25. Child Care Now
26. Childcare Resource and Research Unit
27. Children First Canada
28. Children's Mental Health of Leeds & Grenville
29. Choices For Youth
30. Colour of Poverty - Colour of Change
31. Daily Bread Food Bank
32. Edmonton Social Planning Council
33. Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
34. Ending Sexual Violence Association of Canada
35. EveryMind Mental Health Services
36. Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada
37. First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Society
38. Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet (GASP)
39. Hard Feelings Mental Health
40. Inclusion Canada
41. Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC)
42. Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre
43. Kingston Community Health Centres
44. Mazon Canada
45. National Council of Women of Canada
46. National Council of Youth in Care Advocates (NCYICA)
47. ÑCWC EF
48. OCASI - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants
49. Ontario Children's Advancement Coalition
50. Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care
51. Ontario Public School Boards' Association
52. Open Policy
53. Oxfam Canada
54. PEI Coalition for a Poverty Eradication Strategy
55. Prosper Canada
56. Right To Food
57. Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
58. Social Planning Toronto
59. Socialcommons.canada
60. South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario
61. South Asian Women's & Immigrants Services Inc
62. The Change Lab
63. The Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic (CSALC)
64. The Fed Family Lab
65. Toronto & York Region Labour Council
66. Toronto Community for Better Child Care
67. Treetop Children's Centre
68. Under One Sky Friendship Center
69. UNICEF Canada

70. West Scarborough Community Legal Services
71. Women's National Housing & Homelessness Network
72. Workers' Action Centre
73. Working For Change
74. Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition
75. Yukon Food for Learning Association
76. YWCA Canada
77. YWCA Toronto

Grey Bruce CSWBP
Community Safety & Well-Being Planning

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING PLANNING: The Municipalities of Bruce and Grey

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEETING: Community Safety & Well-Being Planning, Advisory Committee

DATE: September 15, 2026

TIME: 1:00 PM to 2:45 PM

LOCATION: Virtual, Grey County MS Teams

CO-CHAIRS: Members of the Steering Committee
Alexis Cook (Coordinator)
Anne Marie Shaw (Community Services, Grey County)
Ian Hanney (Human Services, Bruce County)
Jane Hartley (Victim Services Bruce Grey)
Keegan Wilson (Inspector, South Bruce OPP)
Jason Weppler (Grey Bruce Health Unit)

RECORDER: Patti McNabb (Grey County)

ATTENDEES: Alexis Cook, Jason Weppler, Jane Hartley, Amy Rier, Beth Aubrey, Beth Blackwell, Cassondra Dillman, Chad Zimmerman, Cheree Urscheler, Craig Ambrose, Dane Nielsen, Dave Zago, Francesca Dobbyn, Ian Hanney, Jeremy Mighton, Jessica Kenyon, Jill Sampson, Jim Ellis, Jodi Ward, Joel McAllister, Jon Farmer, Josh Gibson, Kaela Sales, Keegan Wilson, Kevin Cornell, Liam Nicholls, Lori Cunningham, Lynn Silverton, Marilyn Rosner, Marla Barfoot, Mike Kirby, Monica Singh Soares, Nicole Martin, Pam Coulter, Patti McNabb, Rob Atkinson, Rob Martin, Sarah Cowley, Scott McKay, Shane Watson, Stephen Musehl, Susan Sakal, Steven Travale, Taylor House, Toni McGregor, Tracey Collins, Vivian Kennedy.

ITEM
1. Welcome and Introductions • Jason Weppler (Grey Bruce Public Health & Steering Committee Member)
• Jason welcomed everyone to the meeting and cited land acknowledgements.
2. Provincial & Local Updates **Anne Marie Shaw**
• Grey County staff attended AMO conference and made a delegation to Ministry of Education (MED) requesting additional Early Learning and Child Care spaces. The request also included review of the income testing guidelines as well as support for Early Childhood Educator (ECE) recruitment. • Lutheran Social Services is having ground breaking celebration for 40-unit building being built. • 40-unit building in Dundalk nearing final approvals and should be shovel ready in the near future. **QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:** • There were no questions or comments.

3. Coordinator Updates
Alexis Cook

- Update provided on the CSWB Plan including CSWBP Community Well-Being Survey 2026, Statistics Canada 2021 census, Public Health Ontario snap shots, CCHS, Ontario Study Drug Use and Mental Health Survey
- **Children's Heath Day** – June 20th, 2026 was successful in increasing youth and parents'/caregivers knowledge of mental health and physical health resources in the community, increase youth and parents/caregivers understanding and knowledge of ways to keep youth healthy both physically and mentally. The day provided a fun, low-barrier event for all youth and their families with data sources from Mental Health Commission of Canada, Government of Canada, Government of Ontario, local experts, and Canadian Institute for Health Information. There were over 750 participants. The event was sponsored by Chapmans Ice Cream.
- **CSWBP Student Placements**: plan is to provide support for the next 5-year plan through improved coordination amongst tables including removing duplication and streamlining services. Initiative will also enhance understanding between partners and existing tables. Initiative ongoing throughout September and October.
- **STAR Training**: there were 50 members who attended Anti-Oppression and Case Conference training in June 2026.
- **Municipal Community of Practice (CoP)**: this initiative is on hold until after the fall election. Looking to restart in early 2027.

Next Steps:

- Host two BScN students to complete the Grey Bruce table review and infographic development from priorities of the update to the plan.
- Continue on-going training and onboarding for STAR
- Begin planning 2027 Children's Health Day event
- Continue with the update to the CSWB plan

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- There were no questions or comments

4. Situation Table for Acutely Elevated Risk (STAR) Update
Alexis Cook

- So far in 2026 there have been 24 Situations with 22 successfully closed.
- Study flags from January 1 – Sept 14, 2026 were reviewed, as well as high level risk priorities and protective factor grouping for the same time period.
- Top 3 Services mobilized were mental health supports, victim support, and social assistance.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- There were no questions or comments

5. Action Table Updates
Committee Chairs

Poverty and Income (Alexis Cook on behalf of Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force)

- The **Grey Bruce Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)** has completed the 2025 tax season clinics with some organizations extending services for year-round tax filing services to allow residents to access the national dental program and other benefits such as Canadian Disability Benefit. Tax filing is now available through referrals from SOS (Grey County), and COAST (Bruce County). CVITP-Program_Why-Do-We-Do-It-March-2026.pptx

- Status updates on **Income & Employment Security Action Group, Community Voices and RentSafe OS** initiatives were provided.
- **RentSafe OS** is working in partnership with RentSafe Ontario on a Collaboration for Climate Resilience in Low Income Rental Housing results will be included with an Ontario-wide Report in December 2026.
- **Seeking Income Solutions for Strong Communities**: A series of education webinars on seniors retiring on low-income were provided in partnership with Open Door Policy. A dedicated website page includes Resources for Seniors with Low-Income – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force.
- **2026 Living Wage rate for Bruce-Grey-Huron-Perth-Simcoe** economic region will be calculated in partnership with Ontario Living Wage Network and released in November 2026
- Plans will be started for new volunteer recruitment and getting ready for the 2026 Tax Season (2027).
- The PTF will host an **All-Municipal Candidates Poverty 101 Election Education session** on September 18th from 10AM – 11:30PM.

No questions or comments

Addictions/Substance Use (Alexis Cook on behalf of Community Drug & Alcohol Strategy)

- The ***Parents like Us*** resource guide (written by loved ones for loved ones) is completed and available online with printing currently underway: https://greybruce.cmha.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/CMHAGreyBruce_PLU_GreyBruceSON.pdf
- The Coordinator posting has closed and interviews are underway with hopes of having a new Coordinator implemented within the next couple of months.

No questions or comments

Housing & Homelessness (Alexis Cook on behalf of Homelessness Response Steering Committee)

- **The Coordinated Access Guide** is in the final editing stages. Work continues on researching data for the cost of homelessness project.
- **Encampment & BNL Referral protocol:** both Grey and Bruce have protocols in place
- **Winter Planning:** Grey and Bruce counties are in the planning stages for the winter season and emergency shelter response. Safe n Sound (SnS) will be opening its new overnight location in December
- **Homelessness and Coordinated Access Education Forum:** annual coordinated access and by-name list training will be provided to front line staff.
- **Homelessness Response** provides an opportunity for front line staff to present and collaborate on challenging cases. Space is provided for peers to support each other, offer resources and options to directly support households

Next Steps:

- By-Name List training
- Coordinated Access Guide publication
- Review Homelessness & Encampment Response Protocol

Mental Health (Scott McKay – Mental Health Networking Action Table)

- A **strategic plan** has created and completed a strategic plan.
- **Service pathway identification walk in/crisis/urgent access plan** has been completed. Now looking at implementing phase 1 in October 2026 for Walkerton, Hanover and Kincardine.
- **Joint training and education opportunities** planning includes ASIST and Motivational Interviewing
- **Suicide and Crisis Prevention campaigns** are in progress. There is funding to provide free ASIST training as well as some assisted-funding training spots.
- **First draft of the partner scorecard** has been completed

Next Steps:

- Committees established for each initiative of the strategic plan will continue to meet [illegible]

work is complete.
No questions or comments

Crime Prevention (Alexis Cook on behalf of Crime Prevention Action Table)

- **Cannabis & Driving Resource and Education:** very successful initiative – reached 3 million people.
- **Human Trafficking Town Halls:** two final townhall events scheduled for October 8th in West Grey (at the Community Arena), and October 21st in Saugeen First Nation (at the Rec Centre)
- **Short-Term Rental Anti-Human Trafficking Resource:** successful in receiving grant opportunity to print the resource. Resources were delivered to all Municipalities and police services for easy access for residents. A spring session will be considered in the spring for Hanover.
- **Hate Crime Working Group:** initiative is in progress, waiting on final IT changes for the reporting tool and then launch to the public.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- Jon Farmer provided an update on a recent group that presented recently to City of Owen Sound council promoting their position that Canada should only be host to white people. Alexis noted that there is no prioritized projects currently underway to address increasing white supremacist activity based on a recent presentation by an unfamiliar group to Owen Sound City Council. Alexis will share this with the Crime Prevention Action Table.
  https://www.owensoundcurrent.com/p/dominion-society-puts-city-of-owen

6. General

- **Alexis Cook, Coordinator**

Communications Update:

- Please email Alexis if you do not have a contact on the CSWBP email distribution list for media releases & social media content.

Updated Plan Data Review and Updated Plan PKI Review

Feedback was requested to feedback received from the survey, secondary data sources and key performance indicators.

Crime Prevention

- Survey Feedback – no comments or concerns
- Secondary Data Sources Feedback – no comments or concerns
- KPI Feedback – no insurance charges for road safety are included to reflect the impact on victims when involved in a motor vehicle accident with someone who doesn't have insurance. Question regarding residents using e-bike within KPI's – high incidents are being noted Data hasn't been available from community partners for inclusion within the GBV/IPV/Sexual violence indicator.

Harmful Substance Use/Addictions

- Survey Feedback – no comments or concerns
- Secondary Data Sources Feedback – no comments or concerns
- KPI Feedback – is there any consideration for alcohol, tobacco, vaping or cannabis use KPI's in addition to KPI's for overdoses due to illicit drug use? Scott advised these can be added to the KPI's

Housing and Homelessness

- Survey Feedback – no comments or concerns
- Secondary Data Sources Feedback – no comments or concerns
- KPI Feedback – no comments or concerns

Mental Health

- Survey Feedback – no comments or concerns
- Secondary Data Sources Feedback – no comments or concerns
- KPI Feedback – no comments or concerns

Poverty and Income

- Survey Feedback – no comments or concerns
- Secondary Data Sources Feedback – no comments or concerns
- KPI Feedback – no comments or concerns

If there is any additional feedback or concerns, please advise Alexis by September 29 to allow sufficient time to be incorporated.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- Please reach out to Alexis as soon as possible if you have comments, concerns or additional feedback.

7. Open Discussion

- Alexis confirmed that all new municipal members as a result of the election, will be provided with relevant committee documents, updated terms of reference, and provided full orientation of the committee mandate and responsibilities.
- Feedback from councils in welcome via committee member.
- The importance of sharing terms of reference with the new appointees with clearly defined role of council appointees vs. staff was noted.
- As well, understanding what to report to Council coming out of these meetings and the Municipal CoP was noted.

Should you have any questions throughout the course of this project, please don't hesitate to contact any of the Steering Committee members:

- Ian Hanney ihanney@brucecounty.on.ca
- Anne Marie Shaw annemarie.shaw@grey.ca
- Jane Hartley Jhartley@victim-services.com
- Keegan Wilcox Keegan.Wilcox@opp.ca
- Jason Weppler J.Weppler@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 15th, 2026

VIRTUAL – Grey County Microsoft Teams (details to follow)

Grey Bruce CSWBP
Community Safety & Well-Being Planning

2026 – Q3 Progress Update
Priority Area: Addictions/Substance Use
Action Table Lead: Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy (CDAS)**Progress Update**

Action Table Key Objectives:

Action Tracking:

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
Develop an anti-stigma social media campaign.	Social Development	Advance strategic priority #5: Reduce stigma associated with substance use and its impact, through evidence informed training, education, and communications.	Anti-stigma Harm Reduction Working Group meetings and research on anti-stigma content and campaigns.	**On Pause until new coordinator is hired**
Parents Like Us Adaptation Project	Prevention	To adapt a parent-created resource to knowledge, tools, and resources to parents' caregiving youth who are using substances. Will entail engagement of community members in the adaptation process to make sure the document reflects Grey Bruce. This project advances CDAS strategic priorities #2 (prevent and/or delay youth substance use) and #5 (reduce stigma and its impact through evidence-informed education, training, and communication.	CDAS strategic plan; Steering Committee input and reflections; Parents Like Us Adaptation Toolkit	**Complete- available online and printing currently occurring https://greybruce.cmha.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/CMHAGreyBruce_PLU_GreyBruceSON.pdf**

Big Brothers Big Sisters Youth Council Partnership	Social Development/Prevention	Two purposes: to help include a youth voice/perspective for the Parents Like Us Project, along with aligning with CDAS Strategic Priority #2 (preventing youth substance use) along with Year 2 strategy direction (parenting with youth-focused organizations)	CDAS Strategic Plan	**Complete**
Letter to the Editor – CDAS Response to Owen Sound Current Editorials	Social Development	To respond to editorials published in the Owen Sound Current that talk about the visibility of substance use/homelessness along with the idea of having a Supervised Consumption Site in Owen Sound. The goal is to give the public an official response from CDAS in regards to system in place along with the positive work that is happening.	Owen Sound Current Articles; Input from CDAS Committees around information to include in response	**Complete**
Peer Advisory Committee (PAC) Reinvigoration Project	Social Development/Prevention	Grant provided by Community Foundation Grey Brue to expand capacity and functionality of PAC, along with increasing visibility of CDAS overall. Projects created by PAC members will align with CDAS strategic priority #5- "reducing stigma and its impact through evidence-informed education, training, and communication".	CDAS Strategic Plan;	**On Pause until new coordinator is hired**

Municipal Election Candidate Resources	Social Development/Prevention	To create a short guide for municipal election candidates around CDAS priority issues in order to educate and inform their platforms.	CDAS Strategic Plan	**In-Progress**

Next Steps:

- Distribute paper copies of Parents Like Us resource
- Hire a new CDAS coordinator to continue the work of the strategic plan

Grey Bruce CSWBP
Community Safety & Well-Being Planning

2026 – Q3 Progress Update
Priority Area: Overarching Themes
Action Table Lead: CSWBP Coordinator

Action Table Key Objectives: Address Overarching Strategic Goals & Support Action Tables

Action Tracking:

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
New CSWB 5-year plan	Social Development, prevention	-To collect data and community feedback on the next 5-year CSWB plan -To develop the next 5-year CSWB plan with clear KPI, community and partner collaboration	-CSWB 2026 community well-being survey -Local data -Partner feedback	In progress, survey data has been analyzed with secondary data sources. Final review of data occurring prior to moving to draft
Municipal CoP	Social Development, Prevention	-Foster collaboration and relationship building between Municipalities and CSWBP Share best practices and resources	-Strong cities -Federation of Canadian Municipalities	-On pause until Municipal elections conclude in the fall
Relationship building	Social Development, prevention	-Develop new relationships with community groups, organizations etc. to align with and support the work of CSWBP	N/A	-On-going

On-going on-boarding of STAR members, trainings, document development etc.	Risk Intervention	-Increase participation in STAR -Increase in service provider knowledge of this resource -Increase in AER lowered for situations -Increase in multidisciplinary collaboration -Increase in AER knowledge and consensus group decision making -Meet IPC requirements in new document	- Risk Tracking Database (SOLGEN) -Situation Table CoP	-In progress, no end date - New members being on-boarded consistently
Monthly Media Releases + Social Media posts	Social Development/Prevention	-Increase community members knowledge and understanding of CSWBP -Highlight the great work of CSWBP and its action tables	-CSWBP Action Tables -CSWBP Plan	-In progress, no end date - September/October Media release will focus on Human Trafficking Town Halls
On-Going Grant Applications	N/A	-To financially sustain the work of the CSWBP	-Government of Canada -Government of Ontario -Bruce Power -Community Foundation Grey Bruce -Private Grants -MCCSS -Public Health Agency of Canada	-In progress, no end date
Vital Signs Report	Social Development + Prevention	-Provide support and insight for the Community Foundation Vital Signs report	-STAR data -Local community data	Complete, launched to the public

BScN Student Placements	Social Development + Prevention	Supporting the next 5-year plan through: • Improved coordination amongst tables- including removing duplication and streamlining services • Enhance understanding between partners of existing tables	-Grey Bruce Tables, committees & groups	Ongoing- Students to join in September + October

Next Steps:

- Continue monthly social media + media releases
- Finalize data and key performance indicators for the update to the CSWB plan
- Continue searching for grant opportunities and long-term opportunities to support the work of CSWB
- Continue on-going training and skill development for STAR
- Begin planning for the 2027 Children's Health Day
- Host two BScN students to complete the Grey Bruce table review

Grey Bruce CSWBP
Community Safety & Well-Being Planning

2026 – Q3 Progress Update
Priority Area: Reduction of Chronic Homelessness
Action Table Lead: Homelessness Response Steering Committee

Action Table Key Objectives:

Action Tracking:

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
Coordinated Access Guide	Risk Intervention	To develop a local guide for coordinated access ensuring service providers are aware of the structure for homelessness as well as the opportunity to provide support in a triaged manner.	None	Complete
The Real Cost of Homelessness Project	Social Development	Identify the cost of homelessness in partnership with CMHA, Grey and Bruce County, GBHS and Safe N Sound.	Cost of health services Cost of emergency shelter	Research stage
Encampment Protocol	Risk Intervention	Communication with municipal by-law around encampments and provide opportunities for outreach and engagement	# of encampments GIS data	In progress

		Awaiting Provincial direction before finalization of formal protocol for private and public land Bruce County draft protocol to be piloted in Q2 2026		
By-Name List Referral & Prioritization	Intervention/Social Development	Improvement to the BNL referral form to be more trauma-informed to be reflected in an accurate prioritization for access to resources & housing. New Referral form rolled out early Q2 – ongoing training	Various	Complete

Next Steps:

- Homelessness Response Steering Committee to undertake review of current services map and identify increased opportunity for referral pathways between programs and housing options.
- Educational and communication strategy to increase awareness.

Grey Bruce CSWBP
Community Safety & Well-Being Planning

2023 – Q4 Progress Update
Priority Area: Mental Health
Action Table Lead: Grey Bruce Mental Health and Addictions Network Table

Action Table Key Objectives: Improve quality and access to local mental health services across the lifespan.

Action Tracking:

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
14th Street Transitional Supportive Housing Program and Recovery and Wellness Centre	Social Development & Prevention	Provide affordable housing and mental health and addiction supports for individuals on BNL. Enhance addiction treatment and high intensity supports for local population	• Number of individuals on BNL • ED visits • ALC rates	Completed
Partners to gather system level data from their respective databases for Network Table review and action planning.	Social Development & Prevention	Address identified gaps and/or enhance local mental health and addictions supports	• Number of individuals on BNL • ED visits • ALC rates	Completed
Develop Grey Bruce MH&A Network Scorecard	Social Development & Prevention	Set Network Table targets and deliverables on key indicators and track progress on a quarterly basis.	• Wait Times • Length of Stay	In progress

			• Client Survey Results • Staff Wellness	
Joint Grey Bruce Mental Health and Addiction Network Training Plan	Social Development	Prioritize training for staff to be completed across organizations to ensure consistency and quality of services. Identified Motivational Interviewing and ASIST as current focus.	• Staff Wellness • Client Survey Results • Reduced ED visits • Staff survey results	Complete
Implement Measurement Based Care	Social Development & Prevention	To track treatment progress, personalize care, and guide treatment decisions based on objective data.	• Client Survey Results • Assessment Outcomes • Length of Service	On hold
Revise Grey Bruce Mental Health and Addictions Terms of Reference to allow for improved input from other community partners.	Social Development	To bring other voices and perspectives to the Network Table.	• Meeting Minutes • Project Outcomes • # of Projects Completed	Completed
Grey Bruce Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Plan	Social Development & Prevention	To develop a comprehensive plan to improve mental health services across the lifespan.	• Committee meeting minutes • # of projects completed	Completed

			• Project outcomes	
Expand Walk in/Crisis/Urgent Access across Grey Bruce	Social Development & Prevention	To work together as partner agencies to staff walk-in mental health clinics across Grey and Bruce counties, making the best use of our shared resources to improve access and support for people in our communities.	• # of individuals served • # of referrals • Program waitlists	Phase 1 clinics begin on October 1st 2026
Suicide and Crisis Prevention Campaign	Social Development & Prevention	To increase suicide awareness, reduce stigma related to mental health and suicide, improve early identification of suicide risk, and strengthen community capacity to respond effectively through education, training, and collaboration.	• # of individuals trained • # of training sessions delivered • # of social media views • # of resources distributed.	In progress

Next Steps:

Continue working on “In progress” action items.

Grey Bruce CSWBP
Community Safety & Well-Being Planning

2026 – Q3 Progress Update
Priority Area: Crime Prevention
Action Table Lead: Crime Prevention Action Table

Action Table Key Objectives: Drug Trafficking, Human Trafficking, IPV/GBV, Road Safety and Hate Crimes

Action Tracking:

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
Short Term Rental Resource on Human Trafficking partnership with Anti-Human Trafficking Committee	Prevention	-To provide all STR licensees with information and resources on human trafficking -To educate Municipal staff and Licensees on the importance of the human trafficking information -To increase the number of community members who are able to identify human trafficking	-Local and Provincial police data bases -Peer reviewed literature supporting initiatives -People with lived experience -Government of Canada	-Completed -Available on the CSWBP website: Resources - Community Safety and Well-Being Planning -Printed copies now available for each Municipality requests to be made to acook@brucecounty.on.ca -Developing promotional material for local businesses/tourist attractions
Cannabis and Driving Resource & Education partnership with Regional Road Safety	Prevention	-To partner with all licensed dispensaries in Grey, Bruce and Saugeen First Nation to provide educational resources	-Government of Canada -OSDUHS Report -CAMH	-Complete -Extra Resources still available for members

		-To reduce the number of individuals driving impaired by cannabis -To increase the awareness of the risks of driving impaired by cannabis	-OSAID -Local and Provincial Police Resources -People with lived experience -MADD	-Education occurred this summer by Crime Stoppers partners at various community events
Human Trafficking Town Halls in partnership with VPGB, Rising Angels, Bridging Gap AHT	Prevention & Social Development	-To provide community members with education and resources on human trafficking -To increase the number of community members who are able to identify human trafficking -To amplify the voices and experiences of those with lived experience	-People with lived experience/ local survivor led organizations -Local and Provincial Police data bases -Local Shelter + Victim Services Data Government of Canada -The Joy Smith Foundation	-Fall HT events occurring October 8th in West Grey and October 21st in Saugeen First Nation
Building a Bigger Wave Snapshot-Police & Victim Services Data	Prevention	-To provide local data on IPV/GBV to assist in developing initiatives with VPGB	-local and Provincial police data bases	-In progress, data is complete from Police/ Victim Services - awaiting meeting with Violence Prevention Grey Bruce
Hate Crime working group	Prevention	- Increase knowledge and access to support for victims of hate crimes -Reduce incidents of hate crimes -Improve data collection on incidents of hate crimes	-Local police and provincial data bases -Victim Services data -Community partners	In progress, in the final stages of the Hate Crime Reporting tool going live to the public
New CSWB plan indicators and priority areas	Social Development+ Prevention	-Use local data to determine the priorities and KPI's for the next 5-year CSWB plan	-CSWBP 2026 Survey -Local and provincial police data bases -Stats Canada data -Community partners data	Complete- awaiting feedback from Advisory Committee to finalize

			-Community & Urban Safety Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit	

Next Steps:

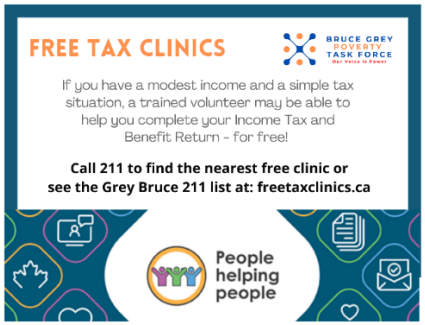
- **Launch Hate Crime Reporting Tool + promotional materials**
- **Continue to promote the STR HT resource to owners, businesses & the general public.**
- **Collaborate with Violence Prevention Grey Bruce on the Building a Bigger Wave Snapshot data release to the public**
- **Finalize data and KPIs for CSWB plan update**
- **Host Human Trafficking town halls in the fall in West Grey and Saugeen First Nation**
- **Continue road safety education at local events this summer including handing out resources and providing education with cannabis & alcohol goggles**

Grey Bruce CSWBP
Community Safety & Well-Being Planning

2026– Q3 Progress Update
Priority Area: Income and Poverty
Action Table Lead: Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force

Action Table Key Objectives: To Facilitate Community Partnerships to Advocate for Poverty Reduction and Elimination

Action Tracking:

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
Lead Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) Network to identify gaps in service and identify locations "where people are at" to provide more services. Improve awareness, understanding and services provided among services providers, governments and community members.	**Social Development**	Strengthen services provided by Network of Grey Bruce Community Volunteer Income Tax Program partners. Gaps in services for year-round tax filing and geographic locations were identified for 2025 Tax Season and solutions applied in 2026. CVITP tax services were extended to the end of Dec 2026. 	Support to Community Income Tax Services – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force	2025 Tax Season CVITP program was supported by 17 CVITP organizations in 2026 and extended service to Dec 2026. **Ongoing.** 2025 Tax Season roundtable debrief with CVITP organizations (17) will be held in Fall 2026.

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
		.		IESAG will host a review of referral system on 15 Sept 2026. **In progress.**
Annually update information in the 211 database on available free income tax services and monitor gaps in service.	**Social Development**	*Promotion and social awareness on GB CVITP tax clinics/services and volunteer recruitment.* *Increase number of people accessing income tax services.* Data from CRA informs us that 41,400 people are eligible for the program in Grey Bruce. Less than 10% are using the free service. However, all promotion of the program must be balanced against volunteer capacity. Therefore, we shall be analyzing the referral system, volunteer capacity and the barriers to filing taxes at an IESAG meeting on Sept 15th. *Support individuals in accessing income through taxes and other income supplements that can only be achieved through filing taxes.* An analysis of the volunteer recruitment in 2025 will be done in Oct/Nov 2026 after analysis of the intake and referral process for year-round tax filing services is done in Sept 2026. Volunteer recruitment shall look at capacity within Grey Bruce and strategies for onboarding, training and retention for 2026 Tax Season (2027).	Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force Launches 2025 Tax Clinic Volunteer Drive – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force www.freetaxclinics.ca Press Release: Grey Bruce Community Volunteer Income Tax Program Returns Over $10.4 Million to Local Residents – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force	Data was collected for 2025 tax season and released on numbers of returns and financial impact. Bruce County CVITP supported 5 communities, filed 551 returns, helped 521 people for a total benefits and returns of **$1,059,375.66.** **Completed.** Volunteer needs and recruitment will be analyzed and promotion started for 2026

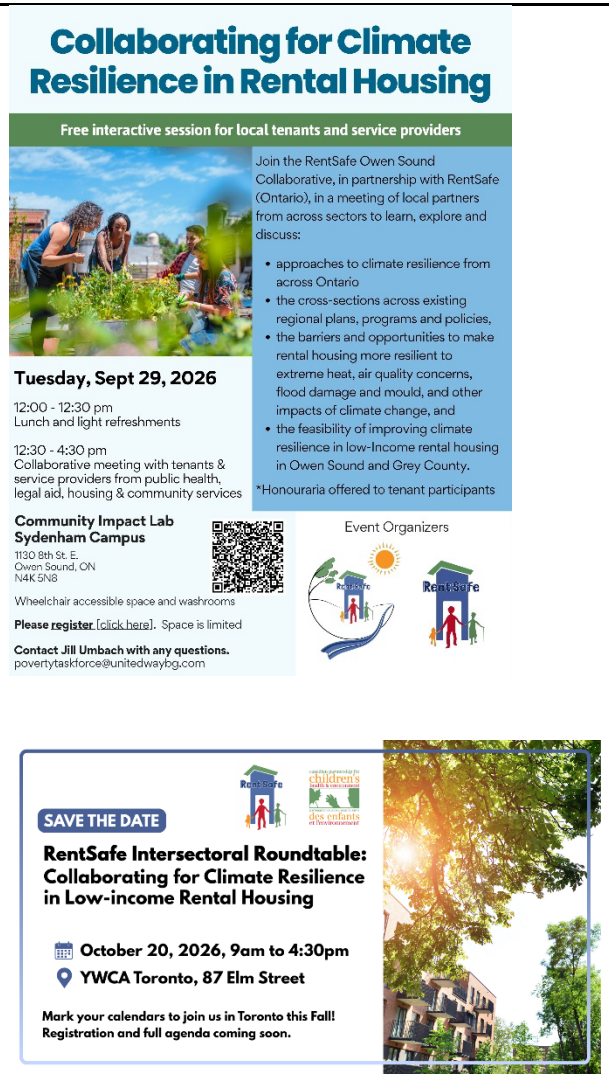
Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
				Tax Season (2027) in Oct/Nov 2026. **In progress.**
Improve awareness, understanding and services provided among services providers, governments and community members.	**Social Development**	*Organize initiatives arising from recommendations from GB CVITP Annual Gathering in Fall 2026.* Monitor the increasing access of services through digital technically and support points of access to income tax services through IESAG meetings and partnerships with COAST and SOS outreach services.	Poverty-Task-Force-Ltr-on-Automatic-Income-Tax-Filing_28-Nov-2025.pdf Poverty-Task-Force-Ltr-on-Automatic-Income-Tax-Filing_28-Nov-2025.pdf	Barriers and opportunities with Automatic Filing and Auto-Enrollment to tax benefits analysis were completed and submitted to MPs offices and the Federal government. **Completed** Overall debrief with GB CVITP Network to be planned for Oct/Nov 2026.

