

tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca

From: Steve and Kim Gravefell <ksgrfell@icloud.com>
Sent: September 17, 2025 9:31 AM
To: councillor Brian Pecoskie; Bil Smith; Councillor Maureen MacMillan; Ted Browne; councillorkuehl@khrtownship.ca; councillorlavigne@khrtownship.ca; Mayor@khrtownship.ca; tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca
Subject: Fwd: "Draw the Line" – What Councils Need to Know

Good Morning; Mayor, Councillors, and CAO;

We thought it would be good to bring this to your attention from KICLEI CANADA. On September 20th there will be a "Draw the Line" campaign from Non Government Organizations gathering outside city halls across Canada with slogans like "No More Fossil Fuels" and "Fund Climate Action Plans." This is a good read on what is going on with Globalism made to look like local governments are endorsing this.

Respectfully
Steve and Kim Gravefell
Killaloe, Ontario

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Help us bring local decision-making back where it belongs — share this article with your councillor or local group.

“Draw the Line” – What Councils Need to Know

Response Brief

GATHER 2030

SEP 17



On **September 20th**, Canadians will see rallies, marches, and coordinated actions branded under the campaign “**Draw the Line**” (see full campaign site here: drawtheline.world).

At first glance, this may look like a spontaneous, grassroots uprising. In reality, it is a centrally organized campaign driven by 350.org, Climate Action Network Canada, Migrant Rights Network, Greenpeace Canada, the Council of Canadians, and dozens of other NGO partners. These groups provide toolkits, pre-written messages, and interactive maps to project the appearance of coast-to-coast consensus.

What’s really happening:

- **Staging at municipal sites:** Organizers are instructing participants to gather outside **city halls** across Canada. Suggested signage includes slogans like “**No More Fossil Fuels**” and “**Fund Climate Action Plans.**” This is designed to create the impression that local governments themselves endorse or are lagging on these demands.
- **Media spotlight:** Local media outlets are likely to cover these actions because of the visual impact (city hall steps, crowds with unified signs). Councils should expect headlines portraying this as a local call for climate funding, even though it is scripted nationally.
- **Funded by NGOs:** These actions are not spontaneous. They are funded, coordinated, and branded by international and national NGOs. Toolkits, graphics, and even sample speeches are provided to ensure uniform messaging.

The KICLEI Position:

We stand for **localism over globalism**. Canadians have the right to decide their own municipal priorities through democratic debate – not by adopting agendas written in Vancouver, Ottawa, or New York.

Councils should ask:

- ☑ Are these demands based on our community's priorities – jobs, housing, roads, taxes?
- ☑ Who funds these campaigns, and who do they account to?

Key Message for Councillors:

Local councils are accountable to their residents, not to international NGOs.

City halls are for the people who live here – not props for global NGOs.

Municipal councils must not be drawn into NGO-driven campaigns without a clear mandate from their residents. Our duty is to represent local priorities – not to serve as a stage for international agendas.”

For Reference:

- 🔗 Full campaign site: drawtheline.world
- 🔗 KICLEI Canada resources: kiclei.ca

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K9J 8R8

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🚩 Start writing

From: Steve and Kim Gravefell <ksgrfell@icloud.com>
Sent: September 18, 2025 8:01 AM
To: mayor@khrtownship.ca; Bil Smith; councillor Brian Pecoskie; Councillor Maureen MacMillan; councilorkuehl@khrtownship.ca; councillorlavigne@khrtownship.ca; Ted Browne; tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca
Subject: Glyphosate Spraying

Dear Mayor, councillors and CAO:

We attended the September 16th council meeting and listened to the presentation from Jeff Muzzie. He was accompanied by two representatives one from Ben Hokum and Son Ltd and Ottawa Valley Forest Inc. In his statement regarding forestry he said he was “very offended and angry by people saying all we care about are cutting trees down.” We are not sure who said that to him and have never heard that before as we are residents in the area. He states that a delegate spoke about the spraying herbicides in the Ottawa Valley at the last meeting and it was full of inaccuracies and misrepresentation. We are not sure what part of the previous delegates presentation was inaccurate or misrepresented because we found what the resident said regarding Bayer and Monsanto facts to be accurate as to what we found on the internet and AI. He also went on to say that anyone that differs from his opinion is a conspiracy theorist. When he stated that glyphosate was poison and compared it to coffee and alcohol we were shocked. If Mr Muzzie had a cup of coffee, a cup of alcohol and a cup of glyphosate in front of him, would he actually drink all three? We doubt it. That is quite a stretch trying to compare these as equal. We understand that Hokum Lumber and the Ottawa Valley Forests Inc are large corporations and active members in our community but that does not give them the right to use a poison chemical such as glyphosate to further their financial gain. Contrary to Mr Muzzie claiming that he read a dated study that Quebecs hand brushing does not work, this is not true. Mr Muzzie’s statement regarding Quebec and their non use of herbicidal spray for the last 24 years is inaccurate and misrepresented. We have attached below an up to date AI overview of Quebecs non-use of chemical herbicides, specifically glyphosate in its Crown forest management for over 24 years:

