

**From:** Tina Peplinskie <TPeplinskie@countyofrenfrew.on.ca>  
**Sent:** January 30, 2026 4:46 PM  
**To:** Tina Peplinskie  
**Subject:** MR - County of Renfrew approves 2026 budget  
**Attachments:** MR - County of Renfrew approves 2026 budget.jpg; MR - County of Renfrew approves 2026 budget.pdf; MR - County of Renfrew approves 2026 budget.docx

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached media release and photo for your consideration and distribution purposes in relation to the approval of the 2026 County of Renfrew budget.

For the media, the cutline is embedded in the photo but also copied below.

Cutline:

*County of Renfrew Council has approved the 2026 budget during the Budget Workshop on January 29. At the conclusion of the meeting Warden Jennifer Murphy thanked Corporate Services Vice-Chair Councillor David Mayville (left) and Chair Councillor Peter Emon for leading the discussions during the workshop. County of Renfrew photo*

Have a good weekend

Tina

*Tina Peplinskie*

Media Relations and Social Media Co-ordinator  
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**RELEASE DATE:**  
January 30, 2026

**County of Renfrew Council approves 2026 Budget  
Budget balances affordability concerns with essential service delivery and long-term responsibility**

County of Renfrew Council has approved the 2026 County Budget, a plan that protects essential services, responds to changing community needs, and continues to move key County priorities forward, while recognizing the very real affordability pressures being felt by residents across the Ottawa Valley.

The 2026 budget was developed in an environment of rising costs and growing service demands being experienced by municipalities across Ontario. Council worked through the process with a focus on maintaining services residents rely on every day, while making responsible decisions that support the long-term sustainability of the County.

For 2026, the County's levy reflects weighted assessment growth of 1.23% and a levy increase of 6.68%. This corresponds to a \$28.71 rise in residential property taxes for every \$100,000 in assessed value. Given that Renfrew County's median residential property value is currently \$217,000, the average homeowner would spend \$1,007 in 2026 for the County portion of their taxes.

Warden Jennifer Murphy said the 2026 budget required difficult discussions and disciplined decision making

"This has been one of the most challenging budgets our County has ever faced. Balancing significant financial pressures with our responsibility to maintain the essential services our residents rely on required difficult conversations and thoughtful decision making," she said. "I want to extend my sincere thanks to Council for their perseverance and leadership throughout this process, and to our dedicated staff for their expertise, hard work, and unwavering commitment to serving our community. Together, we have charted a responsible path forward in a demanding year."

Chair of the Corporate Services Committee, Councillor Peter Emon, emphasized the balance Council was working to achieve.

“This year’s budget was especially challenging as we worked to strike a balance between addressing our community’s concerns about affordability and ensuring residents continue to have equitable access to essential services” he said. “At the same time, we must plan for services that need to be updated, retooled, or newly developed as community needs evolve and best practices emerge across the many sectors we support.”