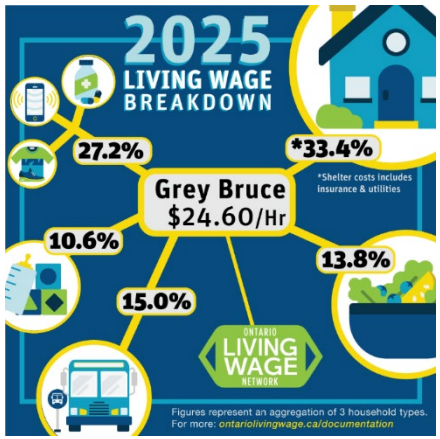
Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
				In progress.
Improve awareness, understanding and services provided among services providers, governments and community members.	**Social Development**	Seniors Retiring on a Low-Income webinar series (6) will be carried out to increase knowledge of social workers/navigators and seniors on retirement income and the increased income/benefits of tax filing as a senior. Other financial information for seniors have been identified and plans are coming together for future series of events using the same online setup throughout the library system in partnership with Beaver Valley Outreach Seniors Program (Town of Blue Mountain).	United Way of Bruce Grey and Community Partners Launch Financial Literacy Workshops to Support Seniors Living on Low Income – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force New Online Resources Help Grey Bruce Seniors Make the Most of Their Income – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force	Seniors Retiring on a Low-Income webinar series (6) was initiated in Q1-2026 and completed in Q2-2026. **Completed.** Meeting summaries, Q& A session, slides, resources and training videos are posted on a new Seniors' Resource page on PTF website. **Completed.**

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
Analyze income/employment factors affecting people with low income in our rural communities and best practices for response as Income & Employment Security Action Group/PTF.	**Social Development**	**Strengthen Voices** Create safe spaces for meaningful learning to engage communities with data/information and build relationships toward solutions. The Poverty Task Force represented rural communities and joined the Income Security Advocacy Centre on a panel to advocate for an increase in social assistance rates for rural households as part of an Ontario-wide report release. 100 people registered and 75 attended the event.  This report was shared with our Grey Bruce MPPs and supports the work of AMO and ROMA on advocacy for increases to social assistance rates in Ontario.	BGPTF_IESAG-Presentation_ISAC_Report_16-June-2026.pdf In-Their-Own-Words_A-Recipient-Informed-Case-for-Fixing-Ontarios-Social-Assistance-System_ISAC-Report_March-2026-1.pdf In Their Own Words: The State of Social Assistance in Ontario – Report Launch and Community Discussion – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force	Review and feedback on report from rural perspective from IESAG members. This feedback was incorporated into panel presentation by Poverty Task Force at an Ontario-wide community discussion. **Completed.**
		A panel of experts have been selected to provide basic awareness and education to municipal candidates on	Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force – Our voice is power.	Pages are being updated to increase our

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
		social determinants of health, all levels of government response/coordination, and community policing.  This is an online event, open to municipal candidates only (not a public debate session) and at present, 40 candidates are registered. A recording of the session will be shared with all candidates afterwards.	Food Security – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force	advocacy and policy content as we prepare for the 2026 municipal elections. **Ongoing.** All Municipal Candidate Education Session scheduled for Sept 18th. **In progress.**

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
				
Contribute to community conversations on housing and income solutions with an health equity approach.	**Social Development**	Create safe spaces for meaningful learning to engage communities with data/information and build relationships toward solutions. Increased number of people with grounded expertise engaging in meaningful way with PTF working groups and income solution campaigns. On July 9th, the Owen Sound City Council approved a new Vital Services By-law and updates to the Property Standards By-law addressing mould and pests on July 9th, 2026 based on recommendations put forth by RentSafe OS and Community Voices.	PTF Collective Impact Framework 2026 Community Voices – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force RentSafe Owen Sound Collaborative – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force RentSafe-Survey-Report_FINAL_Nov-7-2024.pdf RentSafe Update: From Local Research to	8 Community Voices' members meet monthly. **Completed and Ongoing.** RentSafe Owen Sound Roundtables will be held on Sept 29th at Community Impact Lab/Sydenham Campus and on Oct 19th/20th in

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
			Stronger Rental Housing Standards in Owen Sound – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force	Toronto with Community Voices members participating as tenant representatives. **In Progress**

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
Work with United Way of Bruce Grey as lead agency to calculate and promote Living Wage for Grey Bruce.	**Social Development**	**Seeking Income Solutions for Strong Communities** Promote meaningful dialogue and policy advocacy for income solutions such as Guaranteed Basic Income and Living Wage. Grey Bruce Living Wage 2026 calculation work to be calculated and released in Nov 2026. Increased number of employers certified as Living Wage Champions in Grey Bruce is tracked on Ontario Living Wage Map in 2026. A strategy for employer engagement on living wage certification needs to be developed by employment agencies of Income & Employment Security Action Group.  *Promote best practices and draw on expert knowledge to create, adapt and scale initiatives that fit with our rural context.*	Living Wage – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force Table of Employers - Ontario Living Wage Network Vital-Signs-2026-FINAL.pdf	Living Wage calculation has been used in many reports and briefs including the Vital Signs 2026 Report which PTF contributed to writing. To be released on June 17th, 2026. **Completed.** As of June 10th, 2026 we have 11 employers certified in 13 locations. Grey Bruce Living Wage 2026 calculation work began for planned release in Nov 2026. **In progress.**

Next Steps:

- Community Income Tax Program clinics ended April 30th, 2026 and volunteers were extended for online filing until Dec 2026.. A GB CVITP Network roundtable is being planned in the Fall 2026. A review of the referral system through MP Alex Ruff's office will be carried out at IESAG meeting on Sept 16th. Orientations with hospital and CMHA case workers will take place on Oct 8th.
- Living Wage calculation for 2026 is underway and will be released in November 2026.
- A strategy to engage with employers will include information on how to become certified Living Wage employers to begin in Q3-2026.
- RentSafe Owen Sound Collaboration Climate Resiliency Project Roundtables are planned on Sept 29th in Owen Sound and Oct 19th/20th in Toronto. Environmental scan reports are in draft format for discussion at both roundtables before publication.
- RentSafe Owen Sound Collaborative is working on housing standard mapping and bylaw review with Owen Sound By-Law, Fire Department and Grey Bruce Public Health. Next up is the consideration of a Renovictions Bylaw. Members of RentSafe Tenant Advisory Committee are in place.

Grey Bruce CSWBP

Community Safety & Well-Being Planning

CSWBP Advisory Committee Meeting
September 15th 2026
Steering Committee Members

Meeting Purpose & Overview

- Provincial & Local Updates
- Coordinator Updates
- Situation Table for Acutely Elevated Risk (S.T.A.R.) Updates
- Action Table Updates
- Communications
- New Plan Data Review
- Wrap up

PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL UPDATES

COORDINATOR UPDATES

Update to CSWB Plan

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development & Prevention

Objectives:

- Strengthen community partnerships
- Respond to emergency community needs
- Improve accountability and outcomes

Data sources:

- CSWBP Community Well-Being Survey 2026
- Statistics Canada 2021 census
- Public Health Ontario Snap Shots
- CCHS
- Ontario Studeny Drug Use and Mental Health Survey



Status: In progress

Children's Health Day- June 20th, 2026

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development & Prevention

Objectives:

- Increase youth and parents/caregivers knowledge of mental health and physical health resources in the community
- Increase youth and parents/caregivers understanding and knowledge of ways to keep youth healthy both physically and mentally
- Provide a fun, low-barrier event for all youth and their families

  Data sources:
  - Mental Health Commission of Canada
  - Government of Canada
  - Government of Ontario
  - Local experts
  - Canadian Institute for Health Information

  Status: Successfully occurred on June 20th with over 750 participants!





CSWBP Student Placement(s)

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development/Prevention

Objectives:
Supporting the next 5-year plan through:

- Improved coordination amongst tables- including removing duplication and streamlining services
- Enhance understanding between partners of existing tables

Data sources:

- Grey Bruce tables, committees, and groups

Status: On-Going. BScN students from Georgian joining in late September and October



STAR Training

CSWBP Planning Framework: Prevention

Objectives:

- Increase understanding of and participation in STAR
- Increase AER lowered for situations brought forward
- Increase AER knowledge and consensus group decision making

  Data sources:

  - Risk Tracking Database (SOLGEN)
  - Situation Table CoP

  Status: On-Going

  Anti-Oppression and Case Conferencing training occurred in June 2026 with 50 members attending



Municipal CoP

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development/Prevention

Objectives:

- Foster collaboration and relationship building between Municipalities + CSWBP
- Share best practice resources and practices



Data sources:

- Strong cities
- TED talks
- Best practice resources change from topic-to-topic

Status: On hold until elections cease and new members are sitting- Looking to restart in early 2027

** Please email Alexis to join this meeting**

Next Steps

- Host two BScN students to complete the Grey Bruce table review
- Continue on-going training and on-boarding for STAR
- Begin planning 2027 Children's Health Day event
- Continue with the update to the CSWB plan



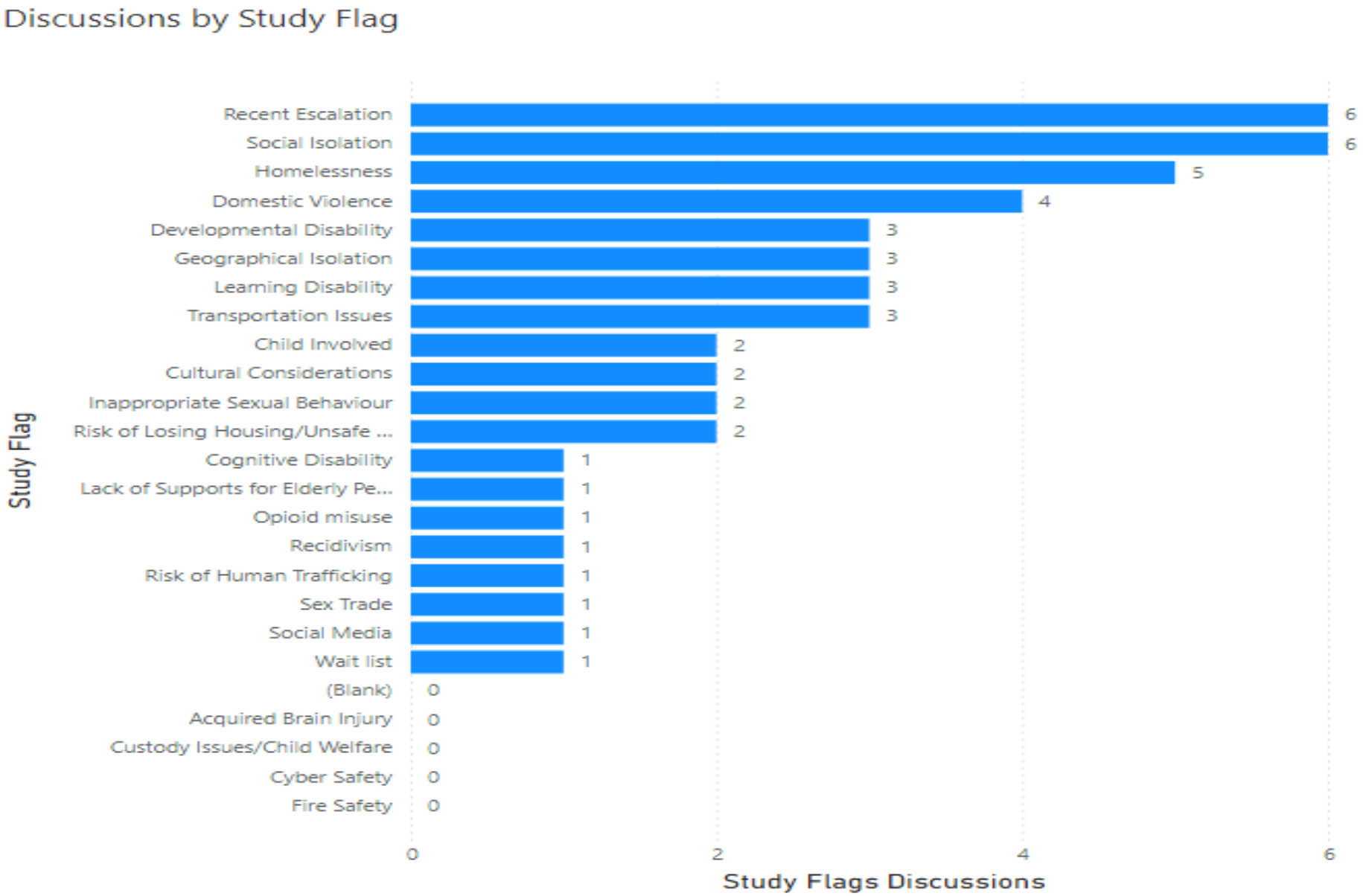
Situation Table for Acutely Elevated Risk (STAR)

Situation Updates- 2026

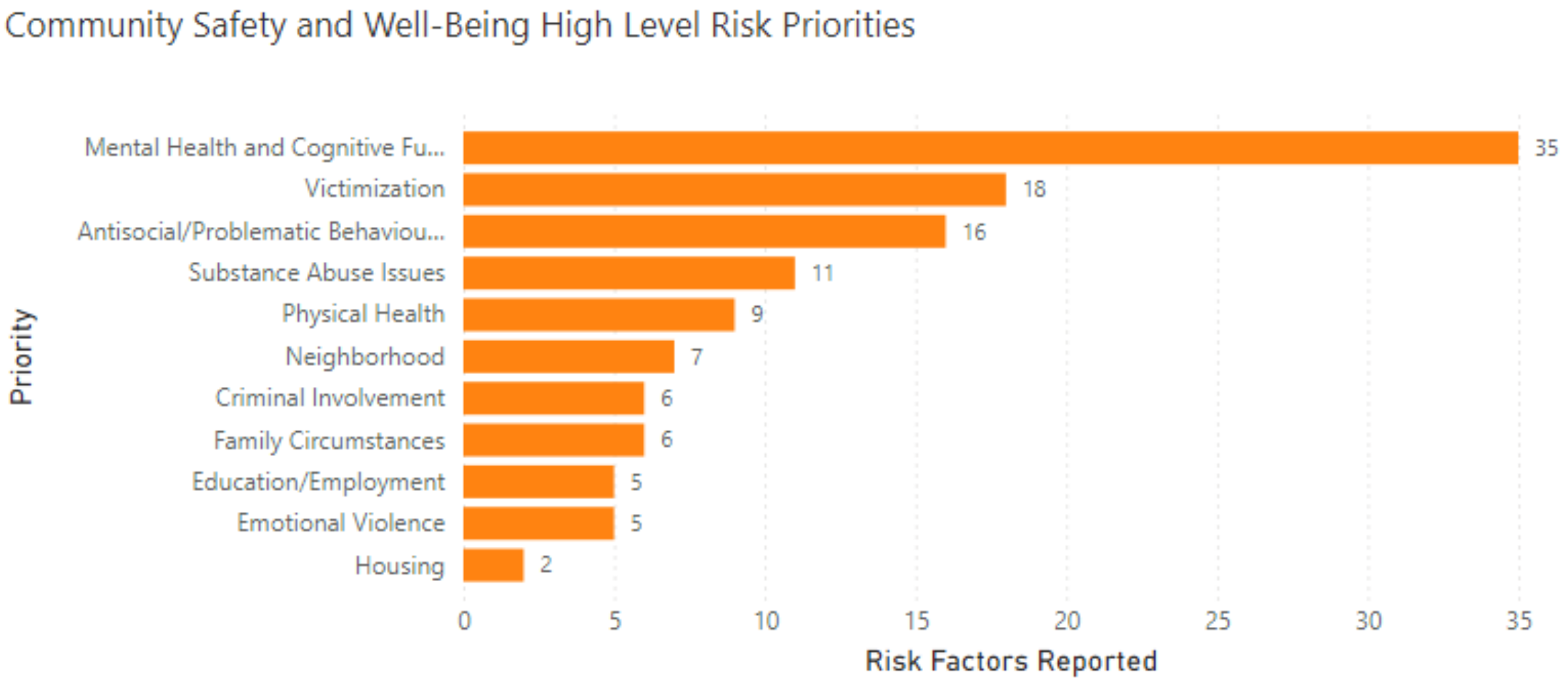
24 Situations

- **71% met AER (17/24)**
- **22/24 closed**
- **21/22 (95%) had their AER lowered**
- **1/22 (5%) did not have their AER lowered (Client relocated outside of area)**

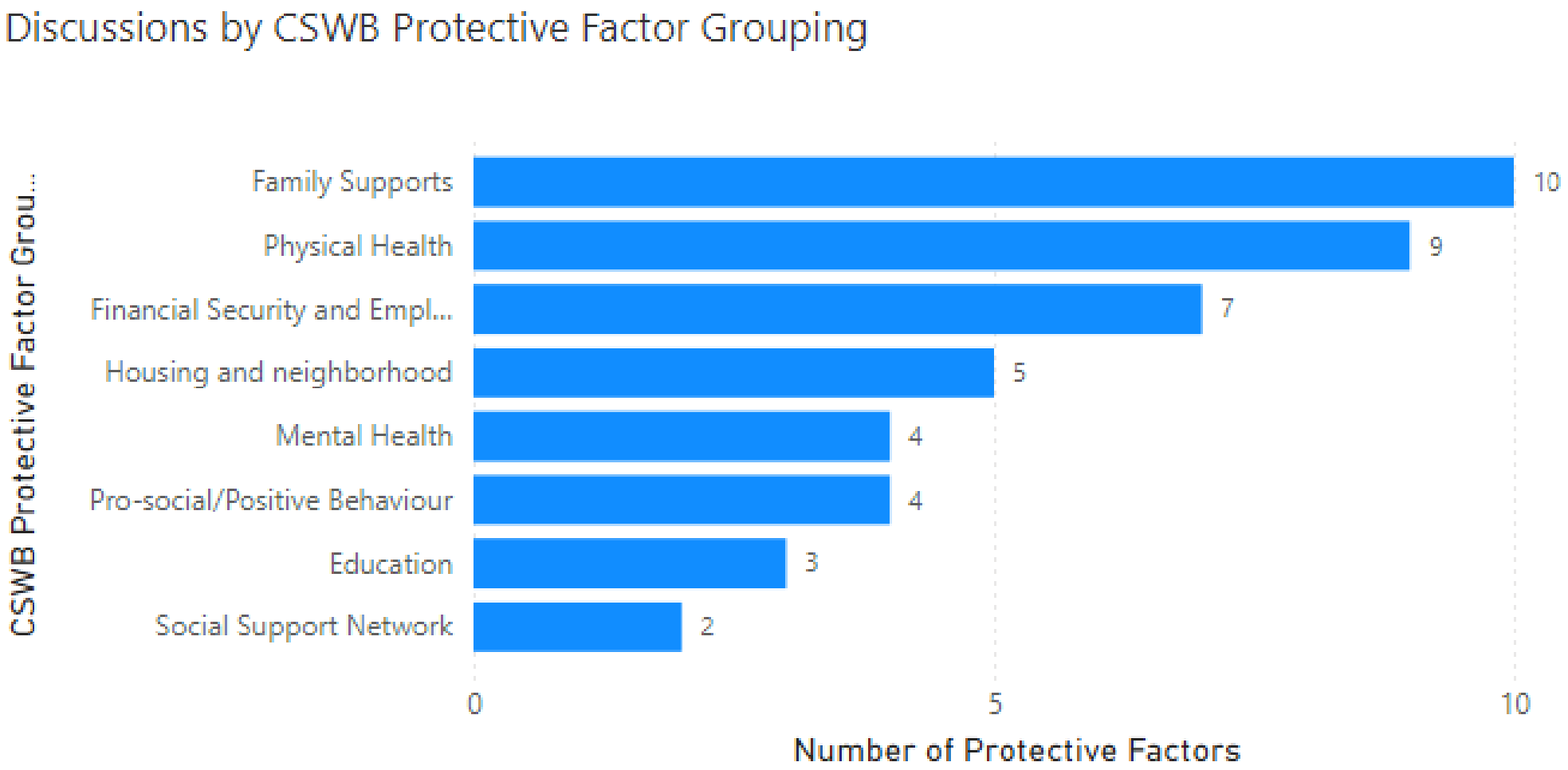
Study Flags (Jan 1, 2026– Sept 14, 2026)



CSWB High Level Risk Priorities (Jan 1, 2026– Sept 14, 2026)



Protective Factor Grouping (Jan 1, 2026– Sept 14, 2026)



Top 3 Services Mobilized

1. Mental Health

2. Victim Support

3. Social Assistance

Action Table Updates

Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force

Poverty and Income

Increasing Income through Tax Filing

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development

Grey Bruce Community Volunteer Income Tax Program Network

- CVITP registered organizations have completed the 2025 Tax Season clinics, and some CVITP organizations have extended services for year-round tax filing services to access the national dental program and other benefits such as Canadian Disability Benefit. Tax filing is now available through referrals from SOS (Grey County) and COAST (Bruce County) in partnership with Bruce County Public Library and the United Way of Bruce Grey volunteers in 2026. CVITP-Program_Why-Do-We-Do-It-March-2026.pptx

- A review of the referral/intake process with social agencies and CVITP volunteers/partners will be held on Sept 15th, 2026, to examine the existing system, barriers and opportunities for improvement.

Status: In Progress

- In 2025, eligibility was a modest income of $35,000 for individuals, $45,000 for couples, plus $2,500 for each dependent. This has increased up to $5,000/person in 2026. Tax filing is available until Dec 2026. CVITP volunteers can file simple tax returns for the past 7-10 years.

- 17 CVITP registered organizations in Grey Bruce completed 3,368 tax returns ($3,100 average x 3,368 = $10, 440,800) in 2025. $10,440,800 was returned to residents in Grey Bruce for the year ending 31 December 2025. (Using an average of $3,100/tax return). In addition to refunds and benefits, the program saved residents an estimated $421,000 by providing free tax filing services — money that would otherwise have been paid to private tax preparers. Press Release: Grey Bruce Community Volunteer Income Tax Program Returns Over $10.4 Million to Local Residents – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force

- Despite this impact, only a fraction of those eligible are currently accessing the program. In Grey Bruce, an estimated 41,400 people qualify for CVITP services, highlighting both the scale of need and the opportunity for growth. (CRA Statistics, Aug 2025)

Status: Completed for 2024 Tax Season (2025) and In Progress for 2025 Tax Season(2026).

Strengthening Voices

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development

Income & Employment Security Action Group, Community Voices and RentSafe OS

- Monthly space for engaging with partners focused on increasing income, reducing precarious work, advocating for income solutions and facilitating partnerships.

Status: Completed

- Most recently, we have participated on a panel to advocate for an increase in social assistance rates for rural households as part of an Ontario-wide advocacy. BGPTF_IESAG-Presentation_ISAC_Report_16-June-2026.pdf Read the full report: In-Their-Own-Words_A-Recipient-Informed-Case-for-Fixing-Ontarios-Social-Assistance-System_ISAC-Report_March-2026-1.pdf

Status: Completed

- Bi-monthly safe space created for Community Voices and the RentSafe Owen Sound Collaboration allows tenants, landlords and housing support agencies to engage on priorities for people with lived experience or grounded expertise of poverty and to advocate for healthy, rental housing and climate change equity. The Power of Community-Led Transformation Task Force Blog – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force

Status: Completed

- Most recently the Owen Sound City Council approved a new Vital Services By-law and updates to the Property Standards By-law addressing mould and pests on July 9th, 2026 based on recommendations put forth by RentSafe OS and Community Voices. RentSafe Update: From Local Research to Stronger Rental Housing Standards in Owen Sound – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force

Status: Ongoing

Increasing Income through retaining healthy, affordable housing

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development

RentSafe Owen Sound Collaboration and RentSafe Ontario projects

- RentSafe OS is working in partnership with RentSafe Ontario on a **Collaborating for Climate Resilience in Low-Income Rental Housing**.
- A Regional Environmental Scan on climate resilience and rental housing has been completed for discussion on September 29th at a roundtable in Owen Sound hosted by RentSafe OS. This will be combined with an Ontario-wide Report to be completed by December 2026.

Status: Completed

- The September 29th Roundtable in Owen Sound will be held at the Community Impact Lab/Sydenham Campus and a second roundtable hosted by RentSafe Ontario will be on Oct 19th/20th in Toronto. Registration is open for both roundtables. RentSafe Update: From Local Research to Stronger Rental Housing Standards in Owen Sound – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force

Status: In Progress



Seeking Income Solutions for Strong Communities

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development

Seniors Retiring on a Low-Income

- The Poverty Task Force identified financial literacy, tax filing assistance, benefits navigation, and retirement planning education as important tools for reducing poverty among seniors.
- In partnership with Open Door Policy, the PTF delivered a series of education webinars on seniors retiring on a low-income. Seniors Retiring on Low Income_ Report_ 27 July 2026. In 2026, 26 social services workers, social navigators and librarians from 12 organizations and 42 seniors participated in this financial literacy series.

Status: Completed

- Resources from the training to seniors and social workers/librarians are available, including a series of training videos that were developed from the webinars. A dedicated website page includes Resources for Seniors with Low-Income – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force

Status: Completed

Seeking Income Solutions for Strong Communities

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development

Grey Bruce Living Wage

- 2026 Living Wage rate for Bruce-Grey-Huron-Perth-Simcoe economic region will be calculated in partnership with Ontario Living Wage Network and released in November 2026.

Status: In progress

- Actively promoting the benefits of becoming a certified Living Wage employer in Grey Bruce. Currently have 10 certified employers in 13 locations in Grey Bruce (June 2026).

Status: In progress

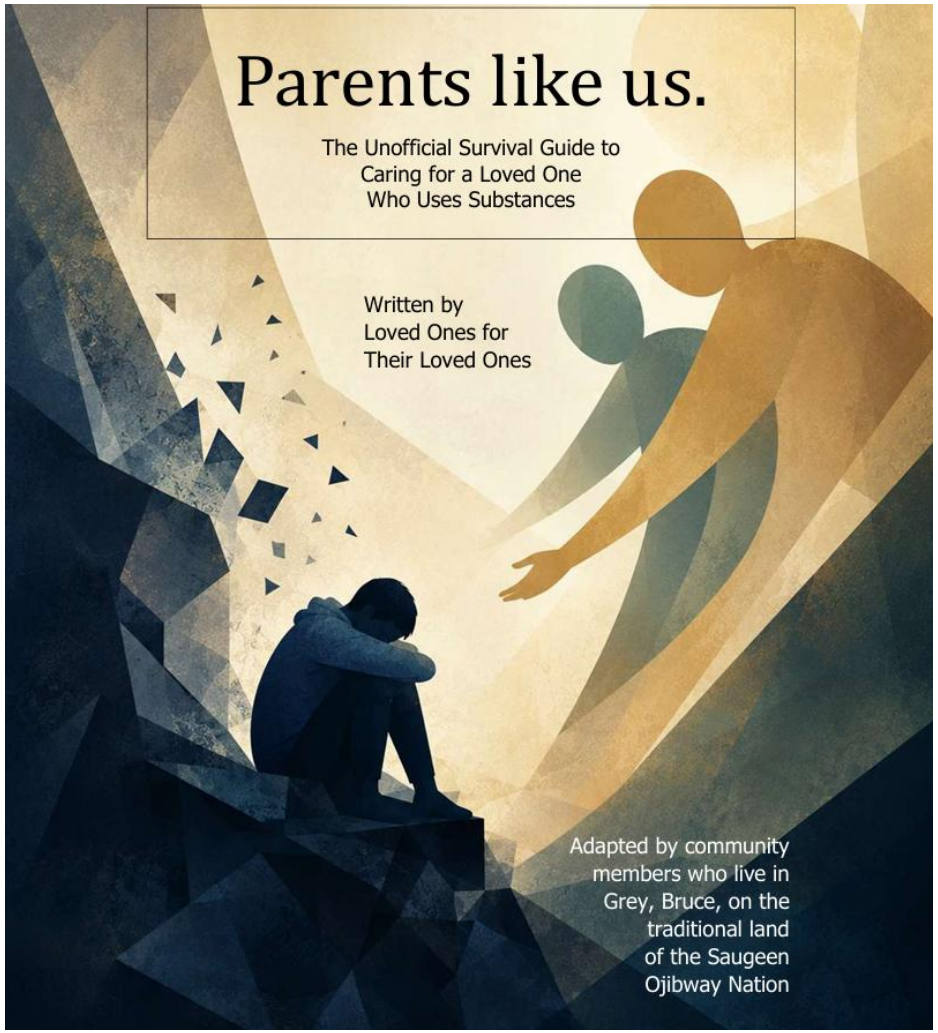
Next Steps

- Grey Bruce Community Volunteer Income Tax Program Network (CVITP) is operating until the end of Dec 2026 through referrals via SOS and COAST and other social agencies to a few CVITP partners who file taxes year-round.
- A review of the referral/intake process with social agencies and CVITP volunteers/partners will be held on Sept 15th, 2026, to examine the existing system, barriers and opportunities for improvement. Data will be collected at the end of the year from CRA/CVITP on the number of households supported to file taxes.
- Plans will be started for new volunteer recruitment and getting ready for the 2026 Tax Season (2027).
- The Poverty Task Force will host an All Municipal Candidates Poverty 101 Election Education session on September 18th from 10am-11:30pm. Panelists will speak on the Social Determinents of Health, government engagement (federal, provincial and municipal) in responding to social needs such as social assistance programs, affordable housing, transportation, etc. and community policing.

Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy

Addictions/Substance Use

Caregivers Guide



CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development & Prevention

Objectives: Advance strategic priority #5: Reduce stigma associated with substance use and its impact, through evidence informed training, education, and communications. To adapt a parent-created resource to knowledge, tools, and resources to parents' caregiving youth who are using substances. Will entail engagement of community members in the adaptation process to make sure the document reflects Grey Bruce. This project advances CDAS strategic priorities #2 (prevent and/or delay youth substance use) and #5 (reduce stigma and its impact through evidence-informed education, training, and communication.

Data sources:

- Anti-stigma Harm Reduction Working Group meetings and research on anti-stigma content and campaigns.
- CDAS strategic plan; Steering Committee input and reflections; Parents Like Us Adaptation Toolkit

Status: Completed and available on-line, printing currently occurring

New Coordinator

- The posting has closed and interviews will begin this week; we hope to have the new coordinator join us in the next month or so



Next Steps

- Hire a coordinator and on-board the successful applicant to resume the work of the CDAS strategic plan

Homelessness Response Steering Committee

Housing and Homelessness

Coordinated Access



CSWBP Planning Framework: Prevention

Coordinated Access Guide

Development of a local guide ongoing to provide service agencies with information on pathways within the system tying in the By Name List and homelessness supports.