AI Overview

Quebec has not used chemical herbicides, specifically glyphosate, in its Crown forest management for over 24 years, following a ban in 2001 that required a shift to alternative, more labor-intensive forestry practices like using larger tree seedlings and mechanical release methods. This decision, driven by concerns for environmental protection and human health, has created a successful model of ecosystem-based management that relies on intensive silviculture and mechanical treatments to control competing vegetation without chemical sprays.

The Ban and Its Implementation

- **Date:**

Quebec banned the use of chemical herbicides on its Crown forest lands in 2001.

- **Policy Change:**

The ban was a result of public hearings and a commitment to protect biodiversity and promote healthier living environments.

- **Alternatives:**

Instead of spraying, the province now relies on:

- **Mechanical Treatments:** Using manual and mechanical methods to prepare forest sites and release crop trees.
- **Larger Planting Stock:** Planting taller, more robust seedlings that can better fend off competition from other vegetation.
- **Intensive Silviculture:** A comprehensive approach to forest management that focuses on early reforestation and managing vegetation growth.

Key Aspects of Quebec's Forest Management

- **Ecosystem-Based Management:**

Quebec's experience illustrates a model of integrated vegetation management that aligns with an ecosystem-based approach, considering the entire ecosystem and social needs.

- **Success:**

The province's strategy has successfully brought trees to the "free-to-grow" stage without herbicides, demonstrating the viability of a chemical-free forest management model.

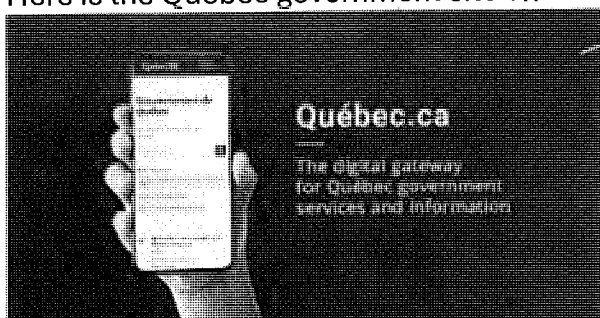
- **Economic and Employment Opportunities:**

Adopting these practices creates more jobs and reduces potential environmental damage, though it can be a more expensive option compared to spraying.

The "24 Years" Figure

- As of July 1, 2025, Quebec's celebration of 25 years without the use of chemical herbicides in its public forests marks this significant period of herbicide-free forest management.

Here is the Quebec government site on the Silvicultural brush workers:



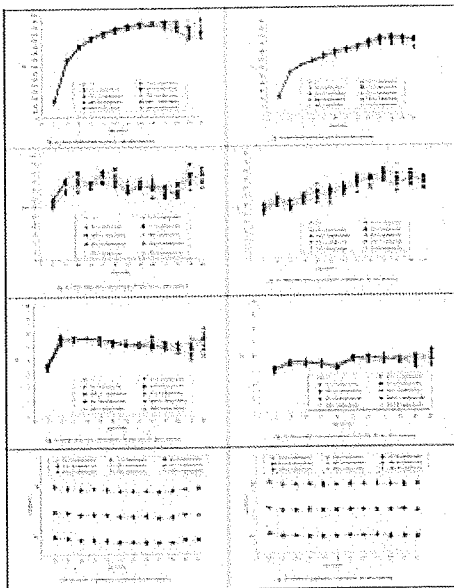
Exploring Trades and Occupations
quebec.ca

We find it a contradiction that at the opening of every council meeting the Mayor thanks the Algonquin people of the First Nations Lands acknowledgement for us living on their lands and yet we show no respect for their lands as they have been asking for years to stop the herbicidal spray of glyphosate on their lands. Indigenous communities in Northern Ontario, are advocating for an end to aerial glyphosate spraying on their territories due to concerns about health impacts and environmental damage to traditional food sources and ecosystems. In August 2025, these efforts led to protests and a temporary suspension of spraying in specific areas in Ontario, though the underlying issue remains. The Chiefs of Ontario and the Metis Nation of Ontario have also issued statements supporting First Nations in their calls for a provincial ban on glyphosate spraying. Is this how we thank them by ignoring their concerns? Why don't we start by honouring their concerns and ban this in our municipality so others can follow.