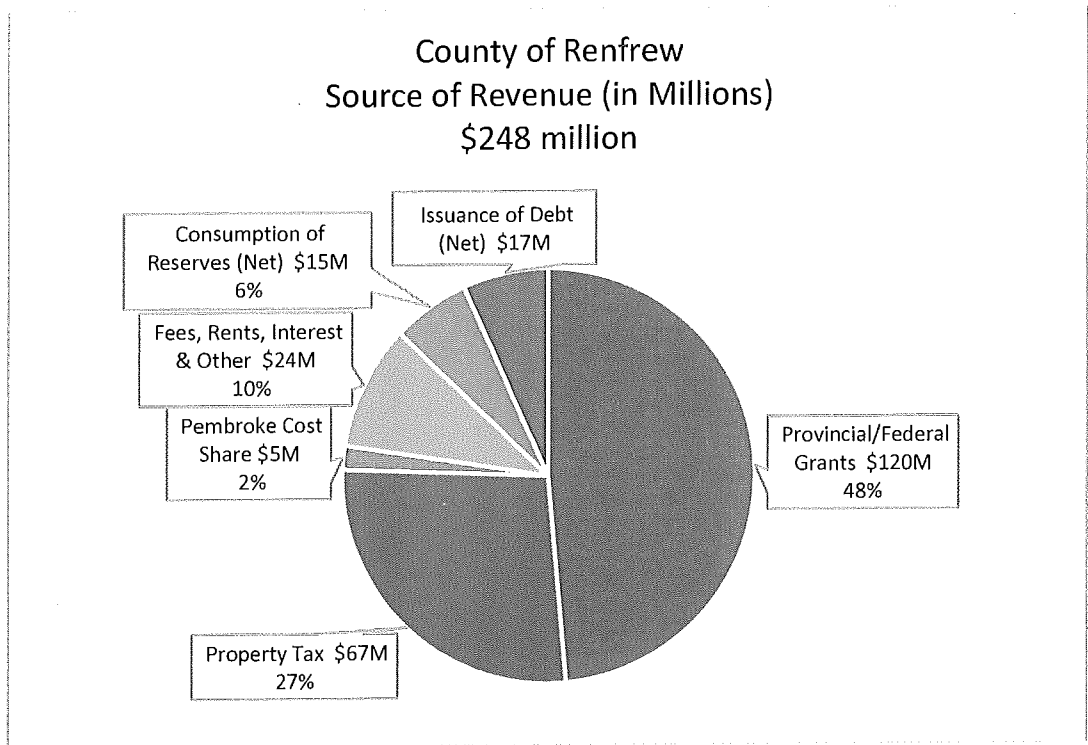
The County’s approved budget supports the delivery of major County responsibilities, including Long-Term Care, Paramedic Service, Public Works, Housing and Homelessness Programs, Ontario Works and employment supports, Child Care and EarlyON Programs, Planning, Economic Development, and Corporate Services that support front-line operations.

The budget also reflects the County’s commitment to long-term financial planning, including continued focus on infrastructure and facility needs, and the ongoing reality of asset renewal pressures affecting communities across Ontario.

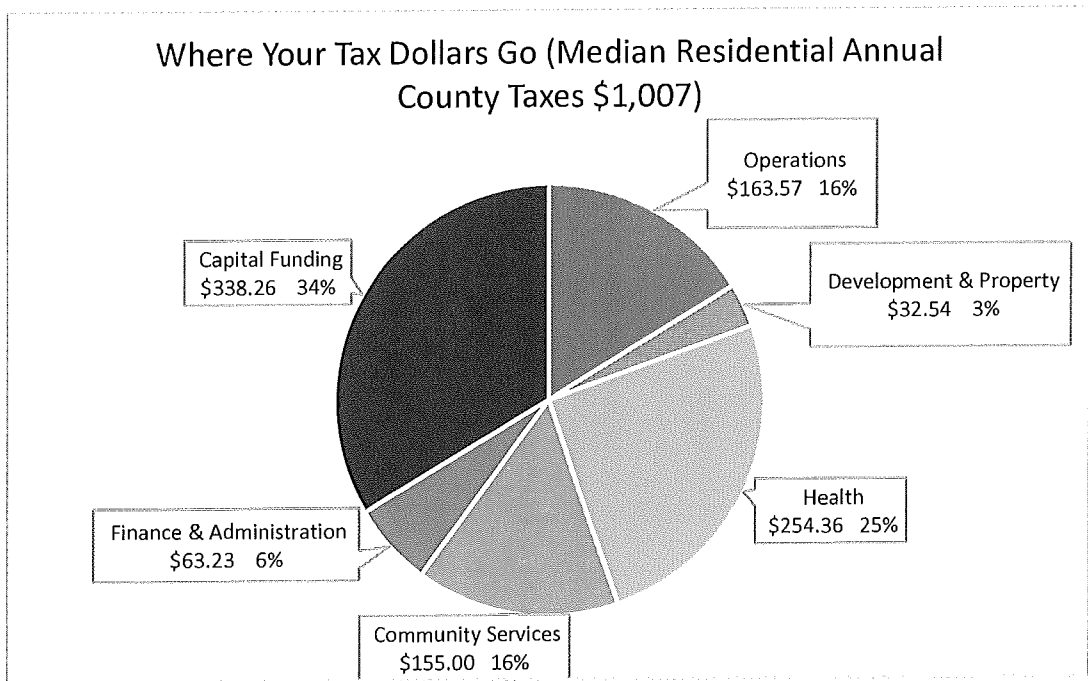
**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Craig Kelley	Chief Administrative Officer	613-735-7288
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Property taxes account for approximately one-quarter of the County revenues, with other sources of revenue shown in the chart below:



This graphic shows how tax dollars are distributed by department:





**From:** Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus <[eowc@eowc.ccsend.com](mailto:eowc@eowc.ccsend.com)>  
**Sent:** February 2, 2026 9:44 AM  
**To:** [tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca](mailto:tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca)  
**Subject:** EOWC Newsletter: December 2025



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# Newsletter

January 2026

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## EOWC Advocacy Update

### The EOWC Champions Regional Priorities and Partnerships at ROMA 2026



Left-to-right: Billy Denault, MPP, Renfrew - Nipissing - Pembroke; François Landry, Warden, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; Richard Kidd, Warden, Lanark County; Corinna Smith-Gatcke, Warden, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Hon. Rob Flack, Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Jennifer Murphy, Warden, Renfrew County; Steve Ferguson, Mayor, Prince Edward County; Steve Clark, MPP, Leeds - Grenville Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes; John Jordan, MPP, Lanark - Frontenac - Kingston.

The EOWC, representing 103 rural and small-urban municipalities, participated in the 2026 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference in Toronto to advance key regional priorities.

Representing 1.1 million residents across 50,000 square kilometres, the EOWC highlighted three priorities with the Ontario Government:

- Strengthening affordability for municipalities, businesses, and residents
- Establishing a regulated paramedic college in Ontario
- Modernizing the OPP billing model and Provincial Offences Act fines

Throughout the conference, the EOWC met with provincial leaders, opposition parties, and sector partners, including:

- Minister of Rural Affairs Lisa Thompson and Parliamentary Assistant, Steve Pinsonneault
- Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack
- Solicitor General Michael Kerzner
- Parliamentary Assistant Amarjot Sandhu (Infrastructure)
- Ontario NDP, Ontario Liberal Party, Green Party of Ontario
- Hydro One

Regional MPPs also joined meetings to support advocacy efforts on behalf of eastern Ontario's 1.1 million residents, including: Steve Clark, Billy Denault, David Piccini, John Jordan, Dave Smith, Ric Bresee, and Tyler Allsopp.

[Read the EOWC's ROMA Package](#)

## **The EOWC Elects Chair and Vice-Chair at 2026 Annual General Meeting**



Left-to-right: Nathan Townend, Vice-Chair, EOWC; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC.



Left-to-right: Bill Saunders, Warden, Frontenac County; Dave Burton, Warden, Haliburton County; Bob Mullin, Warden, Hastings County; François Landry, Warden, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; Nathan Townend, Vice-Chair, EOWC; Corinna Smith-Gatcke, Warden, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville; Doug Elmslie, Mayor, City of Kawartha Lakes; Richard Kidd, Warden, Lanark County; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Jennifer Murphy, Warden, Renfrew County;

Bob Crate, Warden, Northumberland County; Meredith Staveley-Watson, Executive Director, EOWC, Mario Zanth, Warden, United Counties of Prescott and Russell; Steve Ferguson, Mayor, Prince Edward County.

The EOWC hosted its 2026 Annual General Meeting on January 9 in Kingston, bringing together leaders from all levels of government to reflect on regional progress and set priorities for the year ahead, including the welcome of its 2026 Board of Directors.