The Real Cost of Homelessness

The steering committee is working on a project to identify the different levels of support and the cost associated with addressing the chronically homeless individuals on the by name list. This is to support knowledge on the problems and to better understand the levels of supported transitional housing needed for our community.

Status: In progress

- Bolstering the Coordinated Access guide in the final editing stages and work is happening on researching data for the cost of homelessness project

Encampments & BNL Referral

CSWBP Planning Framework: Prevention/ Social Development

Homelessness & Encampment Response Protocol

A homelessness and encampment response protocol has been developed and will be piloted with emergency services, local community partners and municipalities between April and June.

GIS Data – used to track encampments

By-Name Referral and Prioritization Update

New Referral form implemented and circulated to front line agencies along with opportunity to refresher training on the By-Name List and it's benefits. On-going training for service providers.

Status: Encampment Procol being Piloted in Bruce County, GIS tracking is in progress

Winter Planning

CSWBP Planning Framework: Intervention

Bruce and Grey Counties fall/winter outreach

As the temperatures decrease, we often see an increase in people moving from encampments to access emergency shelter services. Bruce and Grey Counties are in the planning stages for the winter season and emergency shelter response.

Status: Review & Planning Stage

Homelessness & Coordinated Access Education Forum

CSWBP Planning Framework: Education

Coordinated Access & By-Name List Training – annual training provided to front-line staff.

Status: Planning

Homelessness Response

Grey Bruce Front Line Unhoused Response Committee

- Provides an opportunity for front-line staff to present and collaborate on challenging cases. This committee provides a space for peers to support each other, offer resources and options to directly support households.
- The committee focuses on matching clients to housing resources dedicated to the By-Name List.
- Attendees will review and update the Grey Bruce By Name List to maintain real-time data.

Status: In progress

- Reviewing recent needs assessment and intake call volume

Next Steps

- By-Name List Training
- Coordinated Access Guide publication
- Review Homelessness & Encampment Response Protocol

Mental Health Networking Table

Mental Health

System-level Alignment and Planning

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development/Prevention

- Grey Bruce Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Plan (Completed)
  - Service Pathway Identification Walk in / Crisis / Urgent Access: Plan completed. Looking at implementing phase 1 in October 2026: Wiarton, Hanover, Kincardine
  - Joint Training and Education Opportunities Plan: ASIST and Motivational Interviewing identified as priority trainings for network partners
  - Suicide and Crisis Prevention Campaign (In progress)
    - Over $100k of grant money received for this initiative
    - Work plan in progress
  - MHA Partner Event: Plan to approach OHT to align with their partnership table
  - Partner Dashboard/Scorecard: First draft completed. The following measures will be tracked on scorecard:
    - Contact-to-intake wait times
    - Intake-to-program-start timelines
    - Readmission rates
    - Transition planning from youth to adult services
    - Client perception-of-care measures (measures TBD)
  - Measurement Based Care (paused)
  - Development of a 5-20 Year Grey Bruce MHA Roadmap (In progress)

Next Steps

- Committees established for each initiative of the Strategic Plan will continue to meet until work is complete.

Crime Prevention Action Table

Cannabis & Driving Resource + Education

CSWBP Planning Framework: Prevention

Objectives:

- To partner with all licensed dispensaries in Grey, Bruce and Saugeen First Nation to provide educational resources to those purchasing cannabis in stores
- To increase the awareness of the risks of driving impaired by cannabis
- To reduce the number of individuals driving impaired by cannabis in our community



Data sources:

- Local and Provincial Police data bases & Resources
- Peer-reviewed literature supporting initiatives
- CAMH
- OSDUHS Report
- OSAID

Status: Complete. Additional education occurred this summer at community events with cannabis impairment goggles + resources

Human Trafficking Town Halls

CSWBP Planning Framework: Prevention

Objectives:

- To provide community members with education and resources on human trafficking
- To increase the number of community members who are able to identify human trafficking
- To amplify the voices and experiences of those with lived experience

Data sources:

- People with lived experience/ local survivor led organizations
- Local and Provincial Police data bases
- Local Shelter + Victim Services Data
- Government of Canada
- The Joy Smith Foundation

Status: In progress

- October 8th 2026 in West Grey at the Community Arena
- October 21st 2026 in Saugeen First Nation at the Rec Centre



Short-Term Rental Anti-Human Trafficking Resource

CSWBP Planning Framework: Prevention

Objectives:

- To provide STR licensees/business owners with information and resources on human trafficking
- To increase the number of community members who are able to identify human trafficking

Data sources:

- Local and Provincial Police data bases
- Peer-reviewed literature supporting initiatives
- People with lived experience
- Government of Canada
- The Joy Smith Foundation

Status: Document complete

- Successful in a grant opportunity to print the resource, resources were delivered to all Municipalities and police services for easy access for residents



Hate Crime Working Group

CSWBP Planning Framework: Prevention
Objectives:

- To provide the community with reporting options outside of police (collecting more accurate data + connecting folks to direct support)
- To provide the community with education on hate crimes + where to seek support

Data sources:

- Local and provincial police data bases
- Victim Services data base
- Community groups

Status: In progress, awaiting some final IT changes for the reporting tool and then will be launching to the public



Next Steps

- Launch hate crime reporting tool
- Host two human trafficking townhalls in West Grey and Saugeen First Nation
- Begin to prepare for long-weekend education for youth
- Begin to prepare social media and education plan for 2027 start of tourism season for STR HT resources

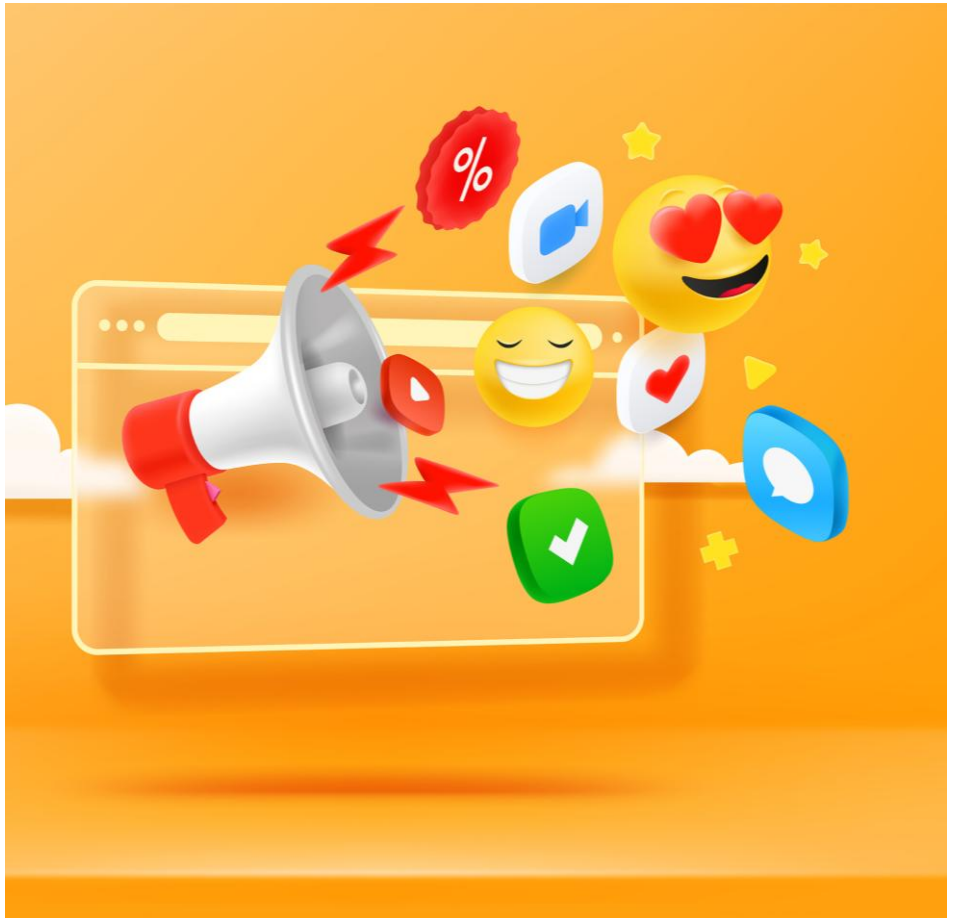


General

Communications

- September media/social media release:
  - Announcing dates/locations for Human Trafficking Town halls in West Grey and Saugeen First Nation

- Please email Alexis if you do not have a contact on our email distribution list for media releases + social media content



CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Crime Prevention

What we heard from the survey:

- 79% of respondents feel somewhat safe or very safe in the community
- 46% of community members indicate that the community has lower rates of crime compared to other communities, 42% indicate the community has about the same rates of crime
- 76% of respondents view policing as a key component of community safety and well-being
- Community members referenced mental health services, housing support, crisis response teams, food security initiatives and broader community investment are effective approaches to reducing crime
- 70% of respondents trust most or trust all police services in the community

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Crime Prevention

What the data tells us:

- Transport accidents are the second highest leading cause of death for 15–24-year-olds and the third highest leading cause of death for 25–44-year-olds in Grey Bruce
- From 2017-2024 Grey Bruce residents were 1.5x more likely to visit the emergency department for motor vehicle collision injuries than Ontario residents
- Grey Bruce residents between 2017-2024 were over 3x more likely to visit the emergency department for off-road vehicle collision injuries than Ontario
- Violence Against Women Shelters received 3,570 crisis calls for support in 2025
- Grey Bruce police report 1663 domestic violence incidents, 257 sexual violence incidents, 6 human trafficking incidents and 0 domestic homicides/femicides from 2024-2025
- Victim Services Grey Bruce responded to 1,203 referrals and supported 1,635 individuals during the 2025-2026 year
  - Approximately 60% of referrals (708) were related to gender-based violence (domestic violence, sexual assault, criminal harassment/stalking and human trafficking)

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Crime Prevention

Key Performance Indicators:

- <u>IPV/GBV/ Human Trafficking (Annual)</u>
  - # of domestic violence incidents reported to police
  - # of sexual assaults incidents reported to police
  - # of human trafficking incidents reported to police
  - # of femicides/domestic homicides
- <u>Hate Crimes/Incidents (Annual)</u>
  - # of hate crimes reported to police
  - # of hate incidents reported to police
  - # of hate incidents reported to hate crime reporting tool (and qualitative data of trends)
- <u>Road Safety (Annual)</u>
  - # of distracted driving charges
  - # of speeding charges
  - # of stunt driving charges
  - # of no insurance charges
  - # of serious injury/fatal collisions
  - # of impaired charges

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Crime Prevention

Key Performance Indicators:

- Drug Trafficking (Annual)
  - # of Possession charges
  - # of Possession arrests
  - # of Fatal Overdoses
  - # of Non-fatal Overdoses
- Victim Serviced Demand (Annual)
  - # of referrals
  - # of individuals supported
  - Occurrence types
- Community events & education (Annual)
  - # of joint initiatives
  - # of individuals, organizations and businesses reached through education
  - % of increase in knowledge (pre and post education)
- Community perceptions (5-year)
  - % of residents who trust all or most of police
  - % of residents who think the role of policing in safety is important or very important
  - % of residents who feel safer with an increased police presence

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Harmful Substance Use/Addictions

What we heard from the survey:

- 37% of respondents indicated that harmful substance use and addictions were a top priority
- Themes emerged around increased action for prevention, access to treatment and service coordination
- Respondents identified the need for increased support for individuals and families affected by addictions
- Illegal drug use emerged as the most significant concern in this domain, identified by 58% of respondents
- Residents also identified access to addiction services, including waitlists (46%), alcohol use (43%) and youth substance use (38%) as priorities

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Harmful Substance Use/Addictions

What the data tells us:

- Accidental Poisonings are the leading cause of death for 15–44-year-olds from 2013-2023 in Grey Bruce
- Western Region grade 7-12 students had a significant increase in the non-medical use of prescription opioid pain relievers in 2023 compared to 2019
- Grey Bruce has a 1.3x higher rate of emergency department visits of injuries due to unintentional poisonings compared to Ontario
- Age-standardized rate (per 100,000 people) for emergency department visits for conditions entirely attributable to cannabis in Grey Bruce are 103.3 compared to Ontario at 76.6
- 28.4% of Grey Bruce residents exceed the low-risk drinking guidelines for chronic disease, compared to Ontario at 17.3%. Grey Bruce rates are the second highest out of all public health units.
- 24.5% of Grey Bruce residents 18+ regularly heavily drink compared to Ontario at 18.4 %
- The percentage of residents 12 and older who smoke daily in Grey Bruce is 17.1% compared to Ontario at 9.0%
- Grey Bruce has seen a 226% increase in the number of opioid-related overdoses from January-June in 2026 compared to the same time frame in 2025
- In 2025 Grey Bruce lost 16 lives to opioid toxicity which shows a 39% decrease in deaths since 2024

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Harmful Substance Use/Addictions

Key Performance Indicators:

- # of non-fatal overdoses (annual)
- # of Fatal overdoses (annual)
- # of people/organizations reached through education initiatives (annual)
- # of cross-sector initiatives, referrals and/or coordinated efforts (annual)
- # of advocacy actions undertaken and policy changes/investments influenced (annual)

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Housing and Homelessness

What we heard from the survey:

- Housing and Homelessness emerged as the second-highest ranked community improvement area
- Housing affordability was the dominant concern in this area, identified by 65% of respondents
- Residents highlighted the availability of housing (47%), access to housing (44%), housing quality and safety (43%) as important priorities
- 42% of respondents also indicated homelessness as a top priority area for improvement
- Community members view housing challenges extending beyond affordability, with broader concerns related to availability, accessibility, safety and supports for individuals experiencing housing instability
- Residents indicated a strong need for action and investment in safe, affordable and appropriate housing

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Housing and Homelessness

What the data tells us:

- Over 1 in 3 Grey Bruce tenants are paying unaffordable rent, compared to only 1 in 10 homeowners who cannot afford their housing costs
- In 2025 the average monthly rent for a 1-bedroom rental was $1,500 and a 2-bedroom rental was $1,800. A single room's monthly rental cost was $1,100.
- As of June 30, 2026, 4207 households are on the subsidized housing waitlist in Grey Bruce
- In 2021, 16.5% of households in Grey Bruce had subsidized housing compared to Ontario with 13.7% of households receiving subsidized housing
- In Grey Bruce rental vacancy rates sit at 1.6% compared to the recommended healthy amount of 3% by the province
- In 2025, 214 households experienced homelessness for the first time in Grey Bruce

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Housing and Homelessness

Key Performance Indicators:

- % change in chronic homelessness (point in time measure) (annual)
- Affordable Housing Deficit- Gap between the core housing need and number of affordable units across Grey Bruce (annual)
- # of Net new affordable housing units- new affordable housing units created- (CMHC affordable, county partnership units) (annual)
- # First Time homelessness inflow (annual)
- % of returns to homelessness (annual)
- # of people/organizations reached through training/education initiatives (annual)
- # of cross-sector initiatives, referrals and/or coordinated efforts (annual)
- # of advocacy actions undertaken and policy changes/investments influenced (annual)
- % from survey affordability, access, safety etc. as need for improvement for housing (5-year)

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Mental Health

What we heard from the survey:

- Over half of respondents indicated the need for improvements for accessing and for the availability of mental health services
- 50% of community members highlighted the following mental health conditions as priorities: depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder
- Findings show residents are not only concerned about mental health challenges themselves, but about the affordability and coordination of supports to address them
- Respondents highlighted concerns related to suicide, emotional and psychological trauma as top concerns within the community

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Mental Health

What the data tells us:

- Suicide is the third highest leading cause of death for 15–24-year-olds with males having 4x more deaths than females due to suicide
- Suicide is the second highest leading cause of death for 25–44-year-olds with males having 5x more deaths than females due to suicide
- 40.6% of Western Region grade 7-12 students reported fair or poor mental health in 2023, an increase of 12.5% since 2019
- In 2023-2024, the most marginalized Grey Bruce youth (15-29) were 2.4x more likely to visit the emergency department for injuries related to self-harm
- Keystone Child, Youth & Family services supported 1884 unique clients in 2024-2025
- Across all CMHA Grey Bruce's mental health and addictions programs 3,290 individuals in 2024-2025 were supported
- Brightshores Health system supported 63,312 visits for mental health and addictions in 2024-2025

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Mental Health

Key Performance Indicators:

- # EMS Behaviour/Psychiatric responses (annual)
- % of incident psychiatric ED visits as first-contact visits (annual)
- # of repeat mental health and addictions ED visits within 30 days (annual)
- Time from referral to first contact (annual)
- # of staff/volunteers/community members trained in SafeTalk (annual)
- # of staff/volunteers/community members trained in ASIST (annual)
- # of people/organizations reached through education initiatives (annual)
- % of residents who rank areas of mental health access and availability as improvement areas (5-year)

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Poverty and Income

What we heard from the survey:

- Residents indicated that poverty and income was the number one area for improvement with concerns related to wages, social assistance rates, cost of living pressures and financial insecurity
- Community members emphasized the need for improvements to childcare availability and affordability
- 60% of respondents highlighted the need for improvements for the ability to pay their bills and meet basic needs
- Over half of community members expressed concerns related to being able to enjoy life and participate in leisure activities, especially for youth
- Community members indicated that affordability challenges are not only influencing their economic well-being but also their health, social participation, housing stability and overall quality of life

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Poverty and Income

What the data tells us:

- In 2025 living wage in Grey Bruce was $24.60 per hour, the second highest in Ontario
- The median individual income is $36,000 per year while living wages income is $47,970 per year. The median individual income is 25% less than living wage.
- The Ontario Works financial assistance is only $8800 per year which is only 18% (1/5) of what is needed per year of a living wage
- Ontario Disability Support Program financial assistance is only $16,986 per year which is only 35% (1.75/5) of what is needed per year of a living wage.
- 12.3% of older adults are living on low income (apprx 5800 seniors)
- 18% of households in Grey Bruce from 2021-2023 are experiencing food insecurity
- 13.2% of Grey Bruce children (0-17) are living in low income which is higher than Ontario
- Grey Bruce's unemployment rate is 9% compared to Ontario's at 12%

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Poverty and Income

Key Performance Indicators:

- # and % of eligible residents connected to income and financial supports (annual)
- # of cross-sector initiatives addressing SDOH (annual)
- # and % of initiatives that include people with lived and living experience (planning/decision making) (annual)
- # of advocacy actions undertaken and policy changes/investments influenced (annual)
- # of community members and organizations reached through education and awareness activities (annual)

Timeline of CSWB Plan Update

- Information Gathering & Consultation
  - May 2025- June 2026
  - Complete
- By-Law/Agreement Update
  - July 2026- January 2027
  - In progress
- Plan Development
  - June 2026- October 2026
  - In progress
- Draft Plan Review
  - October 2026- November 2026
  - Not started
- Final Plan Creation & Review
  - December 2026- January 2027
  - Not started
- New Plan Adoption & Follow-up
  - February – March 2027
    - Not started

Open Discussion

Wrap Up
Next Meeting: Tuesday December 15th 2026

THANK YOU!

The Steering Committee greatly appreciates your ongoing support!

Should you have any questions about today's discussion, please don't hesitate to contact any of the Steering Committee members noted here:

- Ian Hanney lhanney@brucecounty.on.ca
- Anne Marie Shaw annemarie.shaw@grey.ca
- Keegan Wilcox keegan.Willcox@opp.ca
- Jason Weppler j.weppler@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca
- Jane Hartley jhartley@victim-services.com

Grey Sauble CONSERVATION

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GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES
Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 1:15 p.m.

The Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) Board of Directors' meeting was held in a hybrid format of in-person at the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Administrative Office and virtually via the meeting application, WebEx.

1. Call to Order

Chair Scott Greig called the meeting to order at 1:18 p.m., welcomed all those present in person and virtually and provided a land acknowledgment.

Directors Present In-Person: Chair Scott Greig, Vice Chair Jennifer Shaw, Robert Uhrig, Tobin Day, Rick Winters, Tony Bell, Scott Mackey, Nadia Dubyk, Alex Maxwell (late)

Directors Present Virtually: NA

Regrets: Jon Farmer, Caleb Hull

Staff Present: CAO, Tim Lanthier; Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman; Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

The Directors were reminded to disclose any pecuniary interest that may arise during the course of the meeting.

3. Call for Additional Agenda Items

Nothing at this time.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Nadia Dubyk**
FA-26-075	**Seconded By:**	**Rob Uhrig**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the agenda of August 26, 2026.

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Scott Mackey**
FA-26-076	**Seconded By:**	**Rick Winters**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Full Authority minutes of July 22, 2026.

Carried

6. Business Out of Minutes

None at this time.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Tony Bell**
FA-26-077	**Seconded By:**	**Rob Uhrig**

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the August 26, 2026, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (i) Environmental Planning – Section 28 Permits – July 2026; (ii) Administration – Receipts & Expenses – July 2026; (iii) Minutes – IFAA – May 21, 2026; (iv) Recent Media Articles.

Carried

8. Business Items

i. Administration

a. 2026 Q2 Budget Report

CAO Tim Lanthier spoke with regard to the 2nd Quarter update of the 2026 Budget Report noting that the budget is proceeding well to the end of Q2 with expenditures on track at 45% spent.

It was noted that the year-end forecast is showing a surplus though it is too soon to know with certainty.

Mr. Lanthier noted that the Stewardship department is showing higher than budgeted revenues and expenditures due to a Greenbelt funding grant in the amount of $30,000.

Staff will be bringing forward a final report on the Administration Centre financing once the project is deemed complete.

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Rick Winters**
FA-26-078	**Seconded By:**	**Nadia Dubyk**

WHEREAS the Board of Directors approved the GSCA 2026 Operating and Capital Budget on January 28, 2026, by motion FA-26-014,

THAT, the Board of Directors receive staff report 030-2026 – 2026 Q2 Budget Report Back as information.

Carried

b. CAA Updates

CAO Lanthier provided a presentation to the Board regarding the details to date and the recent updates to the CAA and the consolidation of Conservation Authorities.

Mr. Lanthier noted that effective February 1, 2027, the Board of Representatives will be made up of upper tier and single tier elected officials. Mr. Lanthier provided details received from the province on how the number of members per municipality will be determined.

The province has released ERO Posting 026-0740 for comments until September 12th regarding their proposed Tiered Allocation Formula for governance representation by population.

Mr. Lanthier noted that, according to the proposed formula, Bruce County would provide one representative and Grey County would provide two representatives out of a total of 21 representatives.

It was noted that there continues to be some discussion around fine tuning the breakdown.

Vice Chair Shaw suggested Members make comment on the ERO posting.

There was general discussion around the details of the province's proposed representation by population with concern being raised about the rural versus urban representation split. Members discussed whether geography and land mass should be factored into the representation calculation.

Member Alex Maxwell joined the meeting at 1:45 pm.

Members asked with regard to the LHRCA budgets and funding, and the timeline for the transition.

Mr. Lanthier responded with an overview of the transition phase in period and noted that the first official Transition Committee meeting is to be held on September 9th.

It was reported that as of February 1st 2027, Don Goodyear would be officially installed in the role of CAO of the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority and that the first two years are expected to be a transformation period that would see substantial change and integration.

Mr. Lanthier noted that the province has also included a question with regard to ineligibility of the OPCA Board Members.

Mr. Lanthier spoke to the timeline provided by the MECP.

Mr. Lanthier noted that in the course of the pre-transition committee meetings held by representatives of the six CAs, several guiding principles were developed. These included:

- Governance and Accountability
- Service and Community Outcomes
- Watershed Management Options
- People and Organizational Transition
- Engagement and Trust

Member Dubyk asked in regard to the possibility of the local watershed committees that had been suggested. Mr. Lanthier responded that OPCA's focus is currently on the larger transition and setup of the new Board and believes that any development of Watershed Councils would come later.

Member Maxwell asked what might happen if there is a change in leadership after the next provincial election. Mr. Lanthier responded that there is no way of knowing.

Member Day asked to clarify if the Board would be providing comments to the province's ERO posting. Mr. Lanthier responded that he will submit a comment that will capture the Board's thoughts and concerns.

Member Uhrig noted that local municipalities are getting very little say and asked if there will be any mechanism for local public input.

Member Bell expressed his concern with regard to how the province has handled the consolidation and transition process, and the loss of local voices at the table.

Member Maxwell asked how small municipalities with less say or representation will lobby for resources at budget time. Mr. Lanthier responded that he believes that the LHRCA Board will fill a governance role only, operations will likely be in the hands of staff.

Chair Greig emphasized the need to have connection and communication between the Board and the local communities.

Member Day expressed support with Member Bell's concerns and noted that many local communities share these concerns. Member Dubyk echoed this support.

Member Mackey expressed concern around the Representation by Population formula.

Vice Chair Shaw noted that those Members selected to represent the upper tier municipality will have a lot of responsibility in speaking on behalf of the entire county.

Vice Chair Shaw asked if the GSCA Board would like to put forward questions around some of the costs associated with the transition and whether OPCA intends to cover those extra costs rather than the local municipalities. Mr. Lanthier noted that those costs were not to be included in GSCA's 2027 budget.

Member Maxwell expressed concern around the LHRCA's ability respond to issues and concerns of the local municipalities.

Mr. Lanthier noted that the CAA includes the option for the Minister to appoint an agricultural representative to the Board and that a similar element could be included in the comments submitted by GSCA.

Member Nadia supported altering the population formula to remove the fourth tier.

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Jennifer Shaw**
FA-26-079	**Seconded By:**	**Tobin Day**

THAT, the Board of Directors direct staff to clarify with the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency how and by whom the costs related to the Transition Committee activities, related travel, and other related costs will be funded.

Carried

c. October, November, and December Meeting Status

CAO Lanthier clarified the language and legislation regarding makeup of the Board of Directors and noted that all Members must be elected officials.

Mr. Lanthier spoke to the 2026 Board Schedule that was approved at the December 2025 meeting. This approved schedule included meetings in October and December that had been moved up to the 3rd week of the month to account for the October election and winter holidays.

Concern was raised around the December meeting and if it will be necessary in light of the election and any new members who may need to be appointed to the Board.

Mr. Lanthier will connect with the municipal clerks around when inauguration will take place.

A suggestion was made to maintain the established and approved schedule and reassess if and when needed.

General agreement to maintain the current schedule, a motion was not necessary.

9. New Business

Nothing at this time.

10. CAO's Report

CAO Lanthier updated the Board on the Arboretum Trail project noting GSCA has received several letters of support from local community groups. It was noted that the original scope of the work has been expanded to include dementia friendly elements with the goal becoming a recognized dementia friendly trail. Staff will be applying for a grant through the Community Foundation Grey Bruce and will be initiating a fundraising campaign.

Member Mackey asked for the details on what makes a dementia friendly trail. Mr. Lanthier responded that the standards include specifics around trail width, colour, benches, wayfinding signage, and reducing the possibility of getting off trail. It was noted that staff will be connecting with the appropriate agencies to help with the details.

Mr. Lanthier spoke to the Arran Lake meeting held regarding the dock and pavilion removal. In response to the community's feedback, operations staff have cleaned up the areas and built and installed a new dock structure at Arran Lake. Additionally, staff are moving up the management plan of Arran Lake up to 2027.

Vice Chair Shaw extended thanks on behalf of the community for GSCA staff's engagement and efforts to listen and act on the community's concerns in a timely manner.

Mr. Lanthier has been visiting municipal councils to present on and answer questions regarding the 2027 budget and the conservation authority amalgamation.

Upcoming Events:

- August 27 – The Glen Ribbon Cutting and Walker Community BBQ Event
- September 18th – Echoes of the Marsh Signage Reveal
- September 21st – Conservation Ontario Council Meeting
- October 1st – GSCA Administrative Centre Grand Opening and Council Appreciation Event
- October 22nd – Volunteer Appreciation Day

11. Chair's Report

Chair Greig had nothing to report.

12. Other Business

Nothing at this time.

The Board recessed at 3:01 p.m. for 10 minutes.

The Board resumed session at 3:10 p.m.

13. Resolution to Move into Closed Session

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Scott Mackey**
FA-26-080	**Seconded By:**	**Jennifer Shaw**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors proceed into closed session at 3:11 pm to discuss matters related to the following:

i. **Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Board of Directors Meeting held on July 22, 2026; and,**

ii. **To discuss an item in the Town of Arran-Elderslie related to a position, plan procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on by or on behalf of the Authority. (GSCA Administrative By-Law, Section 4 (xvii)(h)).**

AND FURTHER THAT CAO, Tim Lanthier and Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman will be present.

Carried

14. Declaration that the Board of Directors Has Resumed Open Session

Board resumed open session at 3:30 pm.

15. Resolution Approving the Closed Session Minutes – July 22, 2026

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Jennifer Shaw**
FA-26-081	**Seconded By:**	**Rick Winters**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the July 22, 2026, Closed Session minutes as presented in the closed session agenda.

Carried

16. Reporting Out of Closed

Members discussed the closed session minutes of July 22, 2026, and gave direction to staff on items that were identified and nothing else.

17. Next Full Authority Meeting

Wednesday August 26, 2026

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Scott Greig, Chair

Valerie Coleman
Administrative Assistant

Grey Sauble CONSERVATION

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GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES
Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 1:15 p.m.

The Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) Board of Directors' meeting was held in a hybrid format of in-person at the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Administrative Office and virtually via the meeting application, WebEx.

1. Call to Order

Chair Scott Greig called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m., welcomed all those present in person and virtually and provided a land acknowledgment.

Directors Present In-Person: Chair Scott Greig, Vice Chair Jennifer Shaw, Robert Uhrig, Tobin Day, Rick Winters, Scott Mackey, Nadia Dubyk, Jon Farmer, Caleb Hull, Nadia Dubyk

Directors Present Virtually: NA

Regrets: Tony Bell, Alex Maxwell

Staff Present: CAO, Tim Lanthier; Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman; Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

The Directors were reminded to disclose any pecuniary interest that may arise during the course of the meeting.

3. Call for Additional Agenda Items

Nothing at this time.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.:	**Moved By:** **Jon Farmer**
FA-26-082	**Seconded By:** **Rick Winters**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the agenda of September 23, 2026.

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Scott Mackey**
FA-26-083	**Seconded By:**	**Rob Uhrig**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Full Authority minutes of August 26, 2026.

Carried

6. Business Out of Minutes

None at this time.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Nadia Dubyk**
FA-26-084	**Seconded By:**	**Jon Farmer**

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the September 23, 2026, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (i) Environmental Planning – Section 28 Permits – August 2026; (ii) Administration – Receipts & Expenses – August 2026; (iii) Correspondence – ABCA - ERO Posting Submission; (iv) Recent Media Articles.

Carried

8. Business Items

i. Administration

a. CAA Updates

CAO Tim Lanthier spoke to recent communications and information related to the CA consolidation.

GSCA, along with the other CAs, have received the Ernst and Young RCA Snapshot report. While this report was prepared with limited data and context, GSCA presented very well and the other CAs in the new LHRCA are all in good shape moving into the transition.

GSCA submitted comments on the province's ERO posting in September related to OPCA governance and Board representation.