Indigenous Algonquins asking to stop herbicide spray
 google.com



It has been shown in the last several years that companies that do their own testing on chemicals, such as glyphosate is a conflict of interest. Monsanto which makes glyphosate, owned now by Bayer, should not be doing their own testing, it should be a independent company. Here is a page from an independent study on glyphosate:



Carcinogenic effects of long-term exposure from prenatal life to glyphosate and glyphosate-based herbicides in Sprague-Dawley rats - Environmental Health
 ehjournal.biomedcentral.com

All showing glyphosate has not been solely tested and Bayer-Monsantos:

AI Overview

No single company has solely tested glyphosate for all its harms; instead, multiple entities, including government agencies like the U.S. National Toxicology Program (NTP), non-profit organizations such as the Environmental Working Group (EWG) and U.S. PIRG, academic researchers, and international health bodies like the World Health Organization (WHO), have conducted various studies and analyses on its potential risks. Manufacturers like Bayer (formerly Monsanto) have their own internal assessments, but public and independent scrutiny from these various groups has been crucial in raising awareness about glyphosate's potential links to health issues and environmental contamination.

Government Agencies:

- The National Toxicology Program (NTP), part of the U.S. government, conducted early toxicity studies on glyphosate in the 1990s, publishing findings on its potential health effects.
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has also tested food products for glyphosate residues.

Non-Profit Organizations and Researchers:

- Organizations like the Environmental Working Group (EWG) have conducted their own tests on food products, such as conventional oats and beans, finding high levels of glyphosate.
- The Environmental Defence group has called for independent reviews by Health Canada due to their own meta-analysis showing increased non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) risk from high glyphosate exposure.
- Researchers at the University of California San Diego have studied the prevalence of glyphosate in human urine samples, linking it to the increased use of glyphosate in agriculture.
- U.S. PIRG, in 2019, tested various beer and wine brands, finding glyphosate in most samples.

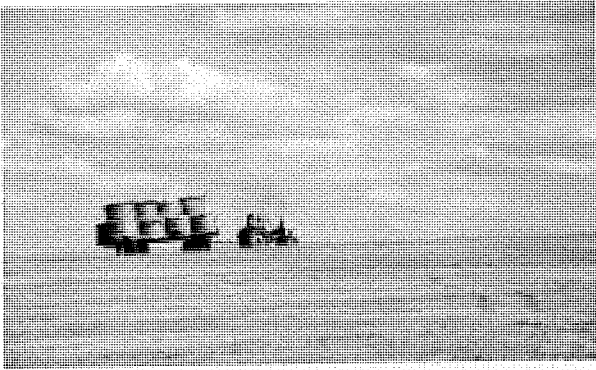
Manufacturers:

- **Bayer (formerly Monsanto)**, the original manufacturer of the Roundup brand, has conducted its own assessments and maintains that glyphosate is safe at typical exposure levels, though it faces significant litigation over cancer claims.

International Bodies:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has also assessed the risks of glyphosate, with its International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifying it as "probably carcinogenic to humans".

There are many more articles on the harms of glyphosate and it is very concerning. We have grandchildren with gluten intolerance:



Glyphosate and Gluten Intolerance + BiotiQuest®
biotiquest.com

Spraying glyphosate is cheaper, faster and more effective than "hand brushing" removal but at who's expense, our ecosystem; insects, birds, all wildlife and humans? We would like you to seriously consider the alternative to spraying (glyphosate=Round-up=poison), before endorsing spraying in your next vote. We have written our MP and Premier Doug Ford to have it banned in all of Ontario, just as the government of Quebec did over 24 years ago.