During the meeting, Bonnie Clark, Warden of Peterborough County, was acclaimed as Chair for 2026, with Nathan Townend, Warden of Lennox and Addington County, appointed as Vice-Chair. Their leadership will guide the EOWC's continued work on economic resilience, infrastructure, housing, health care, and other key priorities for eastern Ontario.

The EOWC extends its appreciation to guest speakers Minister Lisa Thompson, Minister Nolan Quinn, Minister Rob Flack, Earl Provost, Ontario Agent-General, Chicago, and EORN Chair Jennifer Murphy for sharing their insights. The EOWC also welcomed a wide range of government and sector partners, underscoring the value of strong collaboration across the region.

## **The EOWC Presents Ontario Budget Recommendations to Minister of Finance**



Left-to-right: Meredith Staveley-Watson, Executive Director, EOWC; Zee Hamid, MPP, Milton; Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister, Ministry of Finance; Stephen Crawford, Minister, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement; Natalie Pierre, MPP, Burlington.

On January 29, EOWC Executive Director, Meredith Staveley-Watson, presented the EOWC's recommendations for Ontario's 2026 Budget to Ministers Peter Bethlenfalvy and Stephen Crawford, alongside MPPs Natalie Pierre and Zee Hamid.

Earlier in January, the EOWC submitted a comprehensive set of recommendations to the Government of Ontario focused on modernizing the municipal fiscal framework, strengthening rural and small-urban communities, and ensuring municipalities have the tools and resources needed to deliver essential services.

Our recommendations include:

- A renewed provincial–federal–municipal partnership to create a reliable fiscal framework
- Tailored support for rural and small-urban municipalities to meet housing and infrastructure goals
- Strategic investment in trade-enabling ports to grow the "Highway H2O" corridor
- A regulated paramedic college to modernize training and expand care
- A sustainable, transparent approach to OPP policing costs
- Inclusion of more rural communities in the Building Faster Fund
- A coordinated, province-wide effort to address homelessness, addictions, and mental health

[Read the EOWC's Ontario Pre-Budget Consultation Submission](#)

## In The Media

### **CBC News Article: "Eastern Ontario wardens want regulatory college for paramedics"**

The EOWC's ROMA 2026 priority to establish a regulated paramedic college in Ontario was recently featured in a [CBC article](#), which included an interview with EOWC Chair Bonnie Clark. The article examined the Caucus's call for modernized legislation and stronger professional oversight for paramedics; an issue advanced by the EOWC at this year's ROMA Conference.

CBC highlighted the EOWC's position that a regulated college would help standardize licensing across Canada, attract more paramedics to Ontario, and support the expansion of community-based care.

In the interview, Chair Clark emphasized that a regulated paramedic college would allow paramedics to work to their full scope of practice, helping to ease pressure on emergency departments and improve access to care, particularly in rural communities.

The CBC coverage reinforces the importance of the EOWC's advocacy and the growing momentum to modernize Ontario's approach to paramedic regulation.

## Construction Completed on New Long-Term Care Home in Athens



Left-to-right: Michael Barrett, MP, Leeds - Grenville - Thousand Islands - Rideau Lakes; John Jordan, Parliamentary Assistant, Ministry of Long-Term Care; Steve Clark, MPP, Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes; Corinna Smith-Gatcke, Warden, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.

The G. Tackaberry and Family Home in Athens has officially opened, marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of the new 192-bed long-term-care facility. Construction of the home spanned approximately three and a half years.

The opening was attended by Local MP Michael Barrett, MPP Steve Clark, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Long-Term Care and MPP for Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston John Jordan, Warden Corinna Smith-Gatcke, as well as local mayors and community leaders. This facility represents the largest capital construction project in the history of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.

## Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Investment in Eastern Ontario

Eastern Ontario is receiving funding through the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program – Health and Safety Water Stream to support critical water and wastewater infrastructure upgrades.

These investments include:

- The Municipality of Tweed will receive up to \$821,250 to upgrade its water treatment plant.
- The Village of Madoc is receiving \$4,692,075 to rehabilitate and expand its sanitary sewer trunk.
- The Town of Bancroft will receive \$2,226,500 to rehabilitate the Town's York River overflow water control structure.