Mr. Lanthier and Vice Chair Shaw attended the September Transition Committee meeting on September 9th. The committee is establishing several sub-committees to take on the leg work and make recommendations to the Transition Committee.

Project Executive, Don Goodyear visited GSCA on September 11th.

Member Farmer highlighted the comment in the report that recognized over-centralization as a risk factor. Member Farmer asked if there will be a way for the public to be kept apprised of developments and decisions. Mr. Lanthier responded that the minutes of the meeting will be provided and flow through the CAs; however, the meetings will not be open to the public to attend. It was noted that the Transition Committees will not follow the same rules as the Board of Directors or Municipal Councils.

Member Uhrig asked with regard to time commitment for staff. Mr. Lanthier replied that he did not know for sure but noted that it may be substantial at times.

Member Day asked with regard to 2027 Membership Passes and if they are being addressed at the transition level in a timely manner. Mr. Lanthier responded that it was a little early in the process; however, noted that there is unlikely to be any changes for 2027. Though discussions will be had moving forward.

Member Uhrig asked with regard to the loss of institutional knowledge with the loss of current CAOs and if there has been discussion to retain or capture this resource. Mr. Lanthier noted that there have not been discussions around this as of yet.

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Jon Farmer**
FA-26-085	**Seconded By:**	**Tobin Day**

WHEREAS the Government of the Province of Ontario (the Province) has announced its proposal to proceed with the consolidation of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into nine regional conservation authorities,

AND WHEREAS GSCA is working through this process with our future Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority (LHRCA) partners,

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive Staff Report 031-2026 as information.

Carried

b. 2027 Budget

CAO Lanthier spoke to GSCA's 2027 Budget. The draft budget had been approved for circulation at the July meeting of the Board. After circulation to member municipalities, CAO Lanthier visited all Member municipal councils and noted that he did not receive any feedback or requests to change the budget as presented.

Mr. Lanthier noted that the levy dollar increase from 2026 to 2027 is $69,772 which represents a 3.36% increase in levy.

Mr. Lanthier reviewed the voting procedures.

Member Dubyk thanked Mr. Lanthier for presenting at the Grey Highlands Council.

Chair Greig thanked the staff for a reasonable and responsible budget for 2027.

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Jon Farmer**
FA-26-086	**Seconded By:**	**Nadia Dubyk**

That all participating municipalities be designated as benefiting for all projects included in the 2027 Operating Budget and the 2027 Capital Budget unless otherwise specified in the budget.

Carried

Motion No.: FA-26-087 **Moved By:** Scott Mackey **Seconded By:** Robert Uhrig

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority approves the municipal apportionment for the year 2027 for operating expenses and capital costs of $2,144,120 as required by Ontario Regulation 402/22.

Carried

Member	Yea	Nay	Absent
Bell, Tony			X
Day, Tobin	X		
Dubyk, Nadia	X		
Greig, Scott	X		
Hull, Caleb	X		
Farmer, Jon	X		
Mackey, Scott	X		
Maxwell, Alex			X
Shaw, Jennifer	X		
Uhrig, Robert	X		
Winters, Rick	X		
Total	**9**	**0**	**2**

Motion No.: FA-26-088 **Moved By:** Nadia Dubyk **Seconded By:** Jennifer Shaw

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority adopt the budget as presented for the year 2027 in the amount of $4,846,485.

Carried

Member	Yea	Nay	Absent
Bell, Tony			X
Day, Tobin	X		
Dubyk, Nadia	X		
Greig, Scott	X		
Hull, Caleb	X		
Farmer, Jon	X		
Mackey, Scott	X		
Maxwell, Alex			X
Shaw, Jennifer	X		
Uhrig, Robert	X		
Winters, Rick	X		
Total	**9**	**0**	**2**

ii. Forestry

a. Robson Lakes (Compartment 132) Forestry Tender

Senior Forestry Technician, Cam Bennet spoke to the Robson Lakes Forestry Tender results.

Mr. Bennet gave an overview of the specifics of the property to be harvested. 36 acres marked results in 34,826 board feet and 72 cords of fuelwood. Bids ranged from $25,250 to $32,000 with the high bid from page logging and landscape.

Staff recommended awarding the tender to Page Logging and Landscape with their bid of $32,000.

Chair Greig asked with regard to forecasted revenue. Mr. Bennet responded that the tenders came in over staff's estimates.

Motion No.:	**Moved By:** **Scott Mackey**
FA-26-089	**Seconded By:** **Rick Winters**

WHEREAS Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) owns and manages over 11,300 hectares (28,000 acres) of land comprised of 207 individual properties organized into 79 groupings;

AND WHEREAS, GSCA manages nearly 5,260 hectares (13,000 acres) of forested area to offset the operating expenses of the Forestry department;

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors award the following forestry tender:

Sawlog and Fuelwood tender (GSC-26-01) for Robson Lakes Management Area – Compartment 132 – to Page Logging and Landscape for their total bid of $32,000, subject to signing the agreement.

Carried

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iii. Conservation Lands

a. Land Acquisition – The Glen Quarry

CAO Lanthier spoke to GSCA's acquisition of a parcel of land bordering GSCA's Glen property from Walker Aggregates.

Mr. Lanthier gave a brief overview of the details behind the purchase of the property. It was noted that this property provides the opportunity to choose what the property will be used for and that staff will be seeking comments from the public on future use. In the meantime, the property will be closed to the public and posted "no trespassing" under the Trespass to Properties Act.

Member Farmer asked what the timeline might look like. Mr. Lanthier responded that it is too early to determine; however, noted that the property use could be phased in over time

Member Uhrig asked what the property might be called. Mr. Lanthier noted that nothing has been decided as of yet.

Member Hull asked with regard to the provinces directive and how that worked with this property. GSCA staff reached out to OPCA and provided mapping, previous motions, and the original agreement with Sutherland Construction. With that in hand, OPCA approved finalizing the acquisition.

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Motion No.:	**Moved By:** **Scott Mackey**
FA-26-090	**Seconded By:** **Rick Winters**

WHEREAS Section 21(1)(c) of the Conservation Authorities Act provides GSCA with the power to purchase or otherwise acquire land,

AND WHEREAS the GSCA has the irrevocable option to purchase a new parcel of land for one dollar ($1.00),

AND WHEREAS the GSCA Board of Directors provided direction to Staff to acquire this property through Board Resolution FA-24-083 (September 2024),

AND WHEREAS GSCA Staff have cleared this acquisition with the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA),

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors direct the CAO to execute the Agreement of Purchase and Sale with Walker Aggregates Inc for the acquisition of this property.

Carried

9. New Business

Nothing at this time.

10. CAO's Report

CAO Lanthier reviewed past and upcoming events for GSCA.

- August 27th Walkers Aggregates held a ribbon cutting at The Glen property.
- September 18th Echoes of the Marsh sign unveiling event and Turtle Stewardship volunteer appreciation.
- September 18th GSCA's Planning and the Source Water Protection departments co-presented to attendees of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute conference on karst topography, leading a hike at GSCA's Wodehouse property.
- September 21st was the CO Council meeting.
- October 1st GSCA hosting a ribbon cutting for the Administrative Centre.
- October 8th is the Bruce Grey Forest Festival.
- October 21st will be the GSCA Board of Directors meeting.
- October 22nd GSCA will be hosting their Volunteer Appreciation Event at the Administration Centre.

Member Farmer asked if there are any update on how Conservation Ontario's role will look like moving forward. Mr. Lanthier noted that CO is its own independent entity, however; should OPCA direct RCAs to cease paying levy to CO, this would impact CO's ability to continue. It was noted that CO does fill roles that OPCA does not, such as federal lobbying, conservation programs and education and training.

Member Uhrig noted that CO may still have a role in lobbying the province and OPCA.

11. Chair's Report

Chair Greig had nothing to report at the time.

12. Other Business

Nothing at this time.

13. Resolution to Move into Closed Session

Motion No.:	**Moved By:**	**Robert Uhrig**
FA-26-091	**Seconded By:**	**Scott Mackey**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors proceed into closed session at 2:08 pm to discuss matters related to the following:

i. **Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Board of Directors Meeting held on August 26, 2026; and,**

ii. **CAO Performance Review – closed as it relates to personal matters about an identifiable individual including Authority directors or Authority employees (GSCA Administrative By-Law, Section 4 (xvi)(b)); and,**

iii. **An item related to a property in the City of Owen Sound - closed as it relates to items of commercial significance, such as but not limited to a proposed or pending acquisition of real property for Authority purposes, internal reserve bid amounts, leases and property sales and a position, plan procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the Authority. (GSCA Administrative By-Law, Section 4 (xvi)(g)(h)); and,**

iv. **An item related to LHRCA Transition Committee activities – closed as it relates to position, plan procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the Authority. (GSCA Administrative By-Law, Section 4 (xvi)(h).**

AND FURTHER THAT CAO, Tim Lanthier and Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman will be present.

Carried

14. Declaration that the Board of Directors Has Resumed Open Session

Board resumed open session at 4:15 pm.

15. Resolution Approving the Closed Session Minutes – August 26, 2026

Motion No.:	**Moved By:** **Rick Winters**
FA-26-092	**Seconded By:** **Tobin Day**

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the August 26, 2026, Closed Session minutes as presented in the closed session agenda.

Carried

16. Reporting Out of Closed

Members discussed the closed session minutes of August 26, 2026, and gave direction to staff on items that were identified and nothing else.

17. Next Full Authority Meeting

Wednesday October 21, 2026

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Scott Greig, Chair

Valerie Coleman
Administrative Assistant

OWEN SOUND HOUSING COMPANY LIMITED
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 2026
THE THOMSON AMENITY ROOM

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors held Monday, October 5, 2026 at The Thomson Amenity Room, Owen Sound.

PRESENT: Chair Ruth Lovell Stanners, Vice Chair Rod Wyatt, Directors Selwyn Hicks, Marianne Williams and Glen Henry, City Representative Scott Greig, Executive Director Shari Huber

ABSENT: None

GUEST: Tim Lychy

COMMENCEMENT: 10:25 am

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

CLOSED MEETING: None

REGULAR MEETING:
MOVED BY: Henry
SECONDED BY: Williams

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting held September 14, 2026 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

BUSINESS FROM MINUTES: Huber circulated approved 2027 rental rates for affordable and full price rentals.

CHAIR: Chair welcomed Tim Lychy to the meeting.

SECRETARY: None

FINANCE:
MOVED BY: Williams
SECONDED BY: Wyatt

THAT Operating Voucher #302 in the amount of $117,529.48 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:	None
OTHER BUSINESS:	None
NEXT REGULAR MEETING:	Monday, November 2, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.
ADJOURN:	The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. by Chair.

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Ruth Lovell Stanners, Chair Rod Wyatt, Vice Chair

OWEN SOUND HOUSING COMPANY LIMITED
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 2026

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors held Monday, October 5, 2026 at The Thomson Amenity Room, Owen Sound.

PRESENT: Chair Ruth Lovell Stanners, Vice Chair Rod Wyatt, Treasurer Marianne Williams, Directors Selwyn Hicks, Scott Greig and Glen Henry, Executive Director Shari Huber

REGRETS: None

GUEST: Tim Lychy

COMMENCEMENT 10:10 am

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: No declarations of pecuniary interests.

MINUTES OF MEETING:

MOVED BY: Wyatt
SECONDED BY: Williams

TO appove Annual Minutes of October 21, 2025 as presented.

CARRIED

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS: The Chair asked for nominations from the floor.

MOVED BY: Henry
SECONDED BY: Hicks

THAT Rod Wyatt be elected as director of the Corporation for a three-year term.

CARRIED

MOVED BY: Hicks
SECONDED BY: Greig

THAT Marianne Williams be elected as director of the Corporation for a three-year term.

CARRIED

MOVED BY: Wyatt
SECONDED BY: Williams

THAT Glen Henry be elected as director of the Corporation for a three-year term.

CARRIED

MOVED BY: Williams
SECONDED BY: Wyatt

THAT Scott Greig be elected as director of the Corporation for a three-year term.

CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS: Chair asked for nominations.

MOVED BY: Wyatt
SECONDED BY: Williams

THAT Ruth Lovell Stanners be appointed Chair.

CARRIED

MOVED BY: Greig
SECONDED BY: Williams

THAT Rod Wyatt be appointed Vice Chair.

CARRIED

MOVED BY: Greig
SECONDED BY: Henry

THAT Marianne Williams be appointed Secretary-Treasurer.

CARRIED

BOARD RECRUITMENT: Tabled to next Governance Committee meeting.

COMMITTEES: Tabled to next regular meeting of Board.

AUDITOR:	MOVED BY:	Greig
	SECONDED BY:	Wyatt

TO appoint BakerTilly as the Corporation's Auditor for the 2027 fiscal year.

CARRIED

LAWYER:	MOVED BY:	Wyatt
	SECONDED BY:	Henry

TO appoint Middlebro' & Stevens as the Corporation's solicitor.

CARRIED

SIGNING OFFICERS:	MOVED BY:	Williams
	SECONDED BY:	Henry

THAT any two of the following positions be authorized to sign for the Corporation: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Executive Director.

CARRIED

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:	MOVED BY:	Williams
	SECONDED BY:	Greig

TO re-affirm compliance of rules relating to conflict of interest declaration.

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIALITY & PRIVACY:	MOVED BY:	Greig
	SECONDED BY:	Hicks

TO confirm compliance with the Corporation's Confidentiality and Privacy policy as required.

CARRIED

ACCESSIBILITY POLICY: Tabled to next regular meeting of Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

ADJOURN: Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Ruth Lovell Stanners, Chair

Rod Wyatt, Vice Chair

Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library Board
Minutes

July 16, 2026 6:00 p.m.
Library Board Room

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Thomas, Chair (City of Owen Sound)
David Adair (City of Owen Sound)
Tobin Day, (Township of Georgian Bluffs, Councillor)
Deborah Eaton (City of Owen Sound)
Frank Emptage (Meaford Public Library)
Marion Koepke (City of Owen Sound, Councillor)
Elizabeth Thompson (Township of Chatsworth, Councillor)
Janet Walker (City of Owen Sound)

MEMBERS ABSENT/REGRETS:

Rosemary Buchanan, Vice-Chair (Township of Georgian Bluffs)

STAFF PRESENT:

Tim Nicholls Harrison, CEO
Nadia Danyluk, Deputy Chief Librarian
Lindsey Harris, Administrative & Facilities Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dale Albrecht, Technical Services Manager

COMMENCEMENT: 6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Richard Thomas, Chair, at 6:00 p.m.

2. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

None

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None

4. PRESENTATION

Dale Albrecht, Technical Services Manager
Presentation on Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit (VOLT)

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

13-26 Moved by Frank Emptage THAT the minutes of the March 26, 2026 meeting of the Library Board be approved as presented.

Carried.

6. DEPUTATIONS/QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Harris reported that there were no items of correspondence circulated in the package.

8. REPORTS AND MATTERS TABLED

7.1 Board Chair's Report

No report.

7.2. CEO's Report

"I think a fun piece of library trivia is that most libraries don't have enough space for all the books, movies, magazines, etc. that they own. We depend on a portion of it being in your homes at any given time. So, in a way, we are all the library." – Edward Kristan

7.2.1. Library Service Index: Please see the attached performance report.

7.2.2. Key Statistics: Our library membership has improved to 12,006, approximately 2% more than at the same time last year. In May, we had 14,837 library visits and circulated 30,382 materials. Patrons used an additional 1,847 materials within the library during the month. There were 5,694 uses of technology. Our online outreach totaled 72,243. The library provided information assistance 2,584 times. Our patron engagement statistics for May totaled 4,134.

7.2.3. Savings to Patrons: We calculate the value of the physical materials that our members borrow. This is printed on the patron's receipt when they check out at the circulation desk. During the month of May, our members as a community saved a total of $387,087 by borrowing from the library. The total savings for the first five months of 2026 were $2,023,087. These numbers do not include the value of the use of e-resources.

7.2.4. Staff Anniversaries: Congratulations to Maria Bertrand, Shauna Doyle, Diana Zarzosa, Rebecca Steer, Cindy Wardrop, Audrey Kilgour and Judah Hoekstra on their work anniversaries. We thank them for contributing their time, effort, skills and talents.

Maria Bertrand	ALC	26 years
Shauna Doyle	Public Services	13 years
Diana Zarzosa	ALC	7 years
Rebecca Steer	Public Services	7 years
Cindy Wardrop	Public Services	6 years
Audrey Kilgour	Technical Services	2 years
Judah Hoekstra	Public Services	2 years

7.2.5. Current Staffing Challenges: Staff are commended for their significant efforts to deliver the expected level of quality services to our community. This continues to be challenging. Municipal funding for the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Library is significantly lower than similar sized public libraries in Ontario.

7.2.6. Summer Student Program: We are pleased to have Mackenna Galbraith and River Emonts as our Summer Programs Co-ordinator. They started in May and will be with us until August 21st. We were fortunate to receive funding from Canada Summer Jobs and Young Canada Works. Special thanks to Nadia Danyluk for skillfully working through the applicable employment grants.

7.2.7. Salary & Benefits Review: In 2024, when the City of Owen Sound adopted a new salary grid, the Library was not included in the process. Previously, we had participated and been billed separately for our portion of the work. In 2025, the Library Board approved hiring Gallagher Benefit Services Group, the company that assisted the City, to review our salary grid for pay equity reasons. Nadia Danyluk and Lindsey Harris took the lead for us on this project.

A comparator group of eleven (11) municipal organizations was used to inform the competitive market: Bruce County Public Library, City of Owen Sound, East Gwillimbury Public Library, Grey County, Orillia Public Library, St. Thomas Public Library, Stouffville Library, Stratford Public Library, The Literacy Group, Timmins Public Library and Woodstock Public Library. The Consultant solicited and collated salary, job and organizational information from the comparators. Job matching was completed based on known qualifications, scope of responsibilities, and organizational hierarchy.

The report outlines the process used to complete the internal equity, pay equity and market analysis, and to develop a recommended salary grid for all Library positions. Gallagher recommends a proposed salary grid aligned with the Library's current pay policy target of the 55th percentile of the market. Under this approach and the implementation of the Gallagher Job Evaluation Plan results there will now be thirteen (13) pay bands each with six (6) steps and 4% between each step.

The new Salary Grid would be implemented using a "closest to step rate" placement approach for aligning an employee onto the new grid and continuing with the current anniversary date step increase practice. This approach would place an employee at a step that is closest to but not less than their current rate of pay.

Upon implementing, the Library will be able to demonstrate pay equity compliance for the non-union employees that meets the requirements of the Pay Equity Act. The pay equity analysis must be maintained pursuant to the legislation.

14-26 Moved by Elizabeth Thompson THAT the Library Board direct the Chief Executive Officer to implement the new Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library salary grid developed by Gallagher Benefit Services Group, retroactive to January 1st, 2026. Carried.

7.2.8. Staff Professional Development - De-escalation Strategies: On June 15th, we hosted a PD workshop with Rebecca Higgins on *Supportive Communication and De-escalation Skills for Library Workers*. We were pleased to host neighbouring staff from Meaford, West Grey and Hanover Public Libraries.

7.2.9. Community Outreach / Professional Development - Artificial Intelligence: During 2026, Library staff had the opportunity to access online

training focussed on an introductory look at AI. Then, on June 4th, we hosted a community workshop at the Library, we partnered with Dr. Ainslie Harris from Zivo - AI Literacy for Everyone, an AI Literacy Platform based out of Muskoka, to offer this workshop to community groups, government leaders, and small business owners. We ensured that our municipal partners were invited. Special thanks to Dale Albrecht for arranging and co-ordinating this professional development opportunity for both our staff and the larger community.

7.2.10. Union Library Agreement - 5 Year Review: Representatives from each Municipality and Library Board have been invited to a meeting on September 10th to review the Agreement in terms of its effectiveness, achievements, its next five years, and its extension beyond 2031. Please note that the current Union Library Agreement is not under negotiation at this time.

7.2.11. Library Service Agreement – Meaford Public Library: According to the current agreement, "*The terms of this Library Services Agreement may be extended for a minimum of two additional years, provided that the Union Public Library Board receives a request for extension from the Meaford Public Library Board, on or before September 30, 2026*".

We received correspondence on May 25th from the Meaford Public Library Board that they would like to extend the agreement for two years. They have suggested a few amendments to reflect our current procedures. The costing and percentages need to be calculated using the membership statistics from August (2022-2026). So, we anticipate being able to finalize the 2027-2028 agreement in September.

7.2.12. Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit: In the past few years, Libraries in Ontario have been utilizing VOLT (https://resources.olservice.ca/volt) to calculate a SROI - Social Return on Investment. Last year staff began the process of working through the calculations utilizing 2024 data. It helped us establish a starting snapshot for us and to gain some comfort with the process. We wanted to ensure that we captured the needed data in 2025.

Our 2025 VOLT snapshot will be shared with the Library Board at our July meeting. Special thanks to Dale Albrecht for diving into VOLT to make it accessible for all of us. Her skills and knowledge have been vital to the success of this project.

The VOLT statistics will be shared with our funders in the Fall as part of our budget process. We hope that it will be part of the ongoing discussion about the value of the library to our library members and municipal funders.

7.2.13. Carnegie Refresh Project Update: Unfortunately, it has become necessary to postpone the planned work in Carnegie from this fall until the new year. We will be working with City of Owen Sound to achieve the new timelines.

7.2.14. Parking Concerns: On May 27th, Owen Sound City Council made changes to the parking outside the library and the TOM by designating two spots as short-term parking available for less than 30 minutes. I attended Council and spoke briefly in the public session about our parking challenges. Library patrons have told us in the past that better parking would assist them with their library visits. Special thanks to Councillor Koepke for supporting the library request. Council decided to allow two new short term parking spaces and to review the topic at a future time. My three minute presentation occurs at about 26:15 and the Council discussion concerning parking is at 1:38:15 in this video: https://pub-owensound.escribemeetings.com/Players/ISIStandAlonePlayer.aspx?Id=28ff4407-1662-4522-ab48-dbb4e2f7f5a7

https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/short-term-parking-going-in-near-owen-sound-library-art-gallery

7.2.15. Library Insurance: The City of Owen Sound has requested that the Library obtain our own general liability insurance policy for the upcoming term (2027). This conversation was initiated due to a change in insurance brokers for the City, who pointed out some potential risks for the City by sharing insurance, as well as some downsides to the Library for being part of the City's policy. We will be working with the City and their insurance provider this fall to determine the costs.

7.2.16. Municipal Elections and the Library: Interested members of the public have begun to file their candidacy for the October 26th municipal elections. Public Libraries in Ontario are overseen by the Public Libraries Act which outlines the relationship between municipalities and their libraries. The current Library Board remains constituted until the newly elected councillors select and appoint their library representatives.

During the election, the Library is a location that the public may visit to access both information about the election and specific campaign literature of the candidates. The Library's role is outlined in our **OSNGUPL Policy #L 32**, "*The Library must act and appear to act in a non-partisan way at all times, especially during elections, while supporting the democratic process, freedom of expression and informed discussion on political issues. This policy applies to municipal, provincial and federal elections*."

We are assembling an information package about the Library structure, governance, programs, services and finances. These documents will be shared with the clerks of the municipalities of Chatsworth, Georgian Bluffs and Owen Sound, so that all candidates receive the same information. This information will also be shared with Meaford Public Library. We will also be asking the clerks to share information about library resources available to all candidates.

7.2.17. All Candidates Tour of the Library: The Library will be hosting a tour and presentation for municipal candidates on Saturday, September 19th. To assist with their busy schedules, they will be able to choose between sessions at 1:30 p.m. in the afternoon and 7:00 p.m. in the evening.

7.2.18. Kiwanis Dolly Parton Imagination Library Project: In May of 2024, I attended a presentation of the Kiwanis Club of Owen Sound. Angello Ciardello spoke about the Kiwanis work with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Dedicated to inspiring a love of reading, the program provides free books to children monthly from birth to age five.

The Kiwanis Club of Owen Sound has been working to set up a local chapter of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. We are excited about the opportunity for the Library to partner with the Kiwanis and other local organizations to see the program available to community members in our service area. More meetings are planned in the fall so that the initiative can begin locally in 2027.

7.2.19. Community Foundation Endowment: We were pleased to receive $7,679.00 from our endowment fund with the Community Foundation Grey Bruce. The fund is one way that library supporters are able to support the Library.

15-26 Moved by Elizabeth Thompson THAT the Library Board acknowledge receipt of a grant in lieu of interest, in the amount of $7,679.00, from the Community Foundation Grey Bruce and further,
THAT the funds are deposited in the Library Trust and Donations Reserve Fund until required. Carried.

7.2.20. Planned Giving Allocation from Mabel Richardson Foundation: We are pleased to learn that we have received $1,205.20 from the Mabel Richardson Foundation. The funds were deposited as per the Donation Allocation Policy.

16-26 Moved by Elizabeth Thompson THAT the Library Board extend its sincere appreciation to The Mabel Richardson Foundation for the continued financial support. Carried.

7.2.21. Sincere Thanks to Our Gardening Community: We are grateful for the many members of our gardening community that assist the library. Members of the Georgian Bay Garden Club have generously taken care of the planters at the front of the library for many years. Members of the *Grey County Master Gardeners* have been *Gardeners in Residence* here delivering superb workshops on many related topics. Members of both groups have been active in our Seedy Saturday programs for years. Some of these same community members and others have helped with pop-up gardening "bees" supported by Pollinate Owen Sound. We are indeed, so fortunate to benefit from the kindness and generosity of so many.
7.2.22. The Library Supports Cycling: On the southside of the library building is our bicycle repair station with ten attached tools for basic maintenance and flat repair. We have an air pump available inside the library. Need to rehydrate? There are two water bottle refilling stations inside the library. Bicycle locks can be borrowed with your library card for while you are at the library. In May, we were pleased to have staff from Bikeface Cycling share repair and maintenance strategies.
7.2.23. Safe & Sound Donation Drop-Off: We are pleased to continue to assist members of the public wishing to donate items to Safe & Sound. Our open hours may make it easier for donations. They are looking for clothing, hygiene items, kitchen items, cleaning items, tech tools, and activities. While many of the donations can be used, the hygiene and cleaning items should be new. Donations can be given to staff at the circulation desk and we will contact Safe n Sound whenever the bin is getting full.
7.2.24. Repair Café at the Library: In March, we celebrated the second anniversary of the Repair Café. This program would not be possible without the wonderful partnership with the Georgian Bluffs Climate Action Team. Recently, the volunteers took on a project to fix, restore, and rejuvenate over 33 sewing machines for the Arts and Crafts program this year at OSDSS. Each year, there can be almost 180 students in the program! The staff and students at OSDSS are incredibly grateful Thanks to Murray, Ann, and Steve, and all volunteers of the Repair Café!

7.2.25. Sally Carruthers – Wake / Celebration of Life / Come & Go Tea: Friends and family celebrated the life of Sally Carruthers on May 16 at the Library. Sally, a longtime staff member was appreciated by many library patrons for her kindness, good humour and book recommendations. Peace and respect Sally!

7.2.26. OPEN Team - Pollinator Habitat Update: Our pollinator habitat projects continue. On May 30th, we met at the Community Waterfront Heritage Centre for a planting bee. Thanks to the City of Owen Sound for helping with this project.

7.2.27. Owen Sound Mini Con 2026: The 14th Annual Owen Sound Mini Con, held on Saturday, May 2nd, was a great success. It is wonderful to see so many children, teens and parents enjoying the library. Special thanks to all the library staff involved for your efforts and creativity!

https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/mini-con-at-owen-sound-library-to-return-for-14th-year

https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/passionate-owen-sound-mini-con-fans-free-to-be-who-they-want-to-be

7.2.28. Library Community Art Exhibit – May and June: Through May and June, the Library Community Art Exhibit hosted the Owen Sound Camera Club's "Spring" photos. As one of the oldest camera clubs in Ontario, they have been meeting to share their love of photography for over 65 years!

7.2.29. Library Outreach - Senior Trade Show: On May 13th Cvitka Marun and Sharon Wagenaar staffed our booth at the 3rd Annual Senior Trade Show at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Centre. They had many people interested in getting a library membership and signing up for our free Libby Overdrive audiobook and eReader services

7.2.30. Pride Events: Library Staff were pleased to be part of the community celebrating Grey Bruce Pride on June 13th. It was wonderful to participate in this event and see members and allies of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community come together in a celebration of love and acceptance.

https://www.facebook.com/OSNGUPL/posts/1461003642732532

During June, we were pleased to have our amazing inflatable rainbow outside of the library. The rainbow was a gift from friends and family of Bruce Hall (Renewed Computers) when he passed away. We are honoured to remember Bruce and share the rainbow with the community.

7.2.31. Grey Bruce Youth Film Festival: The films were screened on June 17th at Galaxy Cinemas. Congratulations our wonderful filmmakers who shared their creativity with the community. First place in the Junior Category (Grades 7-9) went to "The Other Side of the Screen" created by Loralei Nielsen, Grace Schnieder, & Charlotte Hill. First place in the Senior Category (Grades 10-12) went to "Fountain Finders" created by Haidyn Ruthven. "A Day in the Life of a Pencil" by Madelyn Nowack took home the People's Choice Award!

This event is coordinated by the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library, and is enabled through the participation and sponsorship of Galaxy Cinemas, Richard Thomas Communications, Rogers TV Grey County, the Meaford International Film Festival (MIFF), the Fabulous Festival of Fringe Film in Durham, Bruce County Public Library, Grey Highlands Public Library, Hanover Public Library, Meaford Public Library, Southgate Public Library and the West Grey Public Library. Thanks to Katie McLeish for masterfully bringing this event together again!