Deeply concerned residents of Renfrew County.
Steve and Kim Gravefell

Office Admin <email@petawawa.ca>; cityptbo@peterborough.ca; info@ptbocounty.ca; petrolia@petrolia.ca; clerks@pickering.ca; reception@picklelake.org; info@plummertownship.ca; Info Plympton-Wyoming <info@plympton-wyoming.ca>; info@villageofpointedward.com; admin@porthope.ca; office@powassan.net; info@prescott.ca; sparisien@prescott-russell.on.ca; lorraine@twp.prince.on.ca; info@pecounty.on.ca; admin@puslinch.ca; rainyriver@tbaytel.net; ramara@ramara.ca; municipality@redlake.ca; deputyclerk@redrocktownship.com; info@countyofrenfrew.on.ca; vcharbonneau@renfrew.ca; clerks@richmondhill.ca; info@twprideaulakes.on.ca; clerk.greffe@russell.ca; clerk@ryersontownship.ca; inquiries@sables-spanish.ca; Amy Burkhart <clerks@sarnia.ca>; clerk@saugeenshores.ca; info@cityssm.on.ca; clerk@schreiber.ca; mail@scugog.ca; info@seguin.ca; info@selwyntownship.ca; clerk@townshipofsevern.com; jwilloughby@shelburne.ca; clerkdept@shuniah.org; info@simcoe.ca; clerk@siouxlookout.ca; info@snnf.ca; info@smithsfalls.ca; townhall@townsrf.ca; info@southalgonquin.ca; clerk@town.southbruce.on.ca; admin@southbrucepeninsula.com; mail@southundas.com; admin@southfrontenac.net; info@southglengarry.com; info@southhuron.ca; info@southriverontario.com; info@southstormont.ca; clerk@swox.org; info@southwestmiddlesex.ca; southwold@southwold.ca; info@townofspanish.com; info@springwater.ca; citizensfirst@stcatharines.ca; jbouthillette@stcharlesontario.ca; webmaster@twp.stclair.on.ca; clerkadmin@stjoseptownship.com; communications@town.stmarys.on.ca; info@stthomas.ca; clerk@stirling-rawdon.com; caoclerk@stonemills.com; info@sdgcounties.ca; clerks@stratford.ca; general@strathroy-caradoc.ca; clerk@strongtownship.com; admin@sundridge.ca; clerk@tarbutt.ca; kjohns@tay.ca; cao@tayvalleytwp.ca; clerkinfo@waterloo.ca; info@tecumseh.ca; twptehk@amtelecom.net; clerk@temagami.ca; municipality@temiskamingshores.ca; info@terracebay.ca; tmichiels@thamescentre.on.ca; info@thearchipelago.on.ca; JBrizard@nationmun.ca; municipalclerk@townshipofthenorthshore.ca; clerk@thorold.com; cityclerk@thunderbay.ca; contact@tillsonburg.ca; clerks@timmins.ca; swalton@tiny.ca; 311@toronto.ca; info@trenthills.ca; clerk@tudorandcashel.com; info@tweed.ca; info@tyendinagatownship.com; info@uxbridge.ca; administration@valharty.ca; clerks@vaughan.ca; mkirkham@wainfleet.ca; info@warwicktownship.ca; clerk@wasagabeach.com; olga.smith@waterloo.ca; mbarlow@regionofwaterloo.ca; info@wawa.cc; clerk@welland.ca; gkosch@wellesley.ca; Donna Bryce <donnab@wellington.ca>; township@wellington-north.com; westelgin@westelgin.net; reception@westlincoln.com; info@westnipissing.ca; info@westperth.com; cao@villageofwestport.ca; info@whitby.ca; info@whiteriver.ca; info@whitestone.ca; info@whitewaterregion.ca; info@wilmot.ca; clerks@citywindsor.ca; clerk@wollaston.ca; info@cityofwoodstock.ca; woolwich.mail@woolwich.ca; accessyork@york.ca; admin@zorra.on.ca; clerks@townofws.ca; clerks@eastgarafraxa.ca; clerktreasurer@matachewan.ca; c.parent@northkawartha.ca; clerks@aurora.ca; mayordonohue@admastonbromley.com; info@renfrew.ca

Subject: City of Dryden Council resolution re: Swim-to-Survive training.

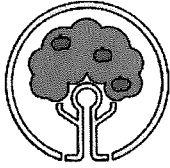
Please see the attached resolution adopted at the September 22, 2025 City of Dryden Council Meeting.

We respectfully request your consideration of this matter.

Thank you, Allyson.



Allyson Euler
City Clerk
The Corporation of The City of Dryden
30 Van Horne Avenue



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

Medical Officer of Health Report to the Board

Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025

Health Protection

Infectious Diseases

Measles in Renfrew County and District (RCD):

In July, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) confirmed an additional measles case associated with the Ontario-wide outbreak. Once again, RCDHU took a proactive approach with case and contact management. Targeted post-exposure vaccination clinics were quickly stepped up to prevent further cases. Overall, RCDHU identified, followed up with, and communicated with approximately 120 contacts.

Ongoing efforts focus on engaging at-risk populations to promote immunization and ensure completion of the measles immunization series.

Measles Outbreak in Ontario:

RCDHU continues to monitor provincial measles epidemiology closely. There have been significantly fewer cases across the province since mid-June, and fewer than 10 weekly cases since the beginning of August.

Over the course of the outbreak, the majority (73%) of cases were among infants, children, and adolescents, 96% of whom were unvaccinated.

Respiratory Indicators:

Since the beginning of July, respiratory illness indicators have been low with some variability in outbreaks and COVID-19 test percent positivity. RCD is experiencing less than 1 outbreak per week. Local influenza and RSV test percent positivity is low. COVID-19 percent positivity is beginning to trend upward into the high range; however, overall COVID-19 indicators are lower than they were at this time last year. Hospital bed occupancy due to respiratory illness is low. Emergency department visits related to respiratory illness remain low.

