



Renfrew County and District Health Unit
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, April 17, 2026)

RCDHU Recommends Safety Precautions as Flood Waters Rise

The Ministry of Natural Resources has issued a Flood Warning for Pembroke District. Rising water levels may pose risks to the health and safety of residents. Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is advising residents to take precautions to protect their drinking water, septic systems, and personal safety.

Drinking Water Safety

Flood water and standing water around wells can contaminate drinking water. RCDHU recommends that residents with wells affected by floodwater do one of the following:

- boil water at a rolling boil for one minute before using it for drinking, food preparation, or brushing teeth;
- use bottled water; or
- use an alternate potable water source.

Well water should be tested for bacteria after flood waters recede. For water sample bottle pick up and drop off locations, visit <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/safe-water/>.

Septic System Safety

During floods, the ground can become saturated, preventing proper operation of septic systems. If your septic system has been affected, avoid using the septic system if possible, or reduce the amount of water used by limiting toilet flushing, dishwashing, washing clothes, and showering.

Do not pump your septic system when the ground around it is still saturated. High ground water levels may cause an empty septic tank to float out of the ground and damage the inlet and outlet fittings.

Flood Safety

Flood waters can be contaminated with sewage and cause illness. If your property is at higher risk of flooding, consider the following preventive steps.

- Keep your family members and pets out of flood water.
- Wash or sanitize your hands after contact with flood water or handling items contaminated by flood water (e.g., sandbags).
- Building materials, clothing and furniture exposed to flood waters may be contaminated with sewage or other hazards and can support the growth of mould. Some hard-surface items can be cleaned and disinfected; others may need to be thrown out.
- DO NOT enter areas where electrical systems have been affected by flood water, as there is a risk of electrocution. Always wait for clearance from an electrical authority before entering these areas.
- Ensure drainage ditches and similar features are clear and functioning.
- Clearly label shut-off valves and note how to turn off gas, water, and power.
- If evacuation is required, turn off utilities before leaving if safe to do so.
- Move valuables and items that could be damaged to higher areas.
- Maintain a stocked emergency kit with documents, cash, safe drinking water, food, and medications.
- Do not drive through, stand, or walk in any moving water. Never underestimate the swiftness of the water – flooded rivers and streams are unpredictable.
- Do not attempt to drive in flood water. Six inches of fast-moving water can knock over an adult, and two feet of rushing water can carry away a vehicle.

Visit <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/emergency-preparedness/be-flood-ready/> for more information on what to do before and during flooding events.

Visit the Government of Ontario: [Flood Forecasting and Warning Program \(gov.on.ca\)](https://www.gov.on.ca/flood/) daily to view your community flood risk.

Visit the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board at <https://ottawariver.ca/> to stay up to date on Ottawa River flows and levels.

For more information, visit <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/emergency-preparedness/>, call 1-800-276-1097 extension 505, or email environmentalhealth@rcdhu.com.

tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca

From: Township of Killaloe Hagarty Richards <info@khrtownship.ca>
Sent: April 17, 2026 2:48 PM
To: tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca
Subject: FW: Resolution of Support Town of Fort Frances - Accessible Roadside Rest Areas-Washrooms
Attachments: Fort Frances Resolution of Support - Roadside Washrooms.pdf; Res 15 - December 10, 2025 - Accessible Roadside Rest Areas-Washrooms.pdf

Nathan Yandernoll
Office Assistant

Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards
1 John Street, P.O. Box 39
Killaloe ON K0J 2A0

Tel – 613-757-2300
Fax – 613-757-3634
Email: info@khrtownship.ca
Website: killaloe-hagarty-richards.ca

From: Ally Lewis [mailto:alewis@fortfrances.ca]
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 2:33 PM
To: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
Cc: prabmeet.sarkaria@pc.ola.org; amo@amo.on.ca; roma@roma.on.ca; admin@noma.on.ca; greg.rickford@pc.ola.org; marcus.powlowski@parl.gc.ca
Subject: Resolution of Support Town of Fort Frances - Accessible Roadside Rest Areas-Washrooms

Hello,

Please see the attached resolution and resolution of support passed by the Town of Fort Frances Council at their Regular Meeting of Council on March 23, 2026.

Best regards,



Ally Lewis

Communications Coordinator and Deputy Clerk

Email: alewis@fortfrances.ca
Telephone: 807-274-5323 x 1215
Mobile: 807-276-5425
Fax: 807-274-8479



OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Phone: (807) 274-5323 | Fax: (807) 274-8479

Mailing Address: 320 Portage Avenue

Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9

Email: town@fortfrances.ca

Website: www.FortFrances.ca

April 17, 2026

To Whom It May Concern;

This letter is to formally inform you that at the Regular Council Meeting of March 23, 2026, the following oral motion was carried by Mayor and Council:

Oral Motion:

THAT Council provide a resolution of support for the Township of Emo letter regarding Accessible Roadside Rest Areas - Washrooms;

AND THAT the resolution of support be forwarded to all Ontario municipalities, the Honourable Doug Ford, and all those cc'd in the Township of Emo letter