7.2.32. Library Outreach – Harrison Park Seniors: On June 25th, Shauna Doyle and I attended the Harrison Park Seniors Centre and presented about library resources and services. We shared information about our Library of Things and our Online Resources and answered questions.
7.2.33. Library Outreach – Canada Day: Nadia Danyluk, Cassie Wood, Mackenna Galbraith and River Emonts participated in Canada Celebrations with the City of Owen Sound. Our library booth offered crafts and outdoor games including plinko. Staff shared information about summer reading club, library programs and services and memberships.
7.2.34. Library Outreach - Hottest Street Sale: Cvitka Marun, Shauna Doyle and I participated in the Hottest Street Sale downtown on July 11th. We signed up new members, renewed memberships, answered tech questions and gave book recommendations. Thanks to the River District for making this great event happen in our community!
7.2.35. Languages at the Library: Currently, we have conversational language groups for French and German that meet at the library. The sessions are hosted by volunteer community members that wanted to make this opportunity available for our patrons. We are always open to adding other languages if there is interest.
7.2.36. Games at the Library: Interested in playing Scrabble, Chess or Mahjong? Beginners are always welcome. There is drop-in Scrabble on Friday afternoons. There is drop-in Chess on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 – 8:30 with the Owen Sound Chess Club. There will be Mahjong at the Library on Saturday, July 25th from noon to 2 pm. Library patrons can borrow board games and jigsaw puzzles. Usually there is a jigsaw puzzle out on the main floor and some colouring pages as well. Check out the Library!
7.2.37. Adult Learning Centres Update: The audit for the 2025-26 funding year has been completed. The appropriate documents have been submitted to the Ministry. Staff are working on some new initiatives and partnerships. June was graduation time for some of the adult students that are completing high school courses with the Bluewater School Board. We congratulate everyone on their successful efforts!
7.2.38. Poet Laureate Update: Owen Sound Poet Laureate Jennifer Frankum has participated in a variety of community events since the start of her term. We will be planning some sessions for the fall. The Poet Laureate's honorarium and other expenses for the current term are covered by donations from Phillip Faulkner, Pat Lorenzo and David Madill, CFP of BMO Nesbitt Burns.
7.2.39. ArtWalk @ the Library: Saturday, June 27th was full of activity at the library. We participated in the local community ArtWalk with fun craft activities, a self-paced tour of the art at the library. Thanks to the Ginger Press for organizing and championing this event.
7.2.40. Art Banners: The *Art Banners* in the Carnegie Wing have been removed for the summer. The Project is now co-ordinated by the Owen Sound Community Artist Studio Tour and their Urban Easel program, https://osstudiotour.ca/urban-easel/. It is an annual street art exhibition showcasing the works of local artists on street banners displayed along Owen Sound's harbour walkway and behind city hall. Thanks to Ben Lyons for making the banner exhibit look so amazing.

7.2.41. TD Summer Reading Club: We celebrated the start of the TD Summer Reading Club on June 27th with crafts, refreshments and fun activities! Youth (birth to grade 12) can register in Youth Services. When registering, you'll receive your own tracking notebook, sticker sheet, and make a special Summer Reading button. Set a personal goal for how many books you want to read this summer and record the titles of the books that you read in your tracking notebook. Bring your notebook when you visit the Library, and win a PRIZE when you reach your reading goal!
7.2.42. Adult Summer Reading Challenge: Take a *Road Trip Across Canada* without leaving home with our Adult Summer Reading Challenge! Save on gas this summer by reading or listening to 10 books in 10 different categories by Canadian authors and/or set in Canadian locations. Every category read earns a ballot for the monthly draws! Drop by the Information Desk, to pick up your bookmark and begin your reading journey. Challenge runs to August 31.
7.2.43. Story Tent: Join us for summertime early literacy and fun at Story Tent held in the library this summer. For children ages 0-6 and their caregivers. Story Tent will be in the auditorium. Drop-in Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:30.
7.2.44: Wacky Wednesdays: are back! Join us for free weekly programs for kids in Grades 1-5 throughout the summer.
https://owensound.libcal.com/calendar?cid=8473&t=d&d=0000-00-00&cal%5B%5D=8473&ct%5B%5D=37150
7.2.45. Library Community Art Exhibit – July & August: The library is pleased to welcome local artist Marie Knapp to the Community Art Exhibit! Marie has been developing her acrylic painting skills for more than 3 years. Her love of connecting to nature and her joy of being creative is evident in her acrylic paintings. Marie's art will be on display on the main level.
7.2.46. Doors Open: The library is pleased to participate in Doors Open on July 18th. Visitors to the library will be able to take a self-paced tour of the library and see the architectural highlights and art featured in the building.
7.2.47. Fall Holiday Closures: Though the library will be closed on the dates listed below, library patrons will still have access to our online resources. A limited number of staff will be available on the morning of November 11th, to support the usual community Remembrance Day needs, but regular library services will be unavailable.

- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Wednesday, September 30th
- Thanksgiving Day on Monday, October 12th
- Remembrance Day on Wednesday, November 11th

7.2.48. Local Author Book Fair: The Library is hosting a book fair, and we are looking for authors with a Grey or Bruce County connection to showcase their books. The fair will run from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm on Friday, October 24th to Saturday, October 25th. More information and applications can be found at https://osngupl.ca/osngupl-local-author-book-fair/
7.2.49. Library Newsletter and Upcoming Programs: Check out the many programs, services and resources featured in our newsletter, https://www.osngupl.ca/news- programs/library-news/. For a comprehensive schedule and information about upcoming programs, please visit https://owensound.libcal.com/calendar.

7.2.50. Final Comments:

"Everything about our library is perfect! Love the building, the staff, the unbelievably easy way to find good reads, info, etc.! And extra programs, like Repair Cafe, library of things. Thank you for how well you do your thing."

– S.B. (Patron feedback)

I love sharing comments from our library members and patrons. Library staff appreciate the kind words and support. Whether in-person or online, they are focused on keeping information at your fingertips. Staff are challenged daily to meet the information, education, entertainment, employment and business needs of our twelve thousand library members and others in our community too. It is a pleasure to enter the building daily, knowing that we are all doing our best to make every visitor to the library feel welcome and helped. I truly appreciate the staff commitment and drive to provide exemplary customer service to our public. Summer is here. There's a lot happening at the library. Check us out!

Additional items:

None

17-26 Moved by Frank Emptage THAT the Library Board approve the CEO's Report as presented. Carried.

7.3 Financial Committee Report

7.3.1 Statements and Accounts:

18-26 Moved by Elizabeth Thompson THAT the Library's and Adult Learning Centre's Financial Statements to May 31, 2026 be received as information. Carried.

7.3.2 Adult Learning Centre Audit:

19-26 Moved by Elizabeth Thompson THAT the Library Board accepts the Adult Learning Centre's audited Financial Information for the year ended March 31, 2026 as prepared by MNP LLP. Carried

20-26 Moved by Elizabeth Thompson THAT the Library Board authorize the transfer of $16,388.39 from the Contingency Fund to the Adult Learning Centre's 2025-2026 to offset the operating deficit. Carried.

21-26 Moved by Elizabeth Thompson THAT the Library Board approve the transfer of the Adult Learning Centre's 2025–2026 Ministry Funds of $5,682.00 to the 2026-2027 budget. Carried.

7.4 Personnel Committee Report

No report.

7.5 Property/Building Committee Report

No report.

7.6 Library Foundation Committee Report
No report.

7.7 Policies and Bylaws Committee Report
No report.

7.8 Ontario Library Service Board Assembly Report
Deborah Eaton reported on the spring meeting that took place in May.

7.9 Poet Laureate/Words Aloud Committee Report
No report.

8 OTHER BUSINESS
None

9 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
None

10 RESOLUTION TO MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION – STRUCK

11 DECLARATION TO MOVE TO THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING – STRUCK

12 NEXT MEETING: The next Regular Board meeting to be held Thursday April 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library Auditorium.

13 ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:48 p.m.



Chair



Secretary

Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library Board
Minutes

September 24, 2026 6:00 p.m.
Library Auditorium

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Thomas, Chair (City of Owen Sound)
Rosemary Buchanan, Vice-Chair (Township of Georgian Bluffs)
David Adair (City of Owen Sound)
Tobin Day (Township of Georgian Bluffs, Councillor)
Deborah Eaton (City of Owen Sound)
Frank Emptage (Meaford Public Library)
Marion Koepke (City of Owen Sound, Councillor)
Elizabeth Thompson (Township of Chatsworth, Councillor)

MEMBERS ABSENT/REGRETS:

Janet Walker (City of Owen Sound)

STAFF PRESENT:

Tim Nicholls Harrison, CEO
Nadia Danyluk, Deputy Chief Librarian
Lindsey Harris, Administrative & Facilities Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

None

COMMENCEMENT: 6:22 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Richard Thomas, Chair, at 6:22 p.m.

2. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

None

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

26-26 Moved by Frank Emptage THAT the minutes of the July 16, 2026 meeting of the Library Board be approved as presented.

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS/QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Harris reported that there were no items of correspondence circulated in the package.

7. REPORTS AND MATTERS TABLED

7.1 Board Chair's Report

No report.

Councillor Elizabeth Thompson entered the meeting.

7.2. CEO's Report

"I was rescued by librarians everywhere I went. Librarians saved my internal life."
"Your profession is the greatest profession… You democratize knowledge. Nothing on earth is more important." - Gloria Steinem

7.2.1. Library Service Index and *August at a Glance*: Please see the attached performance report and infographic.

7.2.2. Key Statistics: Library membership increased to 11,986, which is 150 more than at the same time last year. In August, we had 15,492 library visits and circulated 34,515 materials. Patrons used an additional 2,221 materials within the library during the month. There were 5,267 uses of technology. Our online outreach totaled 87,139. The library provided information assistance 2,616 times.

7.2.3. Savings to Patrons: The value of the physical materials that our library members borrow on a visit is shared, now, on their receipt which is printed at the main circulation desk. During the month of August, our library members as a community saved a total of $469,478 by borrowing from the library. The total for 2026, so far, is $3,397,192.

7.2.4. Staff Anniversaries: We extend congratulations to the following staff members on their work anniversaries. We thank them for their time, effort, skills and talents!

Tim Nicholls Harrison	Admin	38 years
Christina Mollon	Adult Learning Services	25 years
Sharon Wagenaar	Public Services	22 years
Lindsey Harris	Admin	19 years
Dale Albrecht	Technical Services	15 years
Shauna Doyle	Public Services	13 years
Renata Libicz	Public Services	9 years
Cvitka Marun	Public Services	9 years
Rebecca Steer	Public Services	7 years
Sarah Chamberlain	Youth Services	6 years
Arwen Greenwood	Public Services	6 years
Ben Lyons	Admin	6 years

Cassie Wood	Youth Services	6 years
Lindsay Schlonies	Public Services	4 years
Katie Skinner	Adult Learning Services	3 years
Katherine Scott	Adult Learning Services	2 years

7.2.5. Appreciation for Our Summer Student: We'd like to thank Mackenna Galbraith and River Emonts for all their help this summer. We would be challenged to provide the quantity and quality of summer programming that happens at the library without their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication. We appreciate the funding support that we received for from Canada Summer Jobs and Young Canada Works for these summer positions. We wish River and Mackenna the very best with their academic pursuits this fall.

7.2.6. TD Summer Reading Program: 2026 was a record year! Thanks to the 356 library members in our TD Summer Reading Club! Together we logged 8739 books! Congratulations! Both numbers are the highest in the history of summer reading at the library, surpassing the all-time numbers achieved last summer. Special thanks to our Youth Services staff and our summer students for making the summer reading program such a success.

7.2.7. Fall Holiday Closures: Though the library will be closed on the dates listed below, library patrons will still have access to our online resources. A limited number of staff will be available on the morning of November 11th, to support the usual community Remembrance Day needs, but regular library services will be unavailable.

- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Wednesday, September 30th
- Thanksgiving Day on Monday, October 12th
- Remembrance Day on Wednesday, November 11th

7.2.8. Union Library Agreement - 5 Year Review: Representatives from Chatsworth, Georgian Bluffs, Owen Sound and the Library Board attended a meeting on September 10th to review the Agreement. The budgeting process for 2027-2031 will use the 2022-2026 percentage breakdown of library memberships which is: 60% from the City of Owen Sound, 22.6% from Georgian Bluffs and 9.2% from Chatsworth. The Meaford Public Library's share will be 8.2%.

7.2.9. Library Service Agreement – Meaford Public Library: Meaford Public Library has requested that the Library Service Agreement be extended for two more years. We have reviewed the suggested changes and updated the percentage of budget costs to 8.2% based on the 2022-2026 OSNGUPL membership statistics. Please see attached agreement.

27-26 Moved by Frank Emptage THAT the Library Board approve the 2027-2028 Library Service Agreement with the Meaford Public Library.

Carried.

7.2.10. Deputy Chief Librarian on Bayshore Radio: On September 2nd, Nadia Danyluk was the guest on Open Line with Philly Markowitz. Nadia provided a wonderful overview of the library, our programs and services and upcoming events. The show is available for listening at https://www.893cfos.ca/2026/09/02/the-open-line-with-philly-markowitz-34/

7.2.11. Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit: The Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit (VOLT) is a resource that was developed to help libraries across the province measure their impact in our communities. We utilized VOLT to measure the Social Return on Investment (SROI). It reflects an approximate dollar value of benefit that is created for each dollar that is invested in the public library by our funding municipalities.

The benefits of funding the library, when looking at the social and cultural infrastructure, can be seen in:		
Civic Engagement = $67,152	Culture = $785,385	Economic Development =$2,491,967
Education = $1,140,035	Entertainment & Leisure =$7,718,832	Inclusion & Well Being = $257,998
Space = $1,779,902	Total = ~ $14,240,000	

In total, our work with VOLT calculated a value of over 14.24 million dollars a year for our local community. This is a value of $357.89 per resident of Chatsworth, Georgian Bluffs and Owen Sound or $833.31 per household. For every one dollar, our municipal funders provide, there is $8.49 of value delivered by the library to our local communities.
The VOLT statistics will be shared with our funders in the Fall as part of our budget process. We hope that it will be part of the ongoing discussion about the value of the library to our library members and municipal funders. Special thanks to Dale Albrecht for diving into VOLT to make it accessible for all of us. Her skills and knowledge have been vital to the success of this project.
7.2.12. Adult Learning Centre New Website: We received funding this year from the Ministry of Skills, Training and Education to make changes to promotional materials and website of the Adult Learning Centres. We were required to switch from the Ministry's past *Literacy and Basic Skills* branding to their much-improved *Get Set* approach. We worked with Banja Solutions, the company that helped us redesign the library website. The new Adult Learning Centres site can be viewed at https://adultlearningcentres.ca website. Thanks to the City of Owen Sound IT Department for their assistance and expertise.
7.2.13. New Library Program - Art Therapy - Informed Support: This program, launched in August and running until October 1st, is a free adult drop-in counselling activity facilitated by Grey Bruce Art Therapy & Associates (@greybruceartherapy). The sessions are on Thursdays from 10:15-11:30 am. Members of the public can connect with others through gentle guided art activities intended to support stress management, personal growth, and more.
7.2.14. Dolly Parton Imagination Library: The library has been meeting with members of the Kiwanis Club of Owen Sound and representatives from other local agencies to bring the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to our community. Kiwanis clubs are championing the initiative in Southwestern Ontario. Sault Ste. Marie began participating in 2024. We cannot match the value for dollar that the program achieves. A portion of the "in lieu of interest" grant that we receive from the

Community Foundation Grey Bruce could support this initiative. We would promote our library to local families with young children.
https://imaginationlibrary.com/spreading-dollys-dream-how-angelo-ciardella-and-kiwanis-are-growing-the-imagination-library-across-southwestern-ontario/

28-26 Moved by Frank Emptage THAT the Library Board approve the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library partnering with the Kiwanis Club of Owen Sound in their Dolly Parton Imagination Library initiative and further,
THAT we contribute $3,000 from our 2026 Community Foundation Grey Bruce grant. Carried.

7.2.15. OPEN Team - Pollinator Habitat Update: Our pollinator habitat projects continue. More work has been completed at the Billy Bishop Museum and at the Community Waterfront Heritage Centre. We hope to start similar work on the library grounds in the coming weeks.
7.2.16. Nature Nook & Garden Gnomes Project: We have been approved for two years of LIVGREEN funding ($5,000 per year) to support gardening-based initiatives with a focus on youth and connecting with our local indigenous community. This initiative is funded by the Government of Canada in partnership with the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada. Congratulations to Nadia for the vision and commitment in developing this project.
In the first year, we will be transforming a corner of the library's Youth Services Department into a Nature Nook to encourage families to engage with nature and learn more about the natural world around them through hands on activities, workshops and book-based resources. In the second year we will be expanding the program outside of the library and building raised garden beds in an underutilized portion of the library's garden. We will work with children and teen volunteers to germinate, plant and raise vegetable crops, growing food that could be donated to a local organization.
7.2.17. OSNGUPL 3rd Annual Local Author Book Fair – October 23rd & 24th: We are excited that more than 40 local authors will be in attendance during the two-day event. The fair takes place on all levels of the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library. The Local Author Book Fair showcases a wide range of genres and gives the public a chance to get to know the authors, purchase their books and enter to win some prizes. Everyone is encouraged to come out and meet with authors who write poetry, fiction, non-fiction, young adult, and children's books. It is wonderful to be able to honour our former Chief Librarian Andrew Armitage by celebrating local writers and their work. Special thanks to Shauna Doyle, Information Services Specialist for making this amazing event happen! More information about the participating authors can be found at https://osngupl.ca/osngupl-local-author-book-fair/.
The 2026 brochure is available at https://osngupl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Meet-the-Authors.pdf

7.2.18. Community Volunteer Fair: The Library is pleased to partner with the Owen Sound & Area Association of Volunteer Administrators (OSAAVA). They are hosting a free volunteer fair here on Wednesday, October 28th from 3 to 6 pm. Community members can connect with over 20 local organizations and learn about volunteer opportunities.
7.2.19. Trick or Treat Trail: The Library will be participating in the River District Trick-or-Treat Trail this year. On Saturday, October 31 from 10 am until 1 pm, families will be able to stop at the library when they are making their way through the River District in search of treats. We are planning to show Halloween related shows in the Auditorium at the same time, using streaming media from Kanopy with public performance rights.
7.2.20. Library Newsletter and Upcoming Programs: Check out the many programs, services and resources featured in our newsletter, https://www.osngupl.ca/news- programs/library-news/. For a comprehensive schedule and information about upcoming programs, please visit https://owensound.libcal.com/calendar.
7.2.21. Final Comments:
"I would like to say Thank you to this library. You are very progressive and have staff and leadership that do want the best for Owen Sound and also being open to new ideas and what goes on in OS." - patron comment
The summer was very busy. I extend sincere thanks to all our library staff for their dedication and professionalism that they demonstrate every day, delivering so many programs and resources. Their goodwill and exemplary customer service helped us successfully promote the library and meet the information, education, employment and entertainment needs of our community. We are excited about the fall and look forward to your visit.

Additional items:
None

29-26 Moved by Frank Emptage THAT the Library Board approve the CEO's Report as presented. Carried.

7.3 Financial Committee Report

7.3.1 Statements and Accounts:

30-26 Moved by Elizabeth Thompson THAT the Library's and Adult Learning Centre's Financial Statements to August 31, 2026 be received as information. Carried.

7.3.2 Reserve Account:

31-26 Moved by Elizabeth Thompson THAT the Library Board create a LIVGREEN Reserve account and further,
THAT the Library Board approve the transfer of the grant of $5,000 to the LIVGREEN Reserve fund. Carried.

7.4 Personnel Committee Report
No report.

7.5 Property/Building Committee Report
No report.

7.6 Library Foundation Committee Report
No report.

7.7 Policies and Bylaws Committee Report
No report.

7.8 Ontario Library Service Board Assembly Report
No report.

7.9 Poet Laureate/Words Aloud Committee Report
No report.

8 OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Library's Joint Health & Safety Committee
Nicholls Harrison updated members on the recent review of the City of Owen Sound's occupational health and safety committee structure. The City approved a revised committee structure, resulting in the Library establishing it's own Joint Health & Safety Committee, effective immediately.

9 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
None

10 RESOLUTION TO MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION – STRUCK

11 DECLARATION TO MOVE TO THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING – STRUCK

12 NEXT MEETING: The next Regular Board meeting to be held Thursday October 29, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library Auditorium.

13 ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



Chair



Secretary

RiverDistrict

Minutes

River District Board of Management

September 9, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Dave Parsons
Vice Chair Richard Thomas
Member Maegan Cookson
Member Tim Dwyer (via video)
Member Kathy Hannen
Member Olivia Legate
Member Adrienne Robinson
Member Jen Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councillor Travis Dodd

STAFF PRESENT: Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Viveca Gravel, River District Coordinator
Constable James Giles, Owen Sound Police Service
Staci Landry, Deputy Clerk

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parsons called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.a Minutes of the River District Board of Management meeting held on July 8, 2026

RD-260909-001
Moved by Member Smith

"THAT the minutes of the River District Board of Management meeting held on July 8, 2026 be approved as printed."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no deputations or presentations.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions or comments from the public.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

8. REPORTS

8.a Verbal Report from the Owen Sound Police Service Re: Police Update

Constable Giles reported that the Owen Sound Police Service (OSPS) completed 87 hours of foot patrol and 29 hours of bike patrol in the River District in July and 98 hours of foot patrol and 32 hours of bike patrol in August.

RD-260909-002
Moved by Member Legate

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided September 9, 2026, from Constable Giles respecting a Police Update, the River District Board of Management receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."

Carried.

Constable Giles left the meeting.

8.b Report CR-26-083 from the Director of Corporate Services Re: 2025 Year End and 2026 Financial Update

The Director of Corporate Services provided an overview of the report.

RD-260909-003
Moved by Vice Chair Thomas

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-26-083 respecting the 2025 Year End and 2026 Financial Update, the River District Board of Management:

1. **Approves the 2025 River District operating surplus and related reserve transfers as outlined in the report;**

2. **Directs staff to transfer $23,721.20 to the Board Treasurer to be deposited into the River District bank account; and**

3. **Directs staff to transfer the surplus from 2026 to reserves once confirmed as part of the 2026 year end."**

Carried.

The Director of Corporate Services left the meeting.

8.c Report CS-26-082 from the River District Coordinator Re: River District Planting Bed Logo Proposal - 9th Avenue East and 10th Street East

The River District Coordinator provided an overview of the report.

In response to questions from the Board, the River District Coordinator advised that the final design would incorporate white river rock throughout the entire centre area within the "R" and would provide as much colour contrast as possible.

RD-260909-004
Moved by Vice Chair Thomas

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-26-082 respecting the River District Planting Bed Logo Proposal, the River District Board of Management (RDBM) postpones Staff Report CS-26-082 to the RDBM meeting on November 18, 2026 pending receipt of a refined design for the planting bed logo."

Carried.

8.d Report CS-26-089 from the River District Coordinator Re: River District Action Plan and Revitalization Project Updates

The River District Coordinator provided an overview of the report.

RD-260909-005
Moved by Vice Chair Thomas

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-26-089 respecting updates on the River District Action Plan and Revitalization Project, the River District Board of Management receives the report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.e Verbal Report from Member Legate Re: Events and Activations Team Update

Member Legate advised that the Events and Activations Team does not have any significant updates regarding upcoming events at this time. Due to time constraints, the volunteer committee decided not to proceed with two planned

events. The team has also paused some activities for the fall and recommended moving certain events to 2027.

Member Legate noted that the Events and Activations Team was initially intended to be a one-year initiative, which would bring it to an end in early 2027. If the Board wishes to continue the project beyond that timeframe, further discussion will be required.

Member Legate advised that an event is currently being developed as a follow-up to Lupercalia, with several musical organizations throughout the River District collaborating on the initiative. The event will operate under a new name, with multiple organizations contributing to its delivery. The Events and Activations Team has agreed to provide some funding toward the event, which is anticipated to attract approximately 200 patrons to the River District across a minimum of six venues. The goal is to create a winter experience within the River District.

Member Legate advised that this event will be discussed at the next Events and Activations Team meeting, including opportunities to assist with advertising and promotion.

RD-260909-006
Moved by Member Robinson

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided September 9, 2026, from Member Legate respecting the Events and Activations Team Update, the River District Board of Management receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.f Verbal Report from the Board Treasurer Re: Board Finances

The Board Treasurer advised that the total balance across all accounts is $173,033 and that $668 in interest has been earned over the past three months.

RD-260909-007
Moved by Member Hannen

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided September 9, 2026, from the Board Treasurer respecting Board Finances, the River District Board of Management receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."

Carried.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

11.a River District Board of Management Election Nomination Period Open

The Deputy Clerk advised that the nomination period for the 2026 River District Board of Management Election is open until Friday, September 25, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. Interested candidates are requested to make an appointment with the Election Manager to submit their nomination package. All required forms are on the River District website at owensoundriverdistrict.ca or a candidate package can be picked up at the front counter at City Hall.

11.b Final approvals issued for the following Business Licences:

- Toppers Pizza, a take-out restaurant located at 1057 2nd Avenue East
- Prince Yahya Transit Solution Inc, a taxi company located at 127 8th Street East
- The Look Salon & Boutique, a hair salon located at 747 2nd Avenue East
- Adil's Tailor Shop, a tailoring business located at 1035 3rd Avenue East
- First Health Counselling, a counselling service located at 890 4th Avenue East
- The Admiral's Barbershop, a hair salon has relocated to 975 2nd Avenue East
- JM Shoebox Bookkeeping has relocated to a home-based business at 253 11th Street East

RD-260909-008
Moved by Member Hannen

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the September 9, 2026 River District Board of Management (RDBM) agenda, the RDBM receives Items 11.a and 11.b for information purposes."

Carried.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Parsons adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.

City Hall Illumination/Lighting Request Form

For full policy details outlining City Hall Illumination requests please see the Flag Flying Proclamations and Public Awareness Campaigns policy here (City Hall Illumination starts on page 7).

Name of Requesting Organization *

Canadian Amyloidosis Support Network (CASN)

Contact Information

Name *

Jennifer Enright

Email Address *

ejennifer569@gmail.comejen

Home/Cell Phone Number *

2896821404

Work Phone Number

Please enter your work phone number

City Hall Lighting Date(s)

Illumination requests will be granted for a maximum duration of seven (7) days unless there are no conflicting requests in which case the duration may extend to a maximum duration of fourteen (14) days, at the discretion of the City Manager.

Requests will be considered on a first come, first served basis, based on the date the request is received by the City Manager's office; requests should be made at least two (2) weeks in advance of the desired lighting date.

Please note that the changing of City Hall lights will take place on regular business days.

Starting Date of Illumination: *

3/10/2027

End Date of Illumination: *

3/11/2027

Requested Light Colours

At this time, the only colour options available are: Green, Blue, Red, White, and Pink/Purple.

No other colours are available at this time.

Please select the colour of your illumination request: *

- [ ] Green
- [ ] Blue
- [x] Red
- [ ] White
- [ ] Pink/Purple

Details/Purpose of the illumination event: *

The purpose of the lighting is to raise awareness about amyloidosis, a group of diseases caused by the buildup of abnormal proteins in organs and tissues of the body. Left untreated, amyloidosis can result in organ failure and can be fatal. While there is currently no cure for amyloidosis, recent medical advances are providing much-needed hope for both patients and their families.

We hope this lighting will educate more Canadians about the signs and symptoms of amyloidosis, including hereditary and non-hereditary forms of the disease. This is of critical importance since it's known that earlier diagnoses can lead to better outcomes for both patients and their loved ones.

Description of your organization including a brief history and any other relevant information: *

The Canadian Amyloidosis Support Network (CASN) is a federally registered non-profit organization that supports amyloidosis patients and their families. As part of our awareness campaign, we reach out to communities across Canada to submit requests to have landmarks illuminated in red during Amyloidosis Awareness Month held annually in March. Red is the colour designated for amyloidosis awareness.

Having knowledge of the disease can make a meaningful difference in the outcomes for patients and their loved ones since we know that earlier diagnoses can lead to earlier treatments and can prolong life expectancy. Spreading awareness about amyloidosis can also help raise the profile of our organization as we continue our work to improve the lives of people impacted by this disease, ease the burden on caregivers, and provide funding for high-value research projects.

For addiitonal information about the Canadian Amyloidosis Support Network (CASN), please visit our website at amyloidosiscanada.org. We are also on Facebook and Instagram.

Would you like to submit your City Hall illumination request to happen annually? *

- (•) Yes, please repeat on an annual basis
- ( ) No, this one time only

Please note that it is up to the person/group submitting the request to contact the City if the annual date changes or discontinues for any reason.

By submitting this form, you affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. All City Hall illumination requests must adhere to the Flag Flying, Proclamations and Public Awareness Campaigns Policy.

The personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001, 227 and City Policy CMA34. The information is used for the City Hall lighting process including, but not limited to, evaluating requests for illumination events and contacting the requestor.

Correspondence Items Presented for Information
November 30, 2026

1) Correspondence from AMO Re: AMO Board of Directors Vacancies.

2) Correspondence from AMCTO Re: Advocacy Update

   a) MFIPPA Transition Timelines and Our Response to the *Municipality Accountability Act* Regulatory Consultation.

   b) Fall Economic Statement.

   c) Province Announces Strong Chair Appointments.

   d) Provincial Consultations, Code of Conduct, and Digital Governance Standard Institute Revision.

3) Correspondence from the Executive Director, Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team Re: Grey-Bruce Primary Care and Health System Update.

4) Correspondence from the City Clerk, City of Hamilton Re: Request for the Expansion of Ontario's Deposit-Return Program.

5) Correspondence from the Administrative Assistant, Municipality of South Huron Re: OPP 2027 Policing Costs.

6) Correspondence from the Assistant Clerk, Township of Ramara Re:

   a) Request for Transport Canada Review and Amendment of Water Aerodrome Public Consultation Requirements.

   b) Support for Enhanced Municipal and Watershed Representation in the Proposed Regional Conservation Authority Governance Framework.

7) Correspondence from the Town Clerk, Town of Aurora Re: Cannabis Retail Review Task Force – Findings and Recommendations.

8) Correspondence from the Mayor, Town of Gananoque Re: Request for Endorsement – Declaration Against Religious Violence.

9) Correspondence from the Township of North Glengarry Re: Opposition to Project No. 26-017 (Southbridge Cornwall 2).

10) Correspondence from the Clerk, Township of Stone Mills Re: Request to Pause the Current Consultation Process and Extend the Deadline for Municipal Submissions on Bill 140, the *Building Ontario Faster Act*, *2026*.

11) Correspondence from the Township of La Vallee Re: Call for Withdrawal of Schedule 7 of Bill 140, the *Building Ontario Faster Act, 2026*.

12) Correspondence from the Municipality of Red Lake Re: Establishment of Provincial Funding Program for Community Safety and Well-Being Plans.

13) Correspondence from the Clerk, County of Prince Edward Re: Essential Train Services along the Québec City to Windsor Corridor.

14) Correspondence from the Technical Manager, Regulatory Applications, Enbridge Gas Inc. Re: Notice of Hearing for Integrated Resource Planning Framework Update Application.

15) Correspondence from the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses Re: October 2026 Monthly Femicide in Ontario Factsheet.





Now that the 2026 municipal elections are behind us and new Councils are being established, we want to bring an important opportunity for municipal representation and leadership to your attention.

AMO is seeking applications from Council members to fill **10 vacancies on its Board of Directors** across five caucuses:

- **Large Urban Caucus:** 1 position
- **Northern Caucus:** 2 positions from Northeastern Ontario
- **Regional and Single Tier Caucus:** 2 positions
- **Rural Caucus:** 3 positions
- **Small Urban Caucus:** 2 positions

Serving on the AMO Board provides an opportunity to help shape AMO's strategic direction, advocacy priorities and governance on behalf of Ontario's 444 municipalities.

Board members participate in six Board meeting cycles annually, caucus meetings in advance of Board meetings, the annual AMO Conference and, where applicable, additional committees or task forces.