Immunization

Grade 7 School Based Immunization Program:

RCDHU staff have initiated the first round of school-based Grade 7 immunization clinics for the 2025-2026 school year. Approximately 1100 Grade 7 students across the region are eligible to receive Hepatitis B, Meningococcal, and Human Papillomavirus vaccines through these clinics. Up to 42 school-based clinics have been scheduled throughout

the fall, with plans for round two clinics in the spring of 2026. As of September 10, 2025, 3 school clinics had been successfully completed.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV):

Starting this fall, Ontario is expanding the publicly funded RSV prevention program to include all individuals aged 75 years and older. This is in addition to adults aged 60 to 74 who meet high-risk criteria or live in higher risk settings. Only individuals who have not received a previous dose are eligible, as the vaccine provides multiple years of protection. RSV vaccination will be available through residents' healthcare provider or through RCDHU community immunization clinics. RSV vaccinations will not be available through pharmacies.

Ontario has also announced that the infant RSV prevention program will resume this fall. This program includes all infants born after March 31, 2025 and children under 2 years of age with high-risk medical conditions. Together with healthcare partners, RCDHU will ensure access to RSV immunization for this high-risk population.

Influenza and COVID-19 Annual Fall Campaign:

This year's updated influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are expected by the end of September. RCDHU will offer mobile clinics to retirement homes and congregate care settings, along with community immunization clinics in October for high-risk individuals. Starting in November, the general population will be eligible, and RCDHU will continue community immunization clinics for both the influenza and COVID-19 vaccines. Furthermore, the pharmacy channel will continue to serve as an access point to receive both vaccines.

Healthy Environments

Rabies Control Program:

RCDHU public health inspector staff continue to investigate potential human rabies exposures as part of the health protection mandate. RCDHU has seen an unprecedented increase in bat exposures this year, particularly over the warm summer months. These exposures resulted in a greatly increased need for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) vaccination and immunoglobulin for those exposed, with PEP administered to 65 people in July and August. Furthermore, there have been 64 bat-related exposure investigations completed so far in 2025. Overall, in 2025, 36 animals have been submitted for rabies testing. Of these, 27 were bat submissions and one of those was positive for rabies in July. As a result, RCDHU issued a [media release](#) to notify the public and reinforce public health and safety messaging.

Safe Water Program:

Public Beach Sampling occurs during the busy summer season when recreational swimming is most popular. The sampling program started at the end of June and ended in the last week of August. No beaches needed to be posted as unsafe to swim due to bacteria levels this summer. However, there was one beach posting due to the presence of a blue-green algae bloom.

Vector borne Disease Control Program:

RCDHU completed the mosquito testing program once again this past summer (over a

10-week period). A total of 119 mosquito pools were tested for West Nile virus from 48 trapping locations across RCD. All mosquito pools tested negative for West Nile virus this year.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

RCDHU responded to four multi-day heat events and two multi-day air quality events from June to the end of August. In each instance, RCDHU issued timely notifications to both community partners and the public, accompanied by health and safety messaging to mitigate risks associated with extreme environmental conditions.

To further support vulnerable populations, RCDHU invited municipal partners to share information about any cooling centres or clean air shelters they were operating. This information was used to enhance public awareness and ensure targeted outreach to priority populations. RCDHU also provided recommendations to agencies and organizations serving these groups.

Following the confirmed measles cases in April, RCDHU facilitated structured debrief sessions with staff and management. These sessions focused on identifying lessons learned and opportunities for quality improvement to strengthen future emergency outbreak response and coordination.

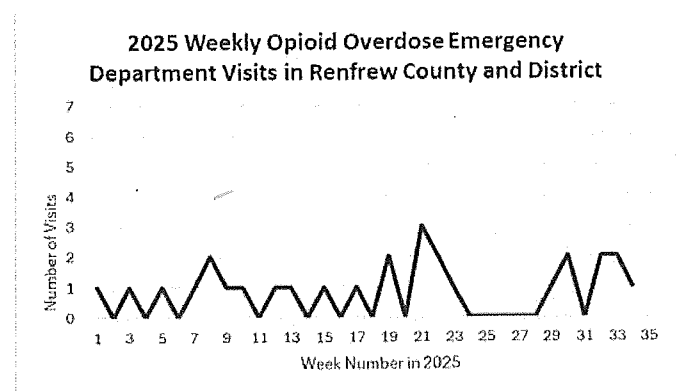
Health Promotion

Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy (RCDDS)

Implementation of the priorities of the RCDDS is underway and a mid-year progress report and media release were published in July to update the public and partner organizations on some of the early successes across the four pillars of the RCDDS.