## Partner Updates



# EORN

**EASTERN ONTARIO  
REGIONAL NETWORK**

On December 17, 2025, EORN issues their semi-annual newsletter. The issue includes:

- Cell Gap Project update
- Testimonial
- Thirty-four new 5G Cell towers operational
- Eastern Ontario Infill Broadband Project
- Meet EORN staff

[Read the Newsletter](#)

## Regional Updates and News

**Ontario**



## **Ontario Invests \$26 Million to Train More Long-Term Care Staff**

Ontario is investing more than \$26 million to train nearly 3,000 new frontline staff in long-term care, strengthening care for residents while helping students study and work in their local communities. The funding supports professional development for current workers and expands the Living Classrooms program, which integrates hands-on training directly in long-term care homes.

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## **Ontario Expanding Teaching Clinics to Connect 300,000 More People to Primary Care**

Ontario is investing up to \$8 million to plan and expand 16 primary care teaching clinics across the province, helping connect 300,000 more people to primary care. Working in partnership with Ontario's medical schools, these clinics will train future family doctors and health-care professionals in team-based settings while providing care in communities with high need.

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## **Ontario Investing \$700 Million in Water Infrastructure to Support Communities and Housing**

Ontario is investing an additional \$700 million to help 127 municipalities and First Nations communities upgrade and expand critical water and wastewater infrastructure. Delivered through the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program, the funding will support access to safe drinking water, create jobs, protect communities from extreme weather and unlock new housing opportunities.

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## **Ontario Launches \$20 Million Program to Support Rural Communities**

Ontario has launched the second intake of the \$20 million Rural Ontario Development Program, supporting rural municipalities, businesses, Indigenous groups and not-for-profit organizations to strengthen local economies, build infrastructure and protect jobs.

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## **Canada and Ontario Invest \$20 Million to Support Farmers and Agribusinesses**

The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$20 million through the new Market Diversification and Trade Resiliency Initiative to help farmers, food processors and agribusinesses expand into new domestic and international markets. The funding will support market development, product innovation and equipment upgrades, helping Ontario food producers grow global sales, strengthen competitiveness and build long-term resiliency amid economic uncertainty.

## Upcoming Events



### **GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE** CITIES INITIATIVE

#### **GLSLCI Conference**

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will be hosting their annual conference from May 6-8, 2026, in Hamilton, Ontario.

[Register](#)

# **EOWC**

**Eastern Ontario  
Wardens' Caucus**



**EOWC 2026 Queen's Park Advocacy Day**

On May 11, 2026, the EOWC will head to Toronto for our Queen's Advocacy Day, advocating for the needs of eastern Ontario's 103 municipalities.



## CAMARADERIE

Reaching New Heights, Together

### 2026 CAMA CONFERENCE

May 25-27, 2026 | Whistler Conference Centre, BC

## 2026 CAMA Conference

From May 25-27, 2026, CAMA will host their 52nd Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting at the Whistler Convention Centre, in Whistler, British Columbia.

[More information](#)

Connect With Us on LinkedIn, Facebook and X



## About the EOWC

The EOWC is a regional non-profit organization representing 13 upper and single-tier municipalities across eastern Ontario. The EOWC supports and advocates on behalf of 103 municipalities and serves 1.1 million residents. The EOWC covers an area of approximately 50,000 square kilometers from Northumberland County to the Québec border.

The EOWC has gained support and momentum by speaking with a united voice to champion regional municipal priorities and work with government, business leaders, the media, and the public.

Visit the EOWC's website at [eowc.org](http://eowc.org).

## Connect with the EOWC

2026 Chair, Warden of Peterborough County, Bonnie Clark

2026 Vice-Chair, Warden of Lennox and Addington County, Nathan Townsend

Executive Director, Meredith Staveley-Watson

[info@eowc.org](mailto:info@eowc.org)



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