How to Apply

Applicants must submit:

- A completed application form.
- A cover letter outlining their interest, skills and relevant experience.
- A résumé or curriculum vitae.

A Council resolution is not required at the initial application stage. Successful candidates will subsequently be asked to provide a Council resolution supporting their appointment.

The Application Guide, which includes a template Council resolution, and Application Form are available through AMO's website here.

Application Deadline: Friday, December 11, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. ET

Applications must be submitted by email to amoelections@amo.on.ca. Late submissions will not be considered.

Please Bring This Opportunity Forward to Council

We encourage CAOs and Clerks to bring these vacancies forward to an upcoming Council agenda and share the information with interested members of Council.

Strong municipal representation on the AMO Board is essential to ensuring the diverse perspectives and priorities of Ontario's municipalities inform provincial advocacy, policy and decision-making.

With the application deadline approaching, early consideration will help ensure interested candidates have sufficient time to prepare and submit their applications.

Thank you for helping strengthen municipal leadership and representation across Ontario.



Lindsay Jones
Executive Director
AMO

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THE MUNICIPAL EXPERTS



October 14, 2026

Advocacy Update: MFIPPA Transition Timelines & Our Response to the *Municipal Accountability Act* Regulatory Consultation

MFIPPA Transition Timelines

As a reminder, we have advocated that the government extend the transition deadline for privacy-related changes under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (MFIPPA) beyond January 1, 2027. In response to our request, we recently received a letter from Minister Crawford. While he recognized the challenges of meeting this deadline with respect to available municipal capacity and resource pressures, his message states that he remains committed to implementing the new requirements on January 1, 2027.

While we are disappointed that the timeline was not extended, we remain committed to assisting and supporting members with the transition. As such, we continue to operate a shared resource centre for municipal staff to access templates, procedures, reports, and other materials for guidance. As you develop your own policies and other resources within your organizations, we encourage you to send these to us to make available as part of our shared resource centre. Our goal is for this shared space to be

a one-stop shop for staff to review materials, learn from peers, and adapt items as needed for their own internal organizational use.

The ministry has also released additional guidance to support this transition. Yesterday (October 13), municipal clerks and chief administrative officers should have received a memo from the ministry with PIA guidance and templates. In case you did not receive this information, we will be uploading these items to the shared resource centre—for details on how to access, please complete our intake form below.

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE ACCESS

Municipal Accountability Act Regulation Consultation Submission

As a follow-up to our August 26 advocacy update, we submitted formal feedback to the government as part of the Bill 9, *Municipal Accountability Act* regulatory consultation.

Our submission contains a list of recommendations divided into two sections:

1. Administrative and Operational Considerations—containing specific comments about timing, capacity, costs, as well as specific and nuanced operational recommendations for guidance and processes.

Recommendations include:

- The ministry to take the lead in supporting municipal partners by conducting training and paying for integrity commissioner training to avoid each municipality having to independently develop or procure training. This includes:
    - Providing inserts that can be easily added into existing orientation training
    - Specific training modules and/or programs developed by the Province to support consistent implementation
    - Templates and guidance
- The removal of the unanimous voting threshold on declaring a seat vacant (removal threshold).

- Adding more definitions to clarify the regulations, revisiting the application of the Code.
- Reviewing the definition of local boards and how the Code provisions apply to the various types of bodies.
- Requesting the inclusion of specific provisions with respect to the use of corporate resources during election periods.

2. Health, Safety and Well-Being of Municipal Staff and Leaders—containing specific recommendations to improve the regulations within the existing legislative framework to better protect staff.

Recommendations include:

- The inclusion of compliance with corporate policies as part of the Code, including alignment with policies required under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and ensuring complementary investigation processes.
- Additional specificity with respect to harassment of staff, including additional statements describing harassment.
- Ensuring whistleblower protection and allowances for anonymity.

We have also requested guidance and clarity on how strong mayor/chair powers interact with provisions of the Code, given that some (such as commanding staff) may not apply to mayors and chairs (in certain instances). Clarity is also needed on whether strong chairs are bound by the Code of Conduct in the same way as other members and whether they could have their seat declared vacant if criteria and investigation warrant, given they are provincial appointees.

READ THE FULL SUBMISSION

As indicated by the ministry, final regulations will be in place by November 15, 2026. We will monitor the release of these regulations and provide an update on what is included once available.

As always, AMCTO is here for you. Should you have any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions for how we can support you in navigating these changes, please contact our policy and government relations team.

AMCTO
THE MUNICIPAL EXPERTS



October 30, 2026

Advocacy Update: Fall Economic Statement

Amid ongoing US tariffs, a softening Canadian economy, and affordability concerns for Ontarians, the provincial government released the 2026 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: A Plan to Protect Ontario, also known as the Fall Economic Statement (FES), on October 29. The FES outlines the government's continued efforts to protect workers, businesses, and communities from economic uncertainty while strengthening Ontario's competitiveness. It also sets the fiscal and economic context ahead of the 2027 provincial budget, which is expected to be released in March 2027.

Already in a pre-FES announcement, the government stated its intention to match federal tax breaks for businesses. Ontario will mirror recent federal accelerated write-off measures, including the Productivity Mega Deduction, providing more than $8 billion in additional tax relief over five years. The FES has a few new initiatives for the municipal sector. Most items largely reaffirm previously announced funding commitments and policy directions.

Key Updates for AMCTO Members

- **Municipal Funding:** The Province reports that provincial support to municipalities increased from $7 billion in 2019 to $11.2 billion in 2025.
    - The FES also highlights up to $3.3 billion announced to date through the Development Charge Reduction Program for five municipalities that have reduced Development Charges (DCs), alongside a $1 billion stream for roads, bridges, and water systems in municipalities that do not levy DCs.
    - While provincial support has increased in nominal terms, the FES does not establish whether support has kept up with inflation, population, or the scale of the municipal infrastructure deficit.
- **Property Assessment Reassessment:** The Province confirmed that reassessment remains deferred, with property assessments continuing to be based on January 1, 2016, valuations. No timeline was provided for resuming the cycle, leaving municipalities to manage property tax systems using increasingly outdated assessments as property values change.
- **Education Property Tax Remittances:** Beginning in 2028, the Province proposes to streamline education property tax remittances between municipalities and school boards, with the goal of reducing transactions and administrative costs.
    - Proposed amendments would affect the *Education Act, Municipal Act, 2001, City of Toronto Act, 2006*, and the *Assessment Act*.
    - Municipal treasurers should monitor implementation details, particularly the revised remittance schedule.
- **Centralized Property Assessment Information:** The Province is proposing amendments that would allow the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) to establish a centralized online

platform providing public access to selected assessment roll information, with availability expected in mid-2027.

    - The Province will also work with MPAC and municipalities to expand the assessment information available to municipalities.
    - Improved access could reduce administrative demands on municipal offices, depending on the scope of information made available (see next section below for details).

- **Buy Ontario:** The Province is exploring extending the Building Ontario Businesses Initiative (BOBI) to municipalities as part of the Buy Ontario agenda and is currently consulting on the proposed changes.
    - These include requiring municipalities to prioritize Ontario and Canadian goods and services, expanding vehicle procurement requirements, and restricting design specifications that create barriers for domestic suppliers.
    - If implemented, municipalities will need to review existing procurement policies and practices to ensure compliance. Regulatory consultations are open for comment for Fleet Vehicles and Buy Ontario Infrastructure.
- **OMERS Governance and Pension Reform:** The FES also provided an update on implementing the 2025 OMERS governance reforms, including the new OMERS Sponsors Council, and confirmed a framework allowing defined contribution pension assets to be converted into jointly sponsored pension plans by January 1, 2027. As OMERS employers, municipalities have a direct stake in both changes.

Bill 143, *Plan to Protect Ontario (Budget Measures) 2026 (No.2)*

Accompanying the FES, the government introduced Bill 143, Plan to Protect Ontario (Budget Measures) 2026 (No. 2), an omnibus bill proposing amendments to multiple pieces of legislation to implement various budget measures and other policy commitments. The following proposed legislative changes are of particular interest to AMCTO members:

- **Assessment Act (University Student Housing):** Amendments to Subsection 3 (1) would provide for the exemption from school taxation of certain land leased or owned by a university. This would continue to provide residential accommodation for students, while still ensuring these properties remain subject to municipal taxation under certain conditions.
- **Assessment Act (Public Access to Assessment Roll Information):** Amendments would allow MPAC to make assessment roll information available to the public with the ability to impose conditions or restrictions as appropriate. These provisions would apply to assessment rolls returned starting in 2028.
- **Education property tax remittances:** Amendments to the *Assessment Act*, *City of Toronto Act, 2006, Municipal Act, 2001*, and *Education Act* would provide the remittance of education property taxes to the Minister of Finance rather than directly to school boards.
- **Clean Water Act:** Amendments would account for the amalgamation of conservation authorities.
- **Conservation Authorities Act:** Amendments would:
    - Provide for agreements between municipalities participating in a conservation authority regarding the number of members appointed to the authority.
    - Establish a process allowing two or more municipalities to request, through the Minister, that the Lieutenant Governor in Council establish a conservation authority. A municipal council could also request that an authority's area or jurisdiction be enlarged, or that a watershed be removed from its jurisdiction.
    - Provide the Minister with authority to recommend the amalgamation of two or more authorities.
- **Land Transfer Tax Act:** Amendments to Subsection 3(5) of the Act would provide that no land transfer is payable where the only transferee acquiring a beneficial interest in land, or whose beneficial interest in land is increased as a result of the disposition, is the

Crown or a Crown agency within the meaning of the *Crown Agency Act*.

Financial Outlook

Ontario's 2026-2027 deficit is projected to be $16.9 billion, $3.1 billion higher than forecast in the 2026 budget. The government is forecasting deficits of $12.7 billion in 2027-2028 and $6.7 billion in 2028-2029, with a return to a $0.2 billion surplus in 2029-2030 - one year later than projected in the 2026 budget.

Ontario's real GDP is projected to grow 0.5% in 2026 and 1.5% in 2027, down from the budget of 1.0% and 1.7%, respectively. Net debt-to-GDP is forecast at 37.4% in 2026-2027, while the Province's capital plan totals more than $210 billion over the next 10 years.

The combination of a weaker fiscal outlook and limited new municipal sector commitments suggests that municipalities may face continued constraints on new provincial funding ahead of the 2027 budget. Members should monitor whether future provincial investments adequately address the scale and growth of municipal infrastructure needs and plan accordingly.

READ THE FULL STATEMENT & FISCAL REVIEW

AMCTO
THE MUNICIPAL EXPERTS



November 11, 2026

Advocacy Update: Province Announces Strong Chair Appointments

Yesterday's announcement of the appointed upper-tier 'strong chairs' continues to raise questions about the neutrality of municipal governance. In our May submission to Government, we highlighted the concerning nature of 'two-hatter' appointments where an appointed chair could also serve as representative at an area municipality.

Appointees include:

- Kevin Ashe, Durham Regional Chair – current and re-elected mayor of Pickering
- Ann Mulvale, Halton Regional Chair – former mayor of Oakville, former AMO president and consultant
- Frank Campion, Niagara Regional Chair – outgoing mayor of Welland
- Nando Iannicca, Peel Regional Chair – current Peel Regional Chair and former Regional Councillor

- Scott Davey, Waterloo Regional Chair – current and re-elected councillor of Kitchener
- Steven Del Duca, York Regional Chair – current and re-elected mayor of Vaughan
- Scott Aitchison, Muskoka District Chair – former MP for Parry Sound-Muskoka and former mayor of Huntsville
- Don McIsaac, Simcoe County Chair – outgoing mayor of Orillia

In the announcement, the Government noted that appointees who are also lower-tier mayors will hold one seat (as chair) on regional council, and the municipality must appoint another representative for regional council. The mayor would continue to serve as mayor on the lower-tier council and fulfill the duties of both roles.

There is no word yet as to whether these chairs will receive mandate letters, like those received by Cabinet ministers, which would set out provincial expectation and direction. In Ontario, Cabinet mandate letters have not been shared since 2018.

We remain concerned about the expansion of strong mayor powers to upper-tier chairs, and the impact this will have on municipal staff and good municipal governance. For affected members and municipal staff, we remain committed to support you as you navigate these changes. We continue to offer information within our strong mayor shared resource centre, including regular drop-in meetings to discuss and help you work through implementation. As you develop your own policies and processes, we encourage you to share those with us to upload to the centre. For details on how to access, please complete our intake form below.

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE ACCESS

For more information or questions, please contact our policy and government relations team.

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THE MUNICIPAL EXPERTS



November 18, 2026

Advocacy Update: Provincial Consultations, Code of Conduct and Digital Governance Standard Institute Revision

There have been several updates over the past week, so this update is a bit longer than usual and will cover:

- Consultation on Marriage Act & Change of Name Act
- Code of Conduct
- Digital Governance Standards Institute Revision

Consultation on *Marriage Act* & *Change of Name Act*

The Province is consulting on areas for potential amendments to the Marriage Act and Change of Name Act. Municipal clerks may have received a survey from the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement (MPBSDP) in September making inquiries about similar topics.

The amendments being considered are meant to improve service delivery and align Ontario with processes and legislation consistent with other Canadian jurisdictions. As issuers of marriage licenses, solemnizers of wedding ceremonies, and as Commissioner of Oaths, the proposed changes would impact clerks' duties.

Below is a summary of the consultation and, where available, our initial assessment.

Marriage Act

1. Publication of banns

- The ministry is contemplating two options to change the current process related to the publication of banns.
    - Option 1: Require a statutory declaration in the publication of banns process, which would require a statutory declaration signed in the presence of a commissioner for taking affidavits (among other things). This change would potentially increase commissioning services that municipalities provide.
    - Option 2: Require that every couple obtain a marriage licence from a municipality that issues marriage licences and pay the required fee. Banns could still be published; however, they would not replace a marriage licence, and religious organizations would no longer be required to provide banns documentation. This would potentially increase the number of marriage licence applications authorized municipalities receive.

2. Authorize civil marriage commissioners

The ministry is considering making changes to allow civil marriage commissioners, which would potentially create opportunities for interested members of the public to be authorized to perform civil marriages. This could increase competition for marriage solemnization services, reducing the number of ceremonies municipalities provide.

3. Remove the requirement to publish marriage officiants in Ontario Gazette

The ministry is considering eliminating the requirement for marriage officiant registration/cancellation information to be published in The Ontario Gazette, but would continue to publish an up-to-date list of all registered marriage officiants in the Open Data Catalogue.

4. Foreign Divorce Authorization (FDA)

The ministry is exploring the potential impacts of replacing the existing requirement for provincial authorization of foreign divorces with document review conducted during municipal marriage licence issuance to streamline the application process. Possible impacts to municipalities include:

- The potential download of responsibility to municipalities
- While it’s noted that Ontario is a jurisdiction that has a separate FDA process, in other jurisdictions the issuer is the province or a provincial agency. In provinces that have downloaded this responsibility to an issuer, it is a high-cost, high-risk endeavour borne by the issuer. It also increases administrative and operational burden.
- Municipalities do not have the translation or legal capacity to understand and analyze foreign documentation. It would be difficult to recognize the validity of such documents as opposed to other forms of identification that are more widely known. This includes financial capacity to pay for additional services.
- The potential decentralization of the management of the FDA process comes with the risk of applicants 'shopping around' municipalities.
- It is unclear how this new process would be integrated with the marriage modernization project that streamlines marriage licence applications through a portal.

Change of Name Act

1. Guarantor requirement

The ministry is considering removing the requirement for a guarantor to prove a name change applicant's length of residency. In lieu of this requirement, alternative evidence (e.g., utility bills, income tax assessment, vehicle insurance, rental agreement/mortgage statements) would be requested to prove residency in Ontario, similar to other Canadian jurisdictions.

2. Residency requirement

The ministry is seeking feedback on a proposal to reduce the 12-month residency requirement to three months, which aligns with most other Canadian jurisdictions.

Next Steps

The consultation closes on **January 8, 2027**. We understand that there may be an information session on this in the near future. We will keep members updated via the policy blog.

We intend to make a submission given the potential impacts on members. While the consultation scope is limited to the above, we also want to hear from members about what other opportunities exist to improve marriage license service delivery, including the challenges you continue to face, opportunities to streamline and improve legislation or regulations, etc. We would appreciate any feedback you may have. **Please email us your ideas and concerns to help inform our submission by Friday, December 4.**

SUBMIT FEEDBACK

Code of Conduct

We understand that the standardized code of conduct framework did not come into effect on November 15, 2026, as additional time is needed to undertake further analysis and due diligence in support of government

decision-making. Existing municipal codes of conduct will continue to apply until future regulations are filed. We will continue to keep you updated on this as we know more.

Digital Governance Standards Institute Revision

The Digital Governance Standards Institute (DGSI) has revised another standard: CAN/DGSI 111-1, Online Voting – Part 1: Implementation of Online Voting in Canadian Municipal Elections. Updates include best practices for implementing online voting in municipal elections and technical design requirements for online voting services. While these standards are voluntary and follow a series of other revisions, members may find it useful to reexamine election management procedures and processes to align with these standards.

READ THE FULL NOTICE

As always, we encourage you to stay up to date on our other policy news and analysis via our policy blog and to contact us with any feedback, questions, or concerns.

MEMO

To: Clerks, Grey County Municipalities

From: Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team

Date: September 28, 2026

Re: Grey-Bruce Primary Care and Health System Update

About the Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team

The Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team (GBOHT) brings together hospitals, primary care providers, community health and social care organizations, and other partners to improve how healthcare is delivered across the region. We collaborate with patients, families, caregivers, and the community to design better ways of delivering care. By working across organizations, the GBOHT focuses on improving access to primary care, strengthening coordination between services, and supporting the long-term health needs of people in Grey-Bruce. To learn more about the GBOHT, including its governance, priorities and community resources, please visit www.greybruceoht.ca.

2025-2026 Grey-Bruce OHT Year in Review

The Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team (GBOHT) is pleased to share our 2025–2026 Year in Review, highlighting the progress made over the past year through partnership, collaboration and a shared commitment to improving health and care across Grey-Bruce.

Throughout 2025–2026, the GBOHT focused its work around three strategic priorities: Primary Care Access and Attachment, Integrated Clinical Priorities, and OHT Capacity Building. Working alongside primary care providers, hospitals, health and social service organizations, municipalities, Indigenous partners and community organizations, we continued to improve access to care, strengthen coordination across the health system and advance health equity. Among the year's highlights:

- More than 7,000 residents were attached to local primary care, and 97% of patients on the pre-January 1, 2025 Health Care Connect waitlist had been removed from the waitlist by March 31, 2026.
- More than $7 million in base funding for team-based primary care was secured through Interprofessional Primary Care Team (IPCT) funding.
- 900 patients were supported through the GBOHT Supported Attachment Program.
- Best Care services for people living with COPD and CHF expanded to five additional sites across Grey Bruce, including communities without previous access to team-based care.
- The Palliative Care Nurse Navigator Remote Care Monitoring Program expanded to additional sites on the North and South Bruce Peninsula.

These accomplishments reflect the collective efforts of partners throughout Grey-Bruce, and demonstrate the impact of working together to address local health system priorities.

The 2025-2026 GBOHT Year in Review can be found attached to this email.

Advancing Health System Priorities Across Grey-Bruce

Building on this progress, the GBOHT continues to work alongside partners across the region on initiatives designed to improve access to care, strengthen coordination and integration, and support a more connected and equitable health system.

Current work spans a wide range of priorities, including primary care access and attachment, palliative care, chronic disease management, mental health and addictions, older adult care, digital health solutions, health equity, and patient, family and caregiver engagement.

These priorities reflect the shared commitment of partners across Grey-Bruce to improve access, strengthen collaboration, and support better health outcomes for residents. Visit the Grey-Bruce OHT 2026-2027 Initiatives Webpage

Continuing Our Partnership with Municipalities

Municipalities are important partners in building healthier, thriving communities across Grey-Bruce. Access to primary care and other health services is closely connected to broader community priorities, including population growth, economic development, workforce attraction and retention, and healthcare recruitment.

Municipalities bring valuable local knowledge and perspective to these conversations. In addition to supporting physician and nurse practitioner recruitment and retention efforts, municipal partners help connect residents with health information, identify emerging community needs and contribute to collaborative approaches that strengthen our communities and region.

The GBOHT remains committed to keeping municipal leaders informed about health system priorities and creating opportunities for ongoing dialogue and collaboration. By bringing together municipalities, healthcare providers and community partners around shared priorities, we can continue to identify solutions that respond to local needs while strengthening healthcare across Grey-Bruce.

We appreciate the continued support and collaboration of our municipal partners and look forward to continuing this important work together. If you have questions or would like to learn more about the GBOHT or the work underway across Grey-Bruce, we would be pleased to connect.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Johnston
Executive Director
Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team
execdir@greybruceoht.ca

Grey-Bruce OHT

YEAR IN REVIEW

2025-2026

Working toward a better healthcare experience for you close to home.



Grey-Bruce OHT

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The 2025-2026 fiscal year was another successful and productive year for the Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team. Through partnership, collaboration and a shared commitment to improving care, we continued to make meaningful progress across our local health system.

Throughout the year, we focused on improving access to primary care, strengthening the coordination and integration of services, advancing health equity and building stronger relationships across Grey Bruce.

I would like to extend a special thank you to our OHT staff team and leadership, including Dr. Kelly Fenn, Dr. Libby Cox, Dr. Debbie Dyke, Dana Howes, Kathy Irwin, Nichol Cruise and Kate Barnard, for their leadership, expertise and continued commitment.

I would also like to recognize the members of our Primary Care Network Board and Coordinating Council, as well as the many physicians, nurse practitioners, health and social service organizations, municipalities and community partners who contributed to this work.

The accomplishments highlighted in this report demonstrate what is possible when we work together with a shared purpose.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to improving health care for everyone living in Grey Bruce.

Lindsay Johnston

Lindsay Johnston
Executive Director
Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team

THANK YOU TO OUR GBOHT STAFF TEAM & LEADERSHIP

PCN Board Members

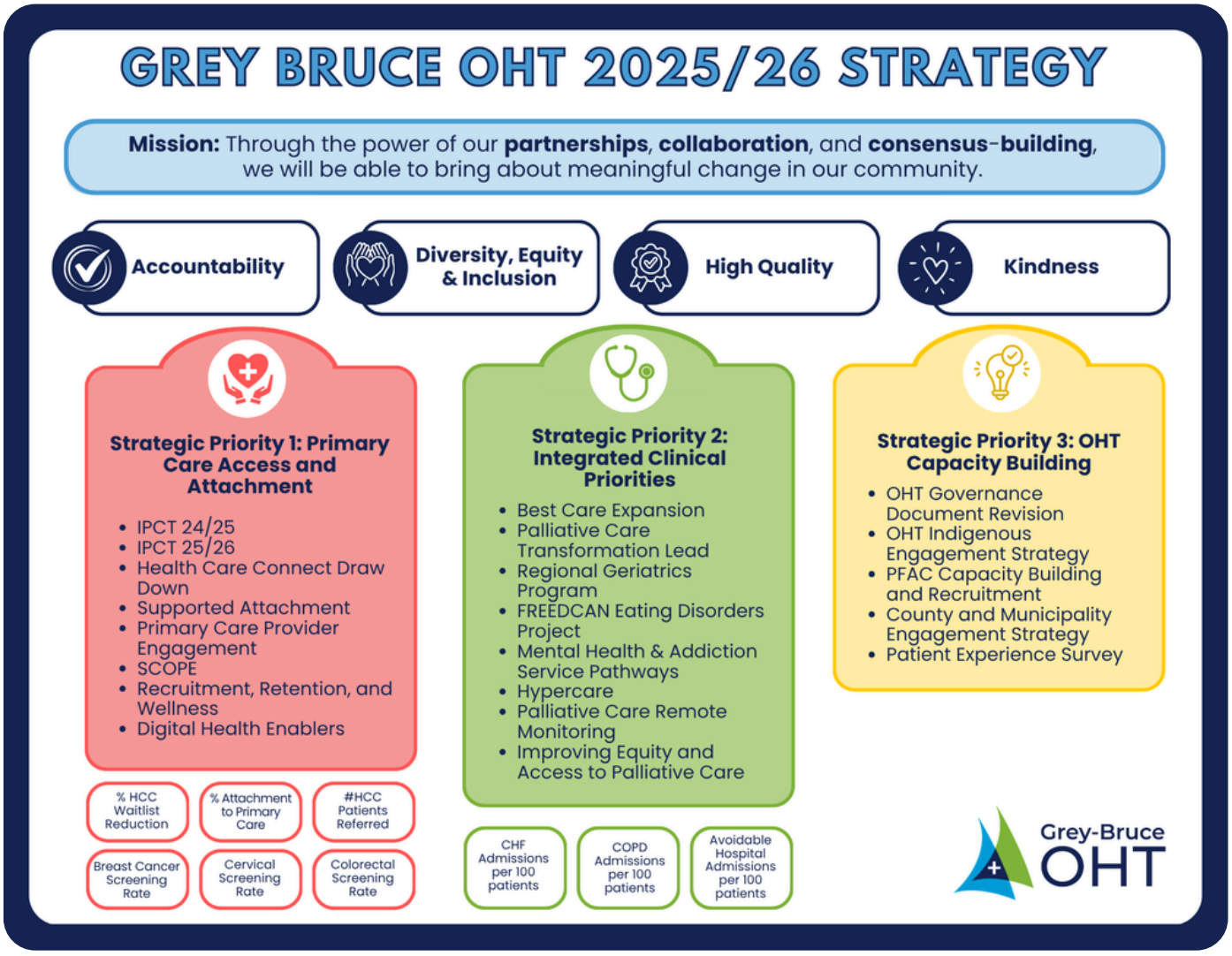
Coordinating Council Members

All health, social service and community partners

2025-2026
GBOHT YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2025-2026 fiscal year was marked by meaningful progress and strong collaboration across the Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team. Working alongside health care, social service, municipal and community partners, the GBOHT continued to improve access to care, strengthen system coordination and build a more connected, equitable and responsive local health system.

The following strategy reflects our shared vision for a healthier Grey Bruce.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

PRIMARY CARE ACCESS AND ATTACHMENT

OUR GOALS

- Expand access to team-based primary care.
- Design and implement a program that supports primary care providers to attach more patients.
- Clear the pre-January 1, 2025 Health Care Connect waitlist.
- Increase physician and nurse practitioner engagement across the GBOHT Primary Care Network.

PROGRESS IN 2025-2026

- Facilitated the writing and submission of five successful IPCT proposals
- Supported implementation of all Round 1 proposals (Round 2 approved in Apr 2026).
- Developed and implemented the GBOHT Supported Attachment Program, available to all medical clinics in Grey Bruce.
- Supported physicians to attach new patients and reduced the pre-Jan 1, 2025 Health Care Connect waitlist by more than 90%.
- Hosted two Continuing Medical Education events for local physicians and nurse practitioners.
- Reduced administrative burden for local primary care organizations, physicians and nurse practitioners through digital enablers, custom forms and EMR efficiencies.
- Initiated the inaugural Primary Care Network Board to strengthen PCP voice in health system change.
- Supported a regional collaborative approach to Primary Care Provider recruitment, retention and wellness.

BY THE NUMBERS

7000+

Residents attached to local primary care (89% have a family physician or NP).

5,211 (97%)

Patients removed from the pre-January 1, 2025 Health Care Connect waitlist as of March 31, 2026.

$7 MILLION+

In base funding for team-based primary care secured through IPCT funding.

900

Patients supported through the GBOHT Supported Attachment Program.

80+

Custom EMR and OCEAN forms and 46 privacy compliant web-based form created.

1

Regional recruitment webpage developed collaboratively with the Grey Bruce Primary Care Recruitment, Retention and Wellness Collaborative.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

INTEGRATED CLINICAL PRIORITIES

OUR GOALS

- Advance community-based care for individuals at risk or living with chronic disease to support primary care and reduce hospital use.
- Collaborate with regional partners to create initiatives geared towards improving quality and integration of care for local populations including: palliative care, older adults and mental health and addictions.

BY THE NUMBERS

900

Grey Bruce patients with COPD or CHF enrolled or impacted by Best Care service implementation and expansion.

98

Patients served through the Palliative Care Nurse Navigator Remote Care Monitoring Program.

PROGRESS IN 2025-2026

- Supported increased capacity of Best Care (COPD and CHF) HSP from 1.0 FTE to 2.0 FTE.
- Expanded Best Care to five additional sites in Grey Bruce, including sites without previous access to team-based care.
- Initiated and continued facilitation of the Mental Health and Addictions Service Delivery Working Group, a working group of the Grey Bruce Mental Health and Addictions Network.
- Expanded the Remote Care Monitoring (RCM) Palliative Care Nurse Navigator Program to additional sites on the North and South Bruce Peninsula and to support the Grey Bruce Palliative Medicine Group.
- Initiated and continued support of the Primary Geriatrics Project.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

OHT CAPACITY BUILDING

OUR GOALS

- Strengthen patient, family and caregiver representation at decision-making tables.
- Strengthen Indigenous partnerships and support reconciliation.
- Build strong communication pathways between the GBOHT, Grey and Bruce Counties, municipalities of Grey and Bruce, provincial elected officials, community focused corporate partners, and additional health and social service organizations.
- Embed health equity and inclusion in all OHT initiatives.

BY THE NUMBERS

66% Average newsletter open rate for all FY 2025-2026 newsletters.

200 Vulnerable and marginalized unattached patients successfully attached to a primary care provider through the Primary Care Without Walls Initiative.

300 Patients enrolled during fiscal year 2025-2026 at Noongwa Wellness IPHCO.

44 Patients with 480 encounters served through the IEAPC Program.

PROGRESS IN 2025-2026

Annual GBOHT OHT Communication Plan developed and implemented. Plan includes:

- Quarterly OHT Partner Newsletter
- Quarterly OHT Primary Care Network Newsletter
- Quarterly Community Newsletter
- Quarterly Municipal Updates (also shared with County Councils, Staff, and local MPPs)

New Indigenous Primary Health Care Organization (IPHCO) established in Nawash Unceded First Nation.

Indigenous Primary Care Provider seat filled on the Primary Care Network (PCN) Board (Leadership and Decision Making Table).

Community Council seat filled on the OHT Coordinating Council (Leadership and Decision Making Table).

Implemented the Improving Equity and Access to Palliative Care (EAPC) Navigator role, serving Indigenous, homeless, and vulnerably housed populations in Grey Bruce.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

The progress highlighted throughout this report was made possible through the dedication, expertise and collaboration of many.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our partner organizations, physicians, nurse practitioners, hospitals, health and social service providers, Indigenous partners, municipalities, elected officials, patients, families, caregivers and community organizations.

Your continued commitment, leadership and willingness to work together strengthen our local health system and support better care for the people and communities we collectively serve.

Together, we are building a healthier Grey Bruce.

Grey Bruce Ontario Health TEAM STAFF

Lindsay Johnston
Executive Director
Provides strategic leadership for the Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team, overseeing governance, operations, partner engagement, and the implementation of the OHT's strategic priorities.