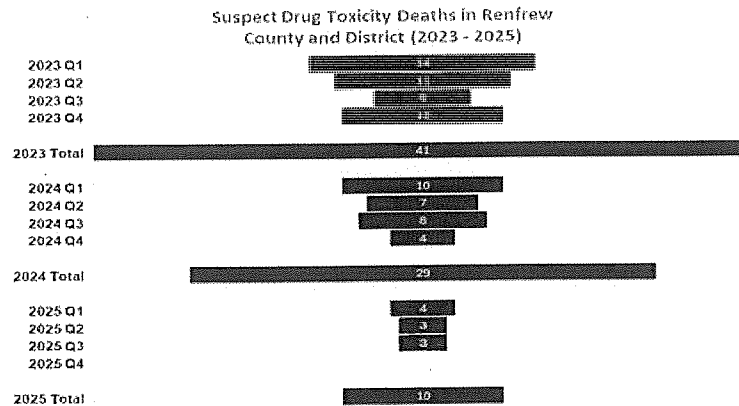
RCDDS Substance Use Harm Indicators:

As of August 24th, there were 28 emergency department visits related to opioid overdoses, which is an increase of 8 since the June update. This represents a 59% decrease, when compared to the 69 visits that occurred during the same period in 2024.



As of August 28th, there had been 3 additional suspect drug toxicity deaths since our

previous update and 10 since the beginning of the year. This represents a 60% decrease, when compared to the 25 deaths that occurred during the same period in 2024 and a 68% decrease in contrast to 2023.



Outreach Team and SPRITE Testing

The Outreach Team continues to bring RCDHU services to clients across RCD and forge new partnerships with community agencies. In 2025, as of the end of August, the Outreach Team had completed 76 visits to 19 different sites across RCD. During those visits, 384 naloxone kits were distributed and 241 new people were trained in their use. The Team had over 1700 interactions with clients throughout these visits. The Team continues to provide harm reduction and sexual health supplies, offer sexual health testing, and connect clients to other RCDHU services or community partners where needed.

SPRITE testing continues to be offered at Outreach Team events and at RCDHU's Pembroke office. As of Aug 31st, 188 tests for syphilis, HIV, and hepatitis C have been completed under this program. Individuals that test positive have been successfully referred for follow-up and treatment. Most of the clients tested are at high risk for acquiring sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections and do not have a family doctor or the means to seek out testing on their own.

Measles Redeployment

In response to a reported case of measles in the community in July, Health Promotion nurses and support staff were redeployed to assist with measles contact management and testing. In-home testing for measles was completed by the Outreach Team. Staff from the Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Sexual Health, and Outreach programs supported the response with measles vaccinations, contact management, and workload coverage for other infectious diseases.

Oral Health

Summer Community Dental Screening Clinics:

Over the summer months, RCDHU's school oral health Registered Dental Hygienists (RDHs) hosted 8 community dental screening clinics across RCD, in partnership with

local public libraries. Alongside RCDHU staff, Service Canada staff attended to promote and enroll clients in the federally funded oral health program, the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP). RCDHU staff integrated the feedback from last year's screening clinics, making this year even more successful. RCDHU staff screened and assisted a total of 113 RCD residents, including 13 infants, 42 children, 41 adults, and 17 seniors.

In addition to dental screenings, RCDHU staff provided 22 fluoride applications and directly enrolled 12 individuals into provincially funded oral health programs. They also addressed a wide range of oral health questions and helped connect families with appropriate dental coverage to ensure they can access the care they need. Clinics were hosted in Petawawa, Whitney, Arnprior, Killaloe, Deep River, Pembroke, Renfrew, and Calabogie.



Samantha Zadow, RDH (left) and Michala Vanderploeg, RDH (right) at the Petawawa Public Library.

Submitted by:

Dr. Jason Morgenstern, Medical Officer of Health
Renfrew County and District Health Unit

tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca

From: Steve and Kim Gravefell <ksgrfell@icloud.com>
Sent: September 23, 2025 4:32 PM
To: COUNcillor Maureen MacMillan; Brian Pecoskie; Harold Lavigne; Bil Smith; Ted Browne; councilorkuehl@khrtownship.ca; mayor@khrtownship.ca; tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca
Subject: Fwd: Enough. Who's Really Flooding Canada's Councils with Misinformation?

Dear Mayor, councillors and CAO;

This is very good information regarding misinformation to Canada's councils. We thought you would want to read this.

Thank you.
Respectfully,
Steve and Kim Gravefell

Begin forwarded message:

From: KICLEI Canada <kiclei@substack.com>
Subject: Enough. Who's Really Flooding Canada's Councils with Misinformation?
Date: September 23, 2025 at 12:38:04 PM EDT
To: ksgrfell@icloud.com
Reply-To: KICLEI Canada
<reply+2vssx9&1gnk4t&&6f9b3d2be522a2c4461b05a2f53a4be5cb75ec3fa161415849ae07b0bddc0e3b@mg1.substack.com>

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Enough. Who's Really Flooding Canada's Councils with Misinformation?

GATHER 2030

SEP 23



READ IN APP ↗

By Maggie Hope Braun
Founder, KICLEI Canada
September 23, 2025

Another week, another article from Rory White of the Canadian National Observer – again pushing the same tired, disproven narrative that KICLEI is “flooding councils with AI-generated climate misinformation.”