Mover: Wendy Brunetta

Seconder: Kaleb Firth

Result: CARRIED

Thank You / Merci / Miigwech,

Ally Lewis
Deputy Clerk



The Corporation of the Township of Emo

P.O. Box 520, Emo, Ontario, P0W 1E0

Website: www.emo.ca
E-mail: township@emo.ca

Phone: 807-482-2378
Fax: 807-482-2741

March 12, 2026

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

Honourable and Dear Sir:

RE: Accessible Roadside Rest Areas-Washrooms

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Emo at its December 10, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council, passed the following resolution:

Date: December 10, 2025

Motion: 15

Moved By: Lisa Teeple

Seconded By: Harrold Boven

WHEREAS Northwestern Ontario is significantly lacking in year-round accessible washrooms; and

WHEREAS many Northwestern Ontarian's travel for hours during the winter months without having access to an open washroom facility; and

WHEREAS Northwestern Ontarians travel daily for business, medical appointments, surgeries, shopping and family activities. During the summer months, seasonal businesses are open and allow public access to their washroom facilities. Once the colder months come, majority of these privately owned businesses close for the season.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Emo urges the Province of Ontario and the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario to provide safe, clean, and year-round accessible roadside rest area washrooms to the residents of Northwestern Ontario, at least every 100 km on Hwy 11, Hwy 17, and Hwy 71.

CARRIED

If you require any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Crystal Gray
CAO/Clerk-Treasurer
Township of Emo
P: (807) 482-2378
E: cao@emo.ca

CC: The Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, prabmeet.sarkaria@pc.ola.org
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) amo@amo.on.ca
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) roma@roma.on.ca
Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) admin@noma.on.ca
MPP Honourable Greg Rickford, greg.rickford@pc.ola.org
MP Marcus Powlowski, marcus.powlowski@parl.gc.ca
Local municipalities.

From: Carolyn Lance <clance@georgina.ca>
Sent: April 17, 2026 8:40 AM
To: bwhite@town.minto.on.ca; mkonefal@stthomas.ca; mlevesque@cornwall.ca; mmanitfel@blrtownship.ca; monica.hawkins@eatferris.ca; moorej@northumberlandcounty.ca; nmichie@morristoryberry.ca; mpearson@petrolia.ca; mreid@get.on.ca; mrutter@county.haliurton.on.ca; msmith@meaford.ca; mspratt@arnprior.ca; mtmacdonald@city.belleville.on.ca; mturner@westgrey.com; cmortimer@muskokalakelakes.ca; mweaver@thechipelago.on.ca; ngladun@shawbiz.ca; nicole.cooper@ajax.ca; jackiet@northmiddlesex.on.ca; twpoconn@tbaytel.net; oilsprings@ciaccess.com; olga.smith@waterloo.ca; twpopas@persona.ca; Rick.OConnor@ottawa.ca; pccress@townofnemi.on.ca; pamlortie@townofspanish.com; proque@espanola.ca; peggy@hiltonbeach.com; pgreco@twp.prince.on.ca; clerk@arran-elderslie.ca; njbozzato@pelham.ca; pparker@amherstburg.ca; pshipway@bayham.on.ca; psinamon@chatsworth.ca; psnider@villageofwestport.ca; ptodd@notl.org; ralph.walton@durham.ca; rauger@essex.ca; RegionClerk@halton.ca; renee.chaperon@springwater.ca; rhunley@shuniah.org; richard.al@live.ca; rmcgee@deepriver.ca; rmordue@blanfordsblenheim.ca; robert.thessalon@bellnet.ca; clerk@magnetawan.com; rreymer@lucanbiddulph.on.ca; rrogers@highlandseast.ca; rtremblay@whitewaterregion.ca; ruth@johnsontownship.ca; rvd@m@htwp.ca; lfawn@ptbocounty.ca; salmas@collingwood.ca; sbeckel@greaternapanee.com; scasey@dubreilville.ca; scronin@huroncounty.ca; sdion@casselman.ca; sgoerke@townshipofsevern.com; dshields@pickering.ca; smacdonald@brockville.com; smibert@middlesexcentre.on.ca; spetten@moosonee.ca; ssheridan@khrtownship.ca; sstone@mississippimills.ca; scooper@penetanguishene.ca; steph.palmateer@timmins.ca; stephane.thiffeault@county-lambton.on.ca; stephen.obrien@guelph.ca; Stephen Huycke; info@stirling-rawdon.com; stroyer-boyd@lambtonshores.ca; clerk@southalgonquin.ca; swalton@tiny.ca; sue.bates@atikokan.ca; slarnold@southriverontario.com; sgreatrix@orangeville.ca; suestone@amaranth-eastgary.ca; swhite@tecumseh.ca; treasure@ntl.sympatico.ca; tanya.calleja@huntsville.ca; clerk@tayvalleytwp.ca; tcampbell@eastperth.ca; townshipofmorley@gmail.com; reynaldrivard@nt.net; clerk@thorold.com; jhannam@thunderbay.ca; dewilson@tillsonburg.ca; cao@whiteriver.ca; tlapierre@pembroke.ca; tmckenzie@lennox-addinton.on.ca; t.bennett@marmoraandlake.ca; townclerk@thebluemoountains.ca; cjeffery@seguin.ca; brentstdenis@gmail.com; ulli.watkiss@toronto.ca; dleroux@town.uxbridge.on.ca; vanessa@townshipleeds.on.ca; vcritchley@cityofwindsor.ca; vdion@townsrf.ca; vhummel@woolwich.ca; vicki.tytanek@oakville.ca; vgoertzencooke@ontera.net; wayne.hanchard@oliverpaipoonge.on.ca; wayne.miller@pelee.ca; clerk@welland.ca; donnab@wellington.ca; clerk@armourtownship.ca; whunter@georgianbluffs.on.ca; barb.mcleod@wilmot.ca; wjacques@ezt.ca; wkabel@snnf.ca; wkolasa@wainfleet.ca; wollaston@bellnet.ca; worr@southfrontenac.net; yrobert@ektwp.ca
Subject: Fw: Circular Materials Ontario, Blue Box Extended Producer Responsibility framework
Attachments: Regional Council Decision, Circular Materials Ontario.docx; Circular Materials Ontario, Blue Box Extended Producer Responsibility Framework, April, 2026.pdf