Dr. Debbie Dyke
Clinical Lead
Provides clinical leadership and strategic guidance to support primary care integration, physician engagement, and the continued development of the Primary Care Network.

Kate Barnard
Project Manager
Leads the planning, coordination, implementation, and evaluation of strategic OHT initiatives, working collaboratively with partners to advance shared priorities.

Kathy Irwin
Digital Lead
Leads the implementation of digital health solutions that improve patient and provider experiences, streamline workflows, and reduce administrative burden across the health system.

Nichol Cruise
NP, Primary Care Access & Attachment Lead
Leads initiatives that improve access to primary care, including patient attachment, Health Care Connect, supported attachment, and preventive cancer screening initiatives.

Audrey Peters & Jessie Nusselder
Registered Nurses, Supported Attachment
Providing direct patient onboarding support to local Physicians and Nurse Practitioners.

Matt Milencoff
Population Health & Systems Performance Analyst
Provides data analysis, performance measurement, and population health insights that support evidence-informed planning, decision-making, and system improvement.

Julie Henderson
SCOPE Nurse Navigator
Supports primary care providers by coordinating access to specialist services and community resources for patients with complex health needs.

Taylor Deakin
Palliative Care Transformation Lead
Works with healthcare organizations and providers to strengthen palliative care through education, coaching, and implementation of Ontario's adult palliative care model.

Rachel Gallagher
Administrative & Project Coordinator
Provides administrative and project coordination support to the Executive Director, leadership tables, committees, and OHT initiatives.

LOOKING AHEAD TOGETHER



The 2025-2026 year strengthened our partnerships, expanded access to care and advanced important health system priorities.

As we look ahead, the GBOHT remains committed to building a more connected, equitable and responsive health system that reflects the needs and values of the people and communities we serve.

We will continue to work together with our partners, providers and communities to create lasting improvements and better health outcomes for everyone in Grey Bruce.

Thank you for being part of this important work.

A SHARED COMMITMENT TO BETTER HEALTH

COLLABORATION
We achieve more when we work together.

PARTNERSHIP
Strong relationships create stronger communities.

COMPASSION
People are at the centre of everything we do.

ACCOUNTABILITY
We are accountable to our partners and our community.

IMPACT
Together, we are building a healthier tomorrow.

CONNECT WITH US

Visit our website
www.greybruceoht.ca

Email us
info@greybruceoht.ca

Subscribe to our newsletter
greybruceoht.ca/news

FOLLOW US

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linkedin.com/company/grey-bruce-ontario-health-team/

City of Hamilton
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Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5
www.hamilton.ca

September 24, 2026

Re: Request for the Expansion of Ontario's Deposit-Return Program

Hamilton City Council, at its meeting held on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, passed the following resolution that was included in the minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting from August 31, 2026:

10.2 Request for the Expansion of Ontario's Deposit-Return Program

(Cassar/Hwang)
WHEREAS, Ontario operates a successful deposit-return system for alcohol, seeing an average of 75 percent of all empties returned to Beer Stores each year, and deposit-return provides a consumer incentive to consciously recycle;

WHEREAS, Ontario has the lowest beverage container recovery rate in Canada—at roughly 50% of containers being recycled, and is one of only two provinces in Canada without a deposit-return program for non-alcoholic beverages;

WHEREAS, on average these systems in other provinces achieve a recovery rate of 75% for plastic bottles and 78% for all beverage containers, with Alberta achieving 83% recovery;

WHEREAS, Ontario relies on a residential-only blue box system to collect non-alcoholic containers;

WHEREAS, as much as 30% of beverage products that consumers purchase are consumed away from home and therefore disposed of in public and commercial trash bins and then sent to landfill where those valuable materials are lost;

WHEREAS, according to the Canadian Beverage Association (CBA), recent polling suggests 80% of Ontarians want a deposit-return system and the Ontario government proposed expanding the deposit return program to include non-alcoholic containers in 2023;

WHEREAS, not only do deposit-return systems have high return rates for consumers at home, they also retrieve beverage containers from industrial, commercial and institutional sectors who are incentivized to redeem the deposit value;

WHEREAS, Ontario is uniquely positioned to accelerate the modernization of beverage container recycling since a deposit-return program for alcohol containers, managed by the Beer Store, already exists and could be leveraged for this purpose;

WHEREAS, time is of the essence as Beer Stores are closing, reducing accessibility to locations already outfitted to return beverage containers, and diminishing collection capacity;

WHEREAS, the Government has set 2030 recovery targets, as outlined in Ontario Regulation 391/21 under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016. These targets include an 80% recovery target for non-alcoholic beverage containers;

WHEREAS, without a deposit-return system, the increased costs to producers could be passed on to consumers;

WHEREAS, AMO "supports broader industry efforts to increase waste diversion rates. This includes industry efforts to establish a model for an expanded and more effective Deposit Return System that includes non-alcoholic beverage containers. A workable solution to reform the existing Deposit Return System will help boost the province's beverage recovery rate and support overall diversion of recycling materials away from landfills.";

WHEREAS, the Canadian Beverage Association is in full support of a deposit-return system because according to the CBA the transition to Circular Materials has not resulted in an increase in materials being recycled, and a deposit-return system promotes higher recycling rates, reduces litter and environmental impact, and helps ensure valuable beverage containers are collected, recycled, and reintegrated into a circular economy; and

WHEREAS, Peel Region, City of Toronto, City of Ottawa, the City of Waterloo and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (of which Hamilton is a member) have passed recent motions supporting deposit-return for non-alcoholic beverages.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

(a) That the Corporation of the City of Hamilton urges the province of Ontario to immediately implement a deposit-return program to manage non-alcoholic beverage containers; and

(b) That this resolution will **be distributed** to: the Canadian Minister of Internal Trade and One Canadian Economy, Dominic LeBlanc, the Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Julie Dabrusin, the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, the Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Victor Fedeli; the Ontario Minister of the Environment,

Conservation and Parks, Todd McCarthy, Hamilton-area MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and 444 Municipalities in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Matthew Trennum
City Clerk

Cc. Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Internal Trade and One Canadian Economy
Hon. Julie Dabrusin, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Premier Doug Ford
Hon. Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
Hon. Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Jeff Beattie, MPP, Hamilton East - Stoney Creek
Robin Lennox, MPP, Hamilton Centre
Monica Ciriello, MPP, Hamilton Mountain
Donna Skelly, MPP, Flamborough - Glanbrook
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Municipalities
Councillor Craig Cassar
Councillor Tammy Hwang

CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON
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Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747
www.southhuron.ca

September 25, 2026

Via email; doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Premier Doug Ford
Room 281
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A5

RE: OPP 2027 Policing Costs

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their September 21, 2026, Regular Council Meeting:

Motion: 367-2026
Moved: W. McLeod-Haggitt
Seconded: T. Oke

Whereas the Municipality of South Huron is policed by the Ontario Provincial Police and has budgeted $2,140,181 for its 2026 annual OPP policing contract; and Whereas this represents approximately 15% of South Huron's 2026 tax levy supported operating costs; and

Whereas the Municipality has received correspondence dated August 14, 2026 from the Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General, advising that for the 2027 calendar year no OPP-policed municipality will experience an increase of more than 11% in its total amount payable for OPP policing compared with 2026, excluding services separately acquired through an agreement with the OPP; and

Whereas a projected increase of 11% in 2027 would result in an additional municipal cost of up to $235,420 increasing South Huron's annual OPP cost to as much as $2,375,601; and

Whereas this projected increase in 2027 would result in annual OPP policing costs changing significantly over the past two years, with total costs rising from 2025 to 2027 by approximately $447,510, or 23%, placing sustained pressure on the Municipality's property tax supported operating budget; and

Whereas municipalities must balance legislated infrastructure, service-delivery, affordability and fiscal-responsibility obligations, while having limited revenue tools and a primary reliance on property taxation;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of South Huron:

1. **Acknowledges the Province of Ontario's action to limit the 2027 OPP municipal policing cost increase to no more than 11%;**

2. **Expresses concern that an increase of up to 11% in a single year remains significant for small and rural municipalities and is not, by itself, a sustainable long-term solution;**

3. **Requests that the Province of Ontario establish a permanent, transparent and sustainable multi-year framework for OPP municipal policing costs that :**

- **includes a reasonable and predictable maximum annual increase in municipal OPP policing costs, taking into consideration municipal revenue growth, inflation, assessment growth, population growth, fiscal capacity and the affordability impacts on local property taxpayers, including cost of living; and,**
- **that municipalities receive a clear and itemized annual explanation of changes to their OPP policing costs, including, where applicable, changes attributable to staffing levels, salaries, benefits, calls for service, time standards, fleet, accommodation, support services, detachment administration and other provincial cost allocations; and**
- **that the permanent framework recognize the limited fiscal capacity of small, rural and OPP-policed municipalities and ensure that municipal policing cost increases do not disproportionately affect property taxpayers or compromise the municipality's ability to deliver other essential services and infrastructure; and**
- **that the Province recognize that municipalities have limited ability to control policing costs arising from provincial legislation, regulatory, staffing, compensation, collective bargaining, operational or policy decisions and that the Province provide appropriate provincial funding or cost-sharing where significant policing cost pressures arise primarily from such provincial decisions; and**

4. **that this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario; the Solicitor General; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; MPP Lisa Thompson; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Rural Ontario Municipal Association; all Ontario municipalities policed by the OPP; and the Huron OPP Detachment Board.**

Disposition: Carried

CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON
322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759
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Phone: 519-235-0310 Fax: 519-235-3304
Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747
www.southhuron.ca

Please find attached the originating correspondence for your reference.

Respectfully,

Sue Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Municipality of South Huron
sjohnson@southhuron.ca
519-235-0310 x. 225

Encl.

cc: Minister.solgen@ontario.ca ; minister.mah@ontario.ca ; lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org resolutions@amo.on.ca ; roma@roma.on.ca ; jdietrich@southhuron.ca ; manderson@centralhuron.ca ; avanhittersum@northhuron.ca ; frayne@hay.net ; glamport@municipalityofbluewater.ca ; jaredpetteplace@me.com; jasmine.clark@torontomu.ca; jwalker@bmross.net jennettewalker@hay.net ; john.steffler@huroneast.com ; tbazinet@goderich.ca and all Ontario municipalities policed by OPP.

Staff Memo

To: South Huron Council

From: Rebekah Msuya-Collison, CAO

Date: September 21, 2026

Re: 2027 OPP Policing Costs – Request for Resolution expressing Concerns

Purpose:
For information and consideration.

Background and Analysis:

Council received correspondence from the Ministry of Solicitor General at the September 8, 2026 Council meeting regarding the 2027 OPP Municipal Policing Costs. Council passed the following resolution:

> "**That a staff memo be brought back to the September 21, 2026 Council meeting with a proposed resolution regarding concerns to the proposed increase in OPP municipal policing costs."**

Please see attached draft resolution regarding concerns to the proposed increase in OPP municipal policing costs.

Link to Correspondence - Ministry of Solicitor General - 2027 OPP Municipal Policing Costs

Resolution: Sustainable and Predictable OPP Municipal Policing Costs

Whereas the Municipality of South Huron is policed by the Ontario Provincial Police and has budgeted $2,140,181 for its 2026 annual OPP policing contract; and

Whereas this represents approximately 15% of South Huron's 2026 tax levy supported operating costs; and

Whereas the Municipality has received correspondence dated August 14, 2026 from the Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General, advising that for the 2027 calendar year **no OPP-policed municipality will experience an increase of more than 11% in its total amount payable for OPP policing compared with 2026**, excluding services separately acquired through an agreement with the OPP; and

Whereas a projected increase of 11% in 2027 would result in an additional municipal cost of up to $235,420 increasing South Huron's annual OPP cost to as much as $2,375,601; and

Whereas this projected increase in 2027 would result in annual OPP policing costs changing significantly over the past two years, with total costs rising from 2025 to 2027 by approximately $447,510, or 23%, placing sustained pressure on the Municipality's property tax supported operating budget; and

Whereas municipalities must balance legislated infrastructure, service-delivery, affordability and fiscal-responsibility obligations, while having limited revenue tools and a primary reliance on property taxation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of South Huron:

1. Acknowledges the Province of Ontario's action to limit the 2027 OPP municipal policing cost increase to no more than 11%;
2. Expresses concern that an increase of up to 11% in a single year remains significant for small and rural municipalities and is not, by itself, a sustainable long-term solution;
3. Requests that the Province of Ontario establish a permanent, transparent and sustainable multi-year framework for OPP municipal policing costs that:
    - limits year-over-year municipal cost increases to a level aligned with municipal revenue growth and affordability;
    - clearly identifies the cost drivers behind annual changes, including salaries, benefits, fleet, accommodation, detachment administration, calls for service and other provincial cost allocations;

- recognizes the limited fiscal capacity of small, rural and OPP-policed municipalities; and
- considers enhanced provincial funding or cost-sharing for provincially directed policing cost pressures;

4. Directs that this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario; the Solicitor General; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; MPP Lisa Thompson; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Rural Ontario Municipal Association; all Ontario municipalities policed by the OPP; and the Huron OPP Detachment Board.

TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA

2297 Highway 12,
PO Box 130
Brechin, Ontario L0K 1B0
p.705-484-5374
f. 705-484-0441

October 2, 2026

Via Email

Transport Canada
Hon. Steven MacKinnon, Minister of Transport
Adam Chambers, MP Simcoe North

Re: Request for Transport Canada Review and Amendment of Water Aerodrome Public Consultation Requirements

At its meeting held on September 28, 2026, the Council of the Township of Ramara adopted the following resolution:

Resolution Number CR.234.2026
Moved by Dana Tuju
Seconded by Sherri Bell

WHEREAS the Aeronautics Act defines an aerodrome as any area of land water (including frozen surfaces thereof), or other supporting surface used, designed, prepared, equipped, or set apart for use either in whole or in part for the arrival, departure, movement, or servicing of aircraft and includes any buildings, installations, and equipment situated thereon or associated therewith;

AND WHEREAS Transport Canada's public consultation framework for the establishment and operation of aerodromes, as reflected in Canadian Aviation Regulation 307, recognizes the importance of public interest considerations, including compatibility with surrounding land uses, community impacts, and aviation safety;

AND WHEREAS the current regulatory framework expressly excludes water aerodromes from certain public consultation requirements that apply to land aerodromes;

AND WHEREAS the impacts associated with aerodrome operations, including aviation safety, noise, environmental considerations, compatibility with existing land and water uses, and community well-being, are equally relevant to water aerodromes and may, in some circumstances, be more significant due to the shared use of waterways by residents, recreational users, commercial operators, and emergency services;

AND WHEREAS municipalities possess critical local knowledge regarding land use planning, navigation patterns, environmental constraints, recreation, tourism, community safety, and potential conflicts with existing transportation infrastructure that may not otherwise be available during federal decision-making processes;

AND WHEREAS a regulatory framework that requires public consultation for land aerodromes but not water aerodromes creates an inconsistency that may limit opportunities for affected municipalities, Indigenous communities, interest-holders, and residents to provide meaningful input regarding proposed aviation operations within their communities;

AND WHEREAS municipalities should have a formal opportunity to identify potential safety concerns, including conflicts between proposed water aerodrome operations and established aircraft flight paths, existing airport traffic circuits, heavily used waterways, and other local operational considerations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Ramara respectfully requests that Transport Canada undertake a review of the consultation requirements contained within Canadian Aviation Regulation 307 and related policies and guidance documents respecting the exclusion of water aerodromes from public consultation requirements;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Transport Canada be requested to amend the applicable regulations and policies to require an appropriate public consultation process for the establishment or significant expansion of water aerodromes, particularly where commercial operations are proposed or where there may be impacts on surrounding communities, public safety, navigation, or existing aviation infrastructure;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Transport Canada be requested to ensure that municipalities, Indigenous communities, airport authorities, conservation authorities where appropriate, and affected interest-holders receive meaningful notice and opportunity to comment on proposed water aerodrome developments before operational approvals or registrations are finalized;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ramara requests that the federal government recognize the importance of municipal input in assessing the suitability of water aerodrome locations and the potential cumulative impacts of aviation activity on local communities and waterways;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to:

- Transport Canada;
- The Honourable Minister of Transport;
- The local Member of Parliament;
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM);
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO);
- The Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA);
- All Ontario municipalities; and
- The Chippewas of Rama First Nation.

CARRIED.

The Township of Ramara respectfully requests your consideration and support of the enclosed resolution, which calls upon Transport Canada to review the current regulatory framework governing water aerodromes and establish appropriate public consultation requirements to ensure meaningful municipal, Indigenous, stakeholder, and public input.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Harrington
Assistant Clerk

Cc. Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA)
The Chippewas of Rama First Nation

Bcc. All Ontario Municipalities

TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA

2297 Highway 12,
PO Box 130
Brechin, Ontario L0K 1B0
p.705-484-5374
f. 705-484-0441

October 2, 2026

Via Email

Hon. Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Jill Dunlop, MPP Simcoe North

Re: Support for Enhanced Municipal and Watershed Representation in the Proposed Regional Conservation Authority Governance Framework

At its meeting held on September 28, 2026, the Council of the Township of Ramara adopted the following resolution:

Resolution Number CR.238.2026
Moved by Dana Tuju
Seconded by Joe Gough

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed the consolidation of Ontario's existing conservation authorities into nine Regional Conservation Authorities (RCA), with a proposed transition date of February 1, 2027, or such later date as may be prescribed;

AND WHEREAS Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting No. 026-0740 proposed regulations respecting the method for determining the number of members appointed by participating municipalities to RCAs and additional eligibility criteria for appointments to the Board of Directors of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA);

AND WHEREAS under the proposed governance framework, upper-tier and single-tier municipalities will be responsible for appointing members to RCAs, resulting in lower-tier municipalities no longer having the ability to directly appoint representatives to the governing board;

AND WHEREAS lower-tier municipalities continue to have a direct and significant interest in the programs, services, land use planning matters, natural hazard management, environmental protection and other responsibilities undertaken by conservation authorities within their communities;

AND WHEREAS meaningful local and watershed-based representation will be essential to ensuring that local municipal priorities, knowledge and watershed-specific considerations continue to inform decision-making within the new RCA structure;

AND WHEREAS the geographic size of the proposed RCAs further emphasizes the importance of ensuring that appointed Board members have a meaningful connection to the watershed they are responsible for governing;

AND WHEREAS there remains a need for additional information and guidance respecting several significant aspects of the proposed transition and future operation of the RCAs, including the governance framework, member recruitment and eligibility, travel and time commitments, budgeting, financial responsibility and the future apportionment and payment of conservation authority levies;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ramara supports continued consultation with municipalities and existing local Conservations Authorities on the development and implementation of the new RCA governance framework;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario be requested to ensure that any individual appointed to a RCA Board of Directors reside within the applicable watershed of the RCA to which they are appointed, in order to ensure that Board members have a direct and meaningful connection to the communities, municipalities and watershed they are responsible for governing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the future regulations establishing the composition, role, and operation of Watershed Advisory Committees provide meaningful opportunities for lower-tier municipal representation and participation, recognizing that lower-tier municipalities will no longer directly appoint members to RCA Boards;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province be requested to reconsider the proposed eligibility restrictions for the OPCA Board in order to establish a meaningful connection between the RCAs and the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, including consideration of providing for at least one representative from each RCA on the OPCA Board, or another formal mechanism to ensure direct communication and coordination between the two levels of governance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province be requested to provide clear guidance to upper-tier and lower-tier municipalities respecting the recruitment and appointment of RCA Board members, including eligibility criteria, desired qualifications and expertise, expected roles and responsibilities, anticipated meeting frequency, travel requirements, and the time commitment associated with serving on the larger regional authorities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province be requested to provide municipalities with additional information regarding the financial and operational implications of the consolidation, including how RCA budgets will be developed and approved, how municipal levies and apportionment will be determined and collected, whether upper-tier and single-tier municipalities will assume responsibility for levy payments on behalf of lower-tier municipalities, and how costs and financial obligations will be allocated throughout the transition and ongoing operation of the new RCAs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province be encouraged to provide this information as soon as possible to allow municipalities sufficient time to understand the governance, operational and financial implications of the new model and to prepare for implementation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Rural Ontario Municipal Association; Conservation Ontario; Simcoe North MPP Jill Dunlop; the County of Simcoe; all Ontario municipalities; the Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority (LSRCA); and the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA).

CARRIED.

The Township of Ramara respectfully requests your consideration of the enclosed resolution and encourages support for the continued involvement of municipalities and conservation authorities in the development and implementation of the proposed Regional Conservation Authority governance framework. The Township further believes that meaningful watershed-based representation, opportunities for lower-tier municipal participation, and greater clarity regarding governance and financial implications will be essential to the successful transition to the new model.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Harrington
Assistant Clerk

Cc. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Conservation Ontario
County of Simcoe
Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority (LSRCA)
Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA)

Bcc. All Ontario municipalities

Legislative Services
Anne Kantharajah
905-726-4771
clerks@aurora.ca

Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, Box 1000
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

September 30, 2026

Delivered by email

Executive Director
York Regional Police Services Board
psb@yrp.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO)
municipal@agco.ca

Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of September 22, 2026
Report No. CS26-022 - Cannabis Retail Review Task Force - Findings and Recommendations

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on September 22, 2026, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

1. **That Report No. CS26-022 be received; and**
2. **That the Local Actions set out in the Recommendations section of the final report of the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force be implemented; and**
3. **That the final report of the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force be circulated to York Regional Police, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), Local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all municipalities in Ontario for consideration and support.**

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Sincerely,

Anne Kantharajah

Anne Kantharajah
Town Clerk
The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

AK/lb

Attachments (Council meeting extract and final report of the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force)

Copy: Dawn Gallager Murphy, MPP Newmarket—Aurora (dawn.gallaghermurphy@pc.ola.org)
Hon. Michael Parsa, MPP Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill (michael.parsaco@pc.ola.org)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) (resolutions@amo.on.ca)
All Ontario Municipalities

8. Committee of the Whole Meeting Report of September 8, 2026

Moved by Councillor Thompson
Seconded by Councillor Gallo

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Report of September 8, 2026, be received and the recommendations carried by the Committee approved, with the exception of sub-items 8.4.1, 8.4.2, and 8.9.1, which were discussed and voted on separately as recorded below.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Carried (7 to 0)

8.4 Corporate Services Committee Agenda

8.4.4 CS26-022 - Cannabis Retail Review Task Force - Findings and Recommendations

1. That Report No. CS26-022 be received; and
2. That the Local Actions set out in the Recommendations section of the final report of the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force be implemented; and
3. That the final report of the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force be circulated to York Regional Police, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), Local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all municipalities in Ontario for consideration and support.

Carried

Attachment 1 to Report No. CS26-022

Cannabis Retail Review Task Force

Final Findings and Recommendations

August 27, 2026

1. Purpose

The Cannabis Retail Review Task Force was established by Council to review the Town of Aurora's experience since opting in to Ontario's retail cannabis framework and to report back to Council with findings and recommendations.

The Task Force reviewed the provincial regulatory framework, previous Council decisions and reports, information from Town staff and York Regional Police, enforcement and complaint information, community concerns, the experience of neighbouring residents and businesses, and feedback received through the 2026 Cannabis Retail Review Survey.

The Task Force recognizes that legal cannabis retailers are legitimate businesses operating within a provincially regulated framework. The purpose of this review is not to reconsider the legalization of cannabis or Aurora's decision to opt in, but to determine what has been learned from Aurora's experience and identify opportunities to better address community impacts.

2. Background

Aurora Council opted in to permit private cannabis retail stores on January 21, 2019.

At the same time, Council recognized potential concerns regarding the location and concentration of cannabis retail stores and requested that the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario consider additional location restrictions.

Specifically, Council requested:

- A minimum 150-metre separation between cannabis retail stores; and
- A minimum 150-metre separation between cannabis retail stores and specified sensitive uses, including daycares, nurseries, parks, group homes, addiction and

counselling facilities, recreation facilities, the Aurora Public Library, Town Hall and similar public gathering uses.

Despite Council's request, these additional criteria were not adopted by the AGCO.

The Province currently requires a 150-metre separation from schools and private schools. Municipalities do not have authority to license private cannabis retailers or regulate cannabis retail as a separate land use. Cannabis stores are otherwise subject to the same applicable municipal zoning requirements as other permitted retail uses.

The Town's 2023 Retail Cannabis Update subsequently confirmed that the number or proximity of cannabis stores is not an objectionable criterion under the provincial framework and that municipalities have no control over their locations beyond the zoning requirements applicable to retail uses generally.

3. Community Survey

Council authorized a Cannabis Retail Review Survey to provide the Task Force with current community feedback.

The survey was conducted from July 14 to August 9, 2026 and was promoted through Town communication channels.

The survey received:

- 479 visits; and
- 154 completed responses.

The survey should be considered an important source of community feedback rather than a statistically representative referendum of all Aurora residents.

Overall, the survey indicates that the principal concern among respondents is not simply the existence of legal cannabis retail stores. Concerns are more strongly associated with:

- The number of cannabis retail stores;
- Concentration and clustering;
- Store locations;
- Proximity to sensitive uses;

- Youth exposure; and
- Neighbourhood impacts.

The Task Force also recognizes that a segment of respondents supports cannabis retail and considers these businesses legitimate and appropriately regulated retail operations.

These results generally reinforce the location and concentration concerns identified by Aurora Council when it opted in to cannabis retail in 2019.

4. Task Force Findings

Finding 1: Cannabis retail has not created a significant town-wide enforcement problem

The available information does not demonstrate widespread public safety, crime or municipal enforcement problems associated with cannabis retail stores across Aurora.

Town staff have historically reported relatively few complaints associated with legal cannabis retailers, and proactive By-law inspections conducted in March 2026 did not identify violations.

The Task Force therefore does not find evidence supporting a conclusion that cannabis retail stores, as a class of business, represent a significant town-wide enforcement problem.

Finding 2: Town-wide statistics do not necessarily reflect localized impacts

While aggregate complaint and enforcement numbers are relatively low, the Task Force heard concerns regarding impacts experienced by residents and businesses neighbouring certain cannabis retail locations.

Issues identified during the Task Force's work included:

- Litter and discarded cannabis packaging;

- Parking;
- Signage;
- Patron behaviour;
- Loitering or prolonged gathering;
- Neighbourhood compatibility; and
- Other nuisance and quality-of-life concerns.

The Task Force finds that a relatively small number of locations can generate significant impacts for immediate neighbours without producing large town-wide complaint statistics.

Accordingly, aggregate complaint data should not be the sole measure used to determine whether a localized problem exists.

Finding 3: Location and concentration are central concerns

The Task Force finds that one of the most consistent concerns is the location and concentration of cannabis retail stores rather than the existence of legal cannabis retail itself.

This finding is reinforced by the 2026 community survey, which identified the perceived number, concentration and location of stores as primary concerns.

The existing provincial framework provides Aurora with little ability to address these concerns.

Finding 4: Aurora anticipated these concerns in 2019

The Task Force finds it significant that Aurora Council identified location and concentration as potential concerns before cannabis retail stores began operating in the Town.

Council's 2019 request for:

- 150-metre separation between cannabis retail stores; and
- 150-metre separation from specified sensitive uses

was intended to provide reasonable safeguards while allowing legal cannabis retail businesses to operate in Aurora.

Seven years of experience and the results of the 2026 review demonstrate that many of the concerns identified by Council in 2019 remain relevant.

Finding 5: The provincial framework significantly limits municipal control

The Task Force finds that there is a significant gap between municipal responsibility for responding to community concerns and municipal authority to prevent or address the underlying location issues.

Aurora can enforce generally applicable municipal bylaws, including parking, signage and property-related regulations.

However, Aurora cannot:

- License cannabis retail stores;
- Regulate cannabis retail as a separate land use;
- Establish cannabis-specific zoning;
- Establish mandatory separation distances between cannabis stores; or
- Establish additional cannabis-specific setbacks from sensitive uses.

The ultimate authority respecting retail cannabis authorizations rests with the Province through the AGCO.

Finding 6: Localized problems require targeted responses

Given the relatively low level of town-wide complaints but more significant concerns associated with particular locations, the Task Force finds that targeted intervention is preferable to blanket enforcement.

Where persistent problems are identified, the Town should coordinate available resources and work with retailers, property owners, neighbouring businesses, residents, By-law Services, YRP and the AGCO, as appropriate, to address the specific circumstances.

Finding 7: Residents need clearer information about where and how to report concerns

Responsibility for cannabis-related concerns is divided among several organizations.

Depending upon the issue, residents may need to contact:

- Town of Aurora By-law Services;
- York Regional Police;
- The AGCO;
- York Region; or
- A property owner or business operator.

The Task Force finds that clearer public information would improve reporting, allow concerns to be directed to the appropriate authority and improve the quality of information available for future monitoring.

5. Recommendations

The Cannabis Retail Review Task Force recommends that Council endorse the following actions.

A. Local Actions

1. Improve public information and reporting

That the Town develop clear public information identifying where residents and businesses should report cannabis retail concerns, including the respective responsibilities of the Town, AGCO, York Regional Police and other appropriate agencies.

2. Establish a targeted response approach

That where recurring concerns are identified around a cannabis retail location, appropriate Town departments coordinate a targeted response using existing municipal

enforcement authorities and engage the retailer, property owner, neighbouring residents and businesses, YRP and AGCO where appropriate.

3. Encourage retailer and property-owner engagement

That the Town encourage cannabis retailers and property owners to proactively address legitimate neighbourhood concerns, including litter, parking, property maintenance and patron behaviour occurring on their properties.

4. Continue monitoring

That the Town periodically monitor cannabis retail-related complaints and enforcement activity to identify emerging trends or recurring locations of concern and report significant developments to Council as appropriate.

B. Provincial Advocacy

5. Reaffirm Aurora's 2019 position

That Council reaffirm its January 21, 2019 position respecting cannabis retail store locations and advocate to the Province of Ontario and the AGCO for implementation of those principles.

Specifically, Aurora should continue to advocate for authority to establish:

- A minimum 150-metre separation between cannabis retail stores; and
- A minimum 150-metre separation between cannabis retail stores and appropriate sensitive uses, including daycares, nurseries, parks, group homes, addiction and counselling facilities, recreation facilities, libraries and other appropriate public gathering places.

6. Provide municipalities greater authority over location and clustering

That Council request that the Province amend the cannabis retail regulatory framework to provide municipalities with meaningful authority to address the location, density and clustering of cannabis retail stores within their communities.

Any expanded municipal authority should allow municipalities to develop locally appropriate standards while maintaining reasonable opportunities for legal cannabis retailers to operate.

7. Strengthen municipal input into AGCO decisions

That Council request that the Province strengthen the municipal role in the AGCO retail store authorization process, including requiring meaningful consideration of municipal concerns regarding location, concentration, sensitive uses and documented community impacts.