It's becoming a pattern.

When a municipal council anywhere in Canada votes to leave the FCM's Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program, *Canada's National Observer* publishes a follow-up hit piece. The articles target councillors, misrepresent facts, and discredit citizens who raise valid concerns about the cost, governance, and legitimacy of international climate programs being embedded in local decision-making.

We've addressed this narrative multiple times – with facts, transparency, and reasoned arguments.

But it keeps coming back.

So let's set the record straight again – and this time, let's ask why this story keeps being told.

No, an AI Chatbot Did Not Influence Thorold Council — or Any Other

Here are the actual events leading up to Thorold's decision:

- **Feb 2, 2022** – Resident **Ron Devereux** gave an in-person delegation. (*Watch here*)
- **Mar 1, 2024** – I presented over Zoom to the Environmental Committee. (*Watch here*)
- **Mar 19, 2023** – Local resident **Mark LaFebe** (spelling uncertain) and I gave Zoom delegations to council. (*Watch here*)
- **May 28, 2023** – Representatives from the **Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)** presented to council. Their presentation was less than impressive. (*Watch here*)
- **June 18, 2023** – Three local residents and I gave public depositions. A petition calling for withdrawal was submitted, and 50+ residents attended in person. (*Watch here*)

After this, council reviewed a formal **staff report** and voted to exit the PCP program.

That vote was democratic, transparent, and legal.

No chatbot presented.

No chatbot made a motion.

No chatbot cast a vote.

To suggest otherwise is a **fabrication** – one that disrespects both the intelligence of councillors and the right of citizens to participate in public policy.

What They Call “Weaponized AI” Is Actually... Citizenship

The Observer claims that KICLEI’s “custom AI chatbot” is being used to influence municipal councils. But here’s what they say the tool is *actually* programmed to do:

“The chatbot’s instructions tell it to de-emphasize the climate catastrophe narrative... to focus on practical environmental protection measures... real pollution, not CO₂... [and] to frame these arguments in the most reasonable possible way, emphasizing collaboration and encouraging diplomacy and mutual understanding between citizens and elected officials.”

– *Canada’s National Observer*, Sept 2025

Let’s pause on that.

They’re describing a tool that:

- Uses respectful tone
- Encourages diplomacy
- Focuses on real environmental stewardship
- Supports constructive communication between citizens and councils
- Avoids alarmism
- Stays grounded in local priorities

That’s not “weaponized.” That’s the definition of engaged citizenship.

What *Canada’s National Observer* is really criticizing is not a chatbot – it’s the fact that everyday Canadians are now equipped to write well, speak clearly, and push back on complex global frameworks with confidence and professionalism.

We’re proud of that.

Projection: What They Accuse Us of, They Are Doing Themselves

Now, let's compare KICLEI's work to the *National Observer's* own description of their operations – taken directly from their **About Us** page.

Everything they accuse us of, they do themselves – but on a much larger, institutional scale.

Accusation: *"Using AI tools to shape narratives"*

Reality: CNO openly describes itself as a digital-only outlet that has *"grown from a startup to a newsroom politicians, business leaders, and policymakers rely on."* They dedicate 15% of their budget to operations and technology, partner with The Trust Project to work with global tech platforms, and list Margery Moore – President of I-SEA and founder of ehsAI – on their advisory board. Their own "digital ethics" branding and technology partnerships show they're deeply embedded in AI and digital influence networks – far beyond KICLEI's basic use of grammar-checking tools.

Accusation: *"Flooding councils with emails"*

Reality: CNO reaches **4.5 million readers annually** and supplies content directly to governments, universities, and schools – far beyond local councils.

Accusation: *“Coordinated misinformation to change decisions”*

Reality: CNO openly admits their reporting has influenced legislation, sparked parliamentary questions, and changed how Canadians understand the climate choices being made in their name. Good for them – but why can't citizens do the same?