8. Review operating conditions where neighbourhood impacts exist

That the Province and AGCO be requested to examine whether additional regulatory tools are appropriate where a cannabis retail operation generates repeated, documented impacts on neighbouring residential or commercial properties, including whether operating conditions or hours may be considered where warranted.

9. Coordinate advocacy with other Ontario municipalities

That Aurora's final Task Force report and Council resolution be forwarded to:

- The Premier of Ontario;
- The appropriate Provincial Ministers;
- The AGCO;
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- York Region;
- All Ontario municipalities,

with a request for support for greater municipal authority over cannabis retail location and clustering.

6. Conclusion

Aurora's experience with legal cannabis retail is nuanced.

The Task Force did not find evidence that cannabis retailers generally represent a significant town-wide public safety or enforcement problem. Legal cannabis retailers

are regulated businesses that contribute to Aurora's economy and should be treated fairly.

At the same time, the review demonstrates that legitimate localized impacts can occur and that the current provincial framework leaves municipalities with limited tools to address one of the community's principal concerns: where cannabis stores locate and how closely they may be concentrated.

Importantly, Aurora anticipated these issues in 2019.

When Council opted in to cannabis retail, it supported reasonable separation distances between stores and from sensitive uses. Those recommendations were not incorporated into the provincial framework. The concerns identified through the Task Force's work and the 2026 community survey demonstrate that those principles remain relevant today.

The Task Force therefore recommends a balanced approach.

Locally, Aurora should improve reporting, monitoring, communication and targeted responses where problems occur.

Provincially, Aurora should renew and strengthen its advocacy for the principles Council established in 2019 and request meaningful municipal authority over cannabis retail location, concentration and neighbourhood compatibility.

This approach recognizes cannabis retailers as legitimate businesses while also recognizing the responsibility of municipal government to protect the quality of life of residents and neighbouring businesses.

Councillor John Gallo
Town of Aurora
Cannabis Retail Review Task Force Chair

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF

GANANOQUE

Canadian Gateway to the 1000 Islands

14 October 2026

The Municipal Councils of Ontario

Request for Endorsement - Declaration Against Religious Violence

Colleagues,

I write to you today knowing that we are all aware of the horrible trend of religiously based violence in Canada over the last few years in which people of many faiths and their places worship have been targeted. In light of this, and following recent tragic events at the Sons of Jacob synagogue in Belleville I drafted, put forward and signed the attached Declaration Against Religious Violence at the October 7th meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Gananoque.

As a 30-year veteran of the Canadian Forces with service all across Canada, in Europe, as a UN Peacekeeper in the Middle East, and service in Afghanistan, I have witnessed what happens when intolerance and "othering" are allowed to take root and grow.

I believe that the importance of publicly stating the fundamental principles for which we stand, that we refuse to compromise and will defend, and the kinds of behaviour we oppose and will stand against, cannot be overstated. Central to this is the defence of the fundamental principle that all persons are equal and share the same fundamental rights and dignity as persons.

Therefore, and on behalf of the Council of Gananoque, we invite you to join us by endorsing the attached Declaration Against Religious Violence and ask if you would please forward to us a copy of your endorsement with cc Minister Graham McGregor, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism of the Province of Ontario.

Thank you for your consideration,

John S. Beddows

John S. Beddows, CD1, MPA
Mayor
The Corporation of the Town of Gananoque
30 King St. E., Gananoque ON, K7G 1E9
613-382-2149 Ext. 1119
Fax: 613-382-8587

CC

Minister Graham McGregor
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
14th Floor
56 Wellesley St. W
Toronto, ON M7A 2E7
graham.mcgregor@ontario.ca

MPP Steve Clark
Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes
9 Broad St., Unit 305
Brockville, ON K6V 6Z4
steve.clark@pc.ola.org

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF

GANANOQUE

Canadian Gateway to the 1000 Islands

Declaration

In light of, and having reflected on the tragic trend of religiously based violence in Canada over the last few years in which people of many faiths and their places worship have been targeted, I am writing today as the Mayor of Gananoque to publicly articulate a simple message of what I believe we stand for in our Town, and what we stand against.

Here in Gananoque we stand for community, understanding, communication, caring, supporting our neighbours, courtesy, kindness, the value of hard work, the fact that respect must be earned by the way we comport ourselves and conduct our lives as individuals and a simple and unshakable belief that a stranger is a friend you haven't met yet.

We believe that all people share, at core, the same hopes and aspirations. We all want our children to be able to attend school, move freely, live, play and congregate without fear or concern. We want our children to have the same opportunities or better ones than we had to grow, learn, love, laugh, experience, travel, work and succeed on their own terms and as they define success. We all want security of place, security from hunger, security of our persons and security of our property. We believe in building bridges, not fences. We believe in the power of debate, that facts matter, and of understanding. We believe in providing help to those who need it and in doing our best to ensure that everyone has a place to find help, warmth and hope when they need it, without judgement.

We believe that faith is a personal choice and that the individual and collective quest for truth brings hope and light into a world which need them very badly.

We assert and we will stand and defend the fundamental principle that all persons are equal and share the same fundamental rights and dignity as persons.

The other side of the coin. Here is what Gananoque stands against.

We stand against "othering". We stand against the objectification of people. We stand against any person or group that denies that all persons are equal in rights, dignity and freedoms. We stand against any person or group that seeks to use or that uses violence or intimidation as tools to target persons or groups or to try to change our society, our way of life and who we are as Canadians.

Here in Gananoque when a neighbour's house is on fire, we run towards the flames and not away. This will not change.

Hate has no home here.

Signed and dated this 7th day of October, 2026.

John S. Beddows, Mayor

CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY
Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Resolution No. 3

MOVED BY: Jamie MacDonald

SECONDED BY: Carma Williams

WHEREAS the Ministry of Long-Term Care is conducting a public consultation under Project #26-017 (Southbridge Cornwall 2) respecting an application to modify a long-term care home licence; and

WHEREAS the proposal would relocate the 70 licensed long-term care beds currently operating at The Palace in Alexandria to a new long-term care facility outside of the community, resulting in the closure of The Palace and the transfer of those licensed beds outside of North Glengarry; and

WHEREAS the Township of North Glengarry did not receive direct notification of the consultation process and did not receive any advance notice or information from the owner/operator regarding the proposed closure of The Palace or the relocation of the licensed long-term care beds outside of North Glengarry; and

WHEREAS The Palace is currently the only long-term care home operating in Alexandria and the proposed relocation would result in the loss of all 70 licensed long-term care beds from the community; and

WHEREAS Council is concerned that the permanent removal of these beds would reduce local access to long-term care services and diminish healthcare infrastructure available to current and future residents of North Glengarry; and

WHEREAS long-term care services are a critical component of the local healthcare system and support seniors in remaining close to their families, friends, caregivers and community supports when long-term care becomes necessary; and

WHEREAS the proposed relocation of the 70 licensed long-term care beds outside of North Glengarry would require many current and future residents to leave their community to access long-term care services; and

WHEREAS relocating these beds outside of North Glengarry would increase travel times for family members, friends and caregivers wishing to visit loved ones and may reduce opportunities for regular visitation and support; and

WHEREAS Council recognizes that maintaining close connections to family, friends and community is essential to the health, well-being and quality of life of long-term care residents and that increased separation from these supports may contribute to social isolation; and

CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY
Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2026

WHEREAS Council supports the modernization and redevelopment of long-term care facilities but believes that opportunities should be explored to maintain and expand long-term care capacity within North Glengarry rather than permanently relocating the community's licensed long-term care beds elsewhere;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Township of North Glengarry formally opposes the proposed relocation of the 70 licensed long-term care beds from The Palace in Alexandria and the resulting loss of long-term care capacity in both Alexandria and the Township;

AND FURTHER THAT Council urges the Ministry of Long-Term Care to fully consider the social, community and healthcare impacts associated with removing long-term care capacity from North Glengarry, including the impacts on seniors, families, caregivers and the broader community;

AND FURTHER THAT Council requests that all reasonable options be explored to maintain and expand long-term care capacity within North Glengarry;

AND FURTHER THAT Council requests that the Ministry of Long-Term Care reject the proposed licence modification and relocation of the 70 licensed long-term care beds unless satisfactory measures are identified to maintain equivalent or greater long-term care capacity within North Glengarry;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be submitted as part of the Ministry's public consultation process for Project #26-017;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Long-Term Care, MPP Stéphane Sarrazin, Hôpital Glengarry Memorial Hospital, the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, local municipalities, and other interested stakeholders.

CARRIED DEFEATED DEFERRED

[redacted]

MAYOR / DEPUTY MAYOR	YEA	NEA
Deputy Mayor: Carma Williams	___	___
Councillor: Jacques Massie	___	___
Councillor: Brian Caddell	___	___
Councillor: Jeff Manley	___	___
Councillor: Michael Madden	___	___
Councillor: Gary Martin	___	___
Mayor: Jamie MacDonald	___	___

The Corporation of The
Township of Stone Mills
4504 County Road 4, Centreville, Ontario K0K 1N0
Tel. (613) 378-2475 Fax. (613) 378-0033
Website: www.stonemills.com

November 13, 2026 **Sent Via Email Only**

Honrouable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office
Room 281
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Dear Honorouable Doug Ford,

Re: Requests to pause the current consultation process and extend the deadline for municipal submissions on Bill 140, the Building Ontario Faster Act, 2026

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of November 9, 2026, Township of Stone Mills Council passed the following motion,

Resolution 19-717-2026

WHEREAS: The Province of Ontario has introduced Bill 140, the Building Ontario Faster Act, 2026, which proposes significant legislative changes affecting municipalities, planning, environmental protections, public consultation and other areas of provincial and municipal governance;

AND WHEREAS the proposed legislation contains numerous complex provisions that may have significant and long-term implications for municipalities, their residents, and their ability to make informed decisions in the public interest;

AND WHEREAS municipal councils have a responsibility to carefully review proposed legislation, understand its potential implications, and provide meaningful and informed input to the provincial government on behalf of their communities;

AND WHEREAS the 2026 municipal election was held on October 26, 2026, and newly elected municipal councils are in the process of transitioning into their new terms of office, with limited opportunity to view and assess the full implications of Bill 140 prior to the provincial consultation deadlines;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Stone Mills recognizes that Bill 140 may contain provisions that could benefit municipalities and the public, but believes that meaningful consultation requires adequate time for municipalities to understand and assess the proposed changes before providing informed feedback;

AND WHEREAS municipal input is essential to ensuring that provincial legislation reflects the practical realities, unique circumstances, and needs of Ontario’s diverse municipalities, including small rural communities;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Stone Mills is not, at this time, taking a position on the merits of every provision contained within Bill 140, but rather is seeking an adequate opportunity for meaningful municipal review and consultation before the legislation proceeds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Council of the Township of Stone Mills respectfully requests that the Government of Ontario pause the current consultation process and extend the deadline for municipal submissions on Bill 140, the Building Ontario Faster Act,

2026, to provide newly elected municipal councils with sufficient time to review and assess the proposed legislation;

2. The Township further requests that the Province refrain from advancing the proposed legislation to final passage until municipalities have been afforded a reasonable opportunity to review the legislation, consult with their communities, and provide meaningful input;

3. The Township requests that the Province provide newly elected municipal councils with a minimum 90 days following the commencement of their new terms of office to review the legislation and submit their comments;

4. That this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Shelby Kramp-Neuman, MP, Ric Bresee, MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all other Ontario municipalities for their consideration and support;

5. That the Township of Stone Mills submit this resolution as its formal comment on the consultation process for Bill 140, and request that it be considered by the Province in determining the appropriate consultation period.

Moved By Councillor Milligan
Seconded By Councillor Lalande
Carried

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

B Teeple

Brandi Teeple
Township Clerk
Township of Stone Mills
4504 County Road 4
Centreville, ON, K0K 1N0
Phone: 613 378-2475 ext. 225
Email: bteeple@stonemills.com

cc. Rob Flack, Minster of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Shelby Kramp-Neuman, MP Hastings-Lennox & Addington-Tyendinaga
Ric Bresee, MPP Hastings-Lennox & Addington
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities

Township of La Vallee

RESOLUTION NO. 207

MOVED by: Elaine Hughes

Dated: November 16, 2026

SECONDED by: Brendan Hyatt

WHEREAS on October 27, 2026, the Government of Ontario introduced Bill 140, the Building Ontario Faster Act, 2026; and

WHEREAS Schedule 7 of Bill 140 proposes to amend the *Environmental Assessment Act* by repealing Section 17.5, which currently requires landfill proponents to obtain written support from the host municipality—and, where applicable, any adjacent municipality whose land lies within 3.5 kilometres of the proposed site—before proceeding with a comprehensive environmental assessment; and

WHEREAS Section 17.5 was enacted by the Province of Ontario in 2020 through Bill 197 specifically to recognize the right of local municipalities to have a decisive voice over major landfill developments that carry generational impacts for local infrastructure, water resources, agricultural land, public health, and community well-being; and

WHEREAS repealing Section 17.5 removes essential local democratic oversight, strips municipalities of their "willing host" authority, and risks imposing large-scale private or regional waste disposal facilities on communities without local consent; and

WHEREAS Bill 140 was introduced immediately following the October, 2026 municipal elections and has been referred to the Standing Committee on the Interior with public consultation on the Environmental Registry of Ontario closing on November 26, 2026;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of La Vallee formally opposes Schedule 7 of Bill 140 (*Building Ontario Faster Act, 2026*) and calls upon the Government of Ontario to withdraw Schedule 7 in its entirety and preserve Section 17.5 of the *Environmental Assessment Act*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario be urged to maintain the requirement for written municipal support from both host and neighbouring municipalities within 3.5 kilometres prior to the advancement of any landfill environmental assessment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to:

- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario;
- The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
- The Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Red Tape Reduction;
- Greg Rickford], Member of Provincial Parliament for Kenora-Rainy River;

- The Clerk of the Standing Committee on the Interior (scr@ola.org); Stefan Uguen-Csenge
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), The Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA); and
- All Ontario municipalities for their endorsement and support.

	Yea	Nay	Recorded vote	Pecuniary Interest
L. MacDonald				
G. Esselink				
E. Hughes				
B. Hyatt				
S. Loshaw				

L. MacDonald
Reeve

Carried ✓

Defeated _____

The Corporation of the Municipality of Red Lake

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED BY: NO. 176-26

SECONDED BY: DATE: November 9th, 2026

WHEREAS the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* requires Ontario municipalities to prepare and adopt Community Safety and Well-Being Plans; and

WHEREAS *Ontario Regulation 414/23* requires municipal councils to review and, where appropriate, revise their Community Safety and Well-Being Plans within four years of adoption and every four years thereafter, thereby creating an ongoing legislative planning obligation for municipalities; and

WHEREAS meaningful review and revision of Community Safety and Well-Being Plans require municipalities to undertake activities such as data collection and analysis, community and stakeholder engagement, priority setting, multi-sector collaboration, and the development of strategies to address identified community risks; and

WHEREAS the effectiveness of Community Safety and Well-Being Plans ultimately depends on municipalities and their community partners having sufficient resources not only to develop and periodically revise the plans but also to implement the priorities, programs and initiatives identified through the planning process; and

WHEREAS the Rural Ontario Municipal Association has identified the implementation of Community Safety and Well-Being Plans as an unfunded municipal mandate and has advocated for a dedicated funding stream to enable municipalities, particularly rural communities, to implement these plans; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has supported Community Safety and Well-Being planning through provincially funded programs involving participating communities rather than through the same province-wide statutory municipal planning requirement, including a $1.3 million investment announced in 2022 to support participating communities in developing Community Safety and Well-Being Plans and implementing local safety priorities, while Ontario municipalities are legislatively required to undertake Community Safety and Well-Being planning without dedicated provincial base funding or ongoing financial support for plan development and coordination; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba continues to provide support for CSWB activities, including funding directed toward the implementation of local Community Safety and Well-Being priorities and programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Red Lake calls upon the Government of Ontario to establish a dedicated, predictable and sustainable provincial funding program to assist municipalities with:

1. the legislatively required review and revision of Community Safety and Well-Being Plans, including associated consultation, engagement, research, data analysis and planning costs; and
2. the implementation of the priorities, strategies, programs and initiatives identified through Community Safety and Well-Being Plans; and

FURTHER THAT the Government of Ontario be requested to consider a funding model that recognizes the unique financial, geographic, service-delivery and capacity challenges experienced by northern, rural and remote municipalities; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Solicitor General, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Rural Affairs, the local Member of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and Ontario municipalities for consideration and support.

				CARRIED ✓ DEFEATED _____
Declaration of Interest (*)	NAME OF COUNCIL MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS	
	BADIUK, Warren			MAYOR
	GEARY, Debra			
	HAGER, Janet			CLERK
	KRISTOFF, Jamie			
	MOTA, Fred			
* General Nature Thereof:				

Distribution: _____

From the Office of the Clerk
The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
T: 613.476.2148 x 1021 | F: 613.476.5727
clerks@pecounty.on.ca | www.thecounty.ca

November 16, 2026

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of November 10, 2026 the following resolution regarding essential train services along the Québec City to Windsor corridor was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. **2026-422**

DATE: **November 10, 2026**

MOVED BY: **Councillor MacNaughton**

SECONDED BY: **Councillor St-Jean**

WHEREAS reliable and frequent passenger rail service is a vital component of sustainable regional transportation, economic development, tourism, employment, education, healthcare access, and regional connectivity; and,

WHEREAS on October 25, 2026, Via Rail Canada implemented schedule adjustments and service reductions across the Quebec City-Windsor corridor, resulting in fewer daily trains; and,

WHEREAS service reductions negatively impact transit-dependent travellers across Eastern Ontario; and,

WHEREAS fewer daily trains undermines climate goals by discouraging travel by passenger rail and increasing highway congestion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Prince Edward County Council, urge Via Rail Canada and the federal Minister of Transport to reconsider its service reductions and commit to improving essential train services across the corridor;

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Mark Carney, the Federal Minister of Transport, Steven MacKinnon, and Member of Parliament, Chris Malette; the President and Chief Executive Officer of VIA Rail Canada, Mathieu Paquette, and

THAT this resolution be forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and joint advocacy.

CARRIED

From the Office of the Clerk
The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
T: 613.476.2148 x 1021 | F: 613.476.5727
clerks@pecounty.on.ca | www.thecounty.ca

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg,

Interim Director of Corporate/Legislative Services & Municipal Clerk

cc: Clerk's Office

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

NOTICE OF A HEARING

Enbridge Gas Inc. has applied for approval to update the Integrated Resource Planning Framework

Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) has applied to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) for approval to update the *Integrated Resource Planning Framework for Enbridge Gas* (IRP Framework). IRP is a planning strategy and process that evaluates and compares demand-side (customer-side) and supply-side (utility-side) alternatives to pipeline infrastructure in meeting natural gas system needs. The IRP Framework sets out the OEB's requirements for the identification and implementation of alternatives (or combination of alternatives) that are in the best interest of Enbridge Gas's customers and its natural gas system by taking into account reliability and safety, cost-effectiveness, public policy, optimized scoping, and risk management.

Enbridge Gas has applied for approval for updates to the IRP Framework, taking into account proposals in an OEB staff discussion paper and submissions filed by participants in a previous OEB consultation to review the IRP Framework (EB-2025-0125).

If the updated IRP Framework is approved as filed, customers would not see any direct changes to rates or bills. However, in future applications, Enbridge Gas could request rate changes to implement IRP activities based on the updated IRP Framework.

This hearing will be held under section 36 of the ***Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998***, S.O. 1998, c.15, Schedule B.

Ce document est aussi disponible en français.

Ontario Energy Board

YOU SHOULD KNOW

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING

There are three types of OEB Hearings: oral, electronic and written. If you have a preference for the hearing type, you can write to us to explain why. During this hearing, we will question the applicant about its case. We will also hear questions and arguments from participants that have registered as Intervenors. After reviewing all the evidence, we will decide whether to approve the application.

HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information about this application and to participate in the process. Visit www.oeb.ca/notice and use file number **EB-2026-0216** to:

- Review the application
- Apply to become an intervenor
- File a letter with your comments

IMPORTANT DATES

You must engage with the OEB on or before **November 9, 2026** to:

- Provide input on the hearing type (oral, electronic or written)
- Apply to be an intervenor

If you do not, the hearing will move forward without you, and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.

PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. If you are a business or if you apply to become an intervenor, all the information you file will be on the OEB website.

LEARN MORE

Ontario Energy Board

1 877-632-2727 TTY: 1-877-632-2727

Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

oeb.ca/notice

Enbridge Gas Inc.

1-877-362-7434

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

enbridgegas.com

This hearing will be held under section 36 of the ***Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998***, S.O. 1998, c.15, Schedule B.

Ce document est aussi disponible en français.

Ontario Energy Board

WE COUNT FEMICIDE BECAUSE...

MONTHLY FEMICIDE IN ONTARIO FACTSHEET

OCTOBER 1ST - OCTOBER 31ST 2026

#WeCountFemicideBecause

1

Femicides in Ontario October 2026

37

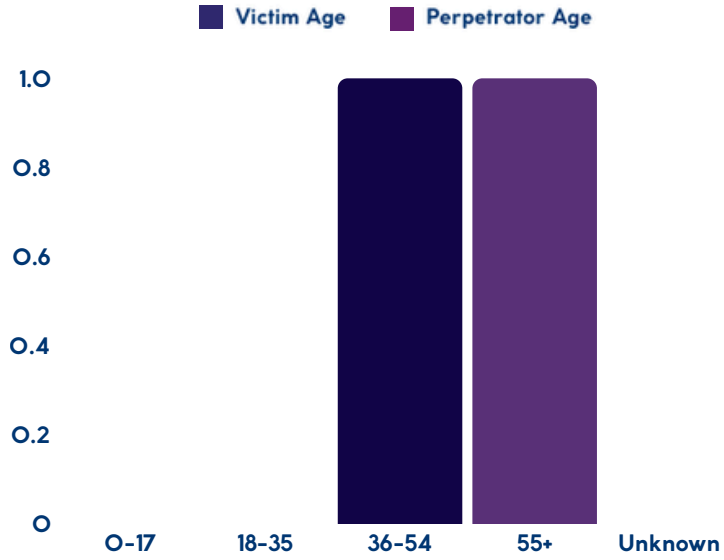
Ontario Femicides (since Nov. 26 2025)

Quick Facts

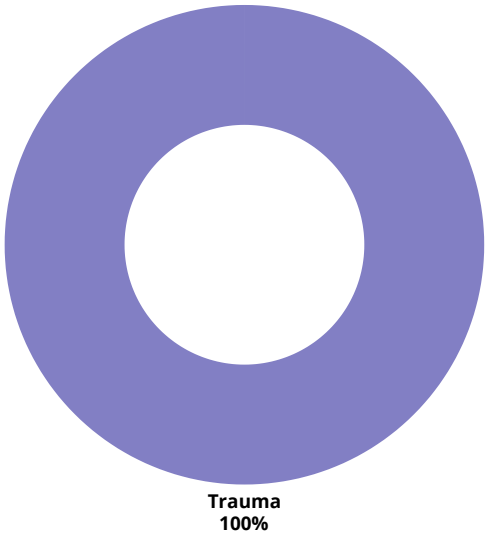
- OAITH's femicide definition includes a gender-related killing of a woman, child, trans woman, 2-Spirited Person, or gender non-conforming individual where a man has been charged in relation to the death

OAITH Femicide Data- Femicide Type (Year to Date)					
Intimate Partner	Family	Known	Relationship Not Reported	No Prior Relationship	Total
11	6	6	12	2	37

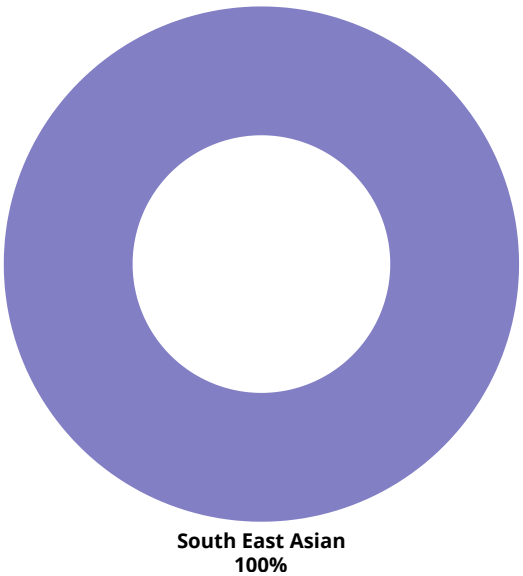
Victim & Perpetrator Age Comparision



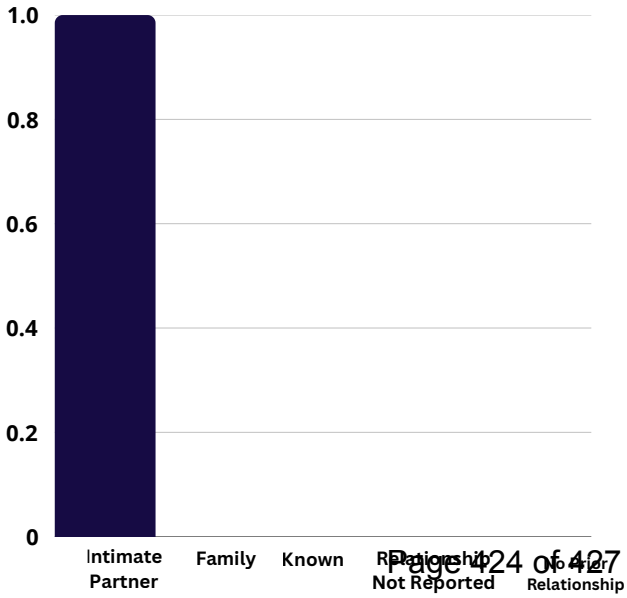
Cause of Death



Victim Race



Victim & Perpetrator Relationship Comparison



WE COUNT FEMICIDE BECAUSE...

MONTHLY FEMICIDE IN ONTARIO FACTSHEET

OCTOBER 1ST - OCTOBER 31ST 2026

#WeCountFemicideBecause

Femicide Victims

Confirmed Total: 1

Central Region



Gregoria Alilio, 47 - Toronto, ON
National Media: https://bit.ly/GregoriaAlilioTorontoStar
Local Media: https://bit.ly/GregoriaAlilioCP24
Television Media: https://bit.ly/GregoriaAlilioGlobalNews

Newly Confirmed Femicide Victims

Total: 2





Leia Cooper, 18 - Sarnia, ON
National Media: No report available at time of publication
Local Media: https://bit.ly/LeiaCooperSarniaObserver
Television Media: https://bit.ly/LeiaCooperCTVNews



Jane Doe (Cornwall), 83 - Cornwall, ON
National Media: No report available at time of publication
Local Media: https://bit.ly/CornwallStandardFreeholderJaneDoe
Television Media: https://bit.ly/CTVNewsJaneDoeCornwall

Unconfirmed

Total: 1



Jane Doe (Cornwall), 52 - Cornwall, ON
National Media: No report available at time of publication
Local Media: https://bit.ly/JaneDoeCornwallStandardFreehold
Television Media: https://bit.ly/JaneDoeCornwallCTVNews

Shaping the Narrative: Using Media as a Tool for GBV Prevention

In October, one femicide case was confirmed in Ontario while one case remains unconfirmed as criminal charges have not yet been laid. Media sources also reported on charges laid in the deaths of two women from previous months. To date, 37 femicides have been confirmed in the province. Among the cases, charges have been laid or a current or former intimate partner has been deemed responsible in 30% of cases (11/37). Family members have been charged or deemed responsible in 16% of femicide deaths, and other men known to the victim have been charged/deemed responsible in 16% of cases. Police have indicated there was no prior relationship between the accused and the victim in 6% of cases. The relationship has not been reported in 32% of cases, with a number of cases protected by publication bans.

While femicide prevention often calls on government actors to collaboratively act, media partners also have a critical role to play in addressing and ending gender-based violence. Through selective reporting, narrative framing and mass dissemination, media has been known to play a powerful role in shaping public opinion and understanding of social issues, like gender-based violence and femicide (Gillespie et al., 2013). By enhancing public awareness and situating these deaths as a part of a broader gendered-issue, media reporting can help draw attention to the issue. Through reporting on femicides, media can also play a valuable role in bridging the gap between survivors, their own understanding of the issue, connecting them to local supports (Gillespie et al., 2013). It is also an important tool for the dissemination of information, supporting data collection efforts. For example, to track and understand femicide trends in Ontario, OAITH relies on publicly available media reported data. This data helps to identify emerging trends, informing community responses and ongoing provincial and federal advocacy.

Although progress has been seen within OAITH's Annual Femicide Media Analysis, data collection efforts continue to be hindered by gaps in media reporting, publication bans and other barriers to police and media disclosure. As noted above, 37 femicides have been reported in the province to date. Within this time frame, 5 additional lives were reported to be lost in the province. These deaths have been ruled to be criminal in nature, however, at the time of this report's publication, media articles have not confirmed that criminal charges have been laid. There are a number of other deaths that continue to be monitored, however, details indicating criminality and/or the victim's gender have not yet been released.

Suggested Citation:

Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH), 2026. October Monthly Femicide in Ontario Factsheet.

There are also notable gaps in the data that is released pertaining to femicide cases, including the relationship between the victim and accused, which is at times omitted due to publication bans or at the discretion of police. Similarly, additional gaps emerge due to the lack of identification of victims, including limited data pertaining to the victim's age, race or ethnicity, which can obscure provincial trends, underestimating violence against certain populations. While some small increases have been seen within OAITH's Media Analysis, most reports fail to include information pertaining to histories of GBV, a notable warning sign and risk factor for future lethality (Domestic Violence Death Review Committee, 2024). In recent years there has also been minimal coverage in national media reporting on femicide cases. Last year 35% of femicide cases received no national media coverage, which may unintentionally reinforce the notion that some victims are more "newsworthy" than others (Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses, 2025). Not only can these trends obscure data collection efforts but it can also minimize the issue, inadvertently shaping policy makers' and the public's perception of the issue. Limited reporting may also impact how survivors understand the issue and recognize their own experiences of violence, missing critical opportunities to connect survivors to life-saving support.

While media partners are at times limited by police reporting, they have a role in shaping public understanding of femicide and working towards femicide prevention. By following up with police, reviewing past criminal histories, including help contact information and connecting with other non-traditional sources to contextualize the issue, like GBV advocates, media partners can help to enhance transparency and improve public understanding and awareness of femicides in Ontario. To support media reporting on femicide a number of resources are available through GBV in The Media, including a media toolkit and journalist scorecards. You can also learn more about femicide media reporting in the province through OAITH's Annual Media Analysis.

Domestic Violence Death Review Committee. 2024. Domestic Violence Death Review Committee: 2019–2020 Annual Report.

Gillespie, L., Richards, T., Givens, E., Smith, M. 2013. Framing deadly domestic violence: why the media's spin matters in newspaper coverage of femicide. Violence Against Women. doi: 10.1177/1077801213476457.