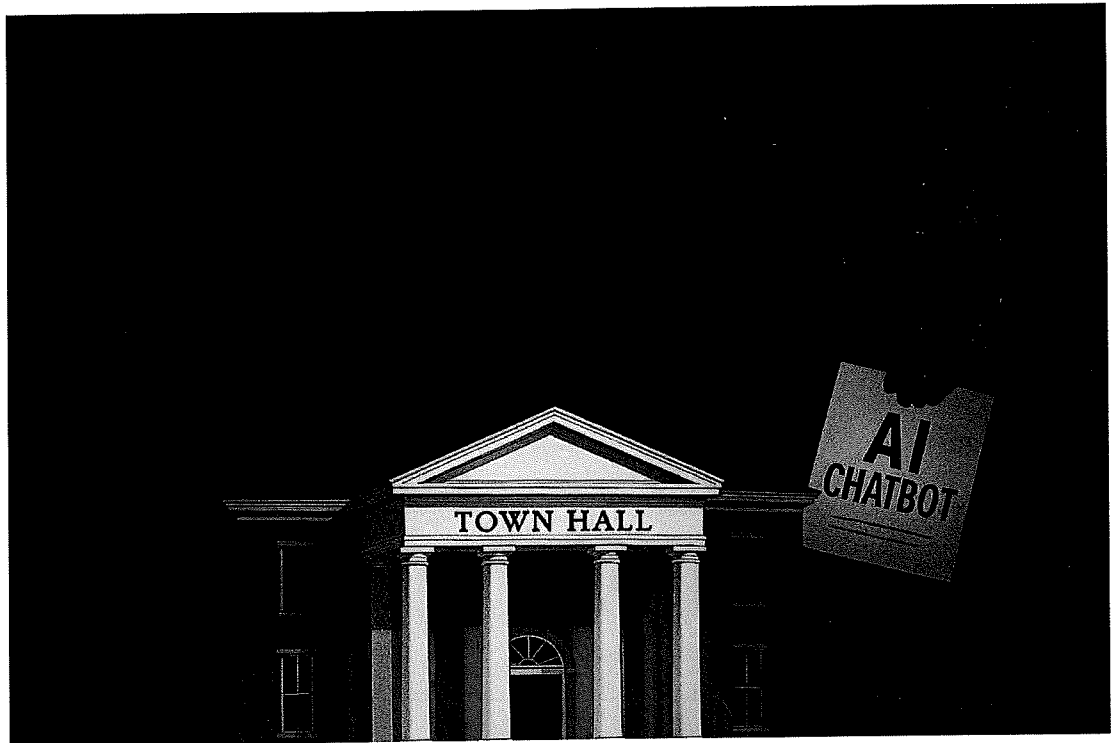
And here's the irony: by reporting so one-sidedly on KICLEI's work, anyone who actually knows the full story – like the councillors in Thorold, or others who have sat through public delegations – would say it's *CNO* that is spreading misinformation. The difference is scale: KICLEI is grassroots, while CNO does it on a much larger, institutional level.

So when *CNO* claims KICLEI is “flooding councils” or “influencing decisions,” remember this: we're talking about a handful of grassroots citizens writing respectful emails and giving delegations.

They, on the other hand, are delivering centrally coordinated messaging to millions – backed by government subsidies, institutional subscriptions, tech and renewable industry ties, and international foundations.

So the question is simple:

Who's really running the multimillion-dollar influence campaign here?



Why This Narrative Keeps Coming Back

It's obvious why this reporting keeps resurfacing: a well-funded newsroom is threatened when citizens begin doing similar work – on a smaller scale, and in open opposition.

KICLEI is still a start-up – volunteer-led, citizen-funded, and growing – but it's having an impact because it shares information, asks questions, and equips residents to speak to council. That's not a conspiracy; it's transparent civic organizing.

When hard questions start to change outcomes, powerful actors often try to discredit the questioners rather than answer the questions.

We'll keep asking the questions.

We already answered. And they keep ignoring it.

We've responded to every accusation:

- ✓ We published a full Q&A reply to *Canada's National Observer* – in writing, to ensure accuracy
- ✓ We posted a public response to their original article, line-by-line
- ✓ We showed how ICLEI Canada ignored our Open Letter – while calling us “misinformation” without answering a single question
- ✓ We provided source citations for every scientific claim we made
- ✓ We clarified that our outreach is opt-in, polite, and unsubscribable – like any newsletter

The silence from ICLEI and FCM is deafening. The only people answering questions are the ones being attacked.

To Councillors Across Canada: You Are Not Alone.

You are being targeted – not for doing something wrong, but for doing your job.

You were elected to ask questions, weigh costs, and represent your constituents.

You are not obligated to accept every international program that shows up with a grant and a timeline.

You are not spreading misinformation for asking “What will this cost us?”

And you are not alone.

We are hundreds of Canadians – councillors, farmers, planners, small business owners – standing together to demand local accountability in a world of top-down policy.

Maggie Hope Braun

Founder, KICLEI Canada

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Disclaimer (because transparency matters):

This article was polished with the help of ChatGPT – because

unlike *Canada's National Observer*, I don't have a \$2.8M newsroom budget or a team of editors.

I use AI the way most working-age professionals do: as a grammar checker, draft smoother, and instant proof-reader. Studies show 61% of Canadian workers intentionally use AI at work, especially in communications, tech, and desk-based jobs.

That's a far cry from what the Observer accuses KICLEI of. Using a tool to clean up sentences is not the same thing as "orchestrating council decisions with a chatbot."

So if you see a typo, blame me – not the robot. 😊

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