Good morning.

Please be advised that Council for the Town of Georgina considered the position of the Region of York regarding concerns that have arisen following the implementation of the Blue Box Extended Producer Responsibility framework, transferring responsibility for municipal recycling to producer responsibility organizations and their contractors, including Circular Materials Ontario.

Town Council endorsed the Region of York's position as attached regarding the new framework and associated issues.

We respectfully request your review and consideration of the attached correspondence outlining Town Council's position and adopted resolution, as well as the attached Region of York resolution for whatever action you deem appropriate in order to ensure that Circular Materials Ontario and its contractors provide fair, consistent and equitable recycling collection service levels across all municipalities in Ontario.

Sincerely,



GEORGINA

Carolyn Lance

Council Services Coordinator

Corporate Services | Clerk's Division | Town of Georgina

26557 Civic Centre Road, Keswick, ON | L4P 3G1

905-476-4301 Ext. 2219 | georgina.ca

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), like us on [Facebook](#)

***Please note:** My work hours and your work hours may differ; please do not feel the need to reply outside your normal work hours.

From: Regional.Clerk <regional.clerk@york.ca>

Sent: March 6, 2026 8:13 AM

Subject: Regional Council Decision - Circular Materials Ontario

On February 26, 2026 Regional Council passed the following resolution:

Whereas the Province of Ontario has implemented the Blue Box Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework, transferring responsibility for municipal recycling to producer responsibility organizations and their contractors, including Circular Materials Ontario;

And Whereas Circular Materials Ontario has engaged multiple private collection contractors to deliver recycling services to municipalities across Ontario, including those within the Regional Municipality of York;

And Whereas municipalities throughout Ontario are experiencing inconsistent recycling collection service levels under the new EPR model, including differences in collection frequency, missed collections, accepted materials, cart provision, contamination management, customer service response times, and contractor accountability;

And Whereas residents in some municipalities are receiving reduced or inferior recycling collection services compared to others, despite participating in the same provincial Blue Box program;

And Whereas these service level inequities have resulted in increased resident complaints, confusion, reduced participation in recycling programs, and declining public confidence in Ontario's recycling system;

And Whereas upper- and lower-tier municipalities, including York Region, no longer have direct operational control over Blue Box recycling collection, yet continue to experience the impacts of service disruptions and resident dissatisfaction;

And Whereas the intent of Extended Producer Responsibility was to improve environmental outcomes, efficiency, and accountability, not to create unequal treatment of Ontario residents based on municipal boundaries;

And Whereas access to reliable and effective recycling collection is an essential public service and should be fair, consistent, and equitable for all residents of Ontario, regardless of where they live;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of The Regional Municipality of York calls upon the Province of Ontario to intervene to ensure that Circular Materials Ontario and its

contractors provide fair, consistent, and equitable recycling collection service levels across all municipalities in Ontario;

And That the Province be requested to establish, enforce, and publicly report on consistent province-wide service standards for Blue Box recycling, including collection frequency, missed-collection recovery, accepted materials, cart provision, customer service response times, and contractor performance;

And That the Province require Circular Materials Ontario to promptly address collection service level inequities and performance gaps between municipalities, including those impacting York Region;

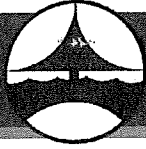
And That this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, all Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and Circular Materials Ontario and all Mayors of Ontario.

Regards,

Christopher Raynor (he/him) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services Department

The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | christopher.raynor@york.ca | york.ca

Our Mission: **Working together to serve our thriving communities – today and tomorrow**



26557 Civic Centre Rd.
Keswick, Ontario L4P 3G1
905-476-4301

GEORGINA

Corporate Services Department/Clerk's Division

April 13, 2026

Sent via email, premier@ontario.ca

Premier of Ontario,
Legislative Building,
Queen's Park,
TORONTO, Ontario M7A 1A1

Re: Circular Materials Ontario; Blue Box Extended Producer Responsibility framework

Honourable Premier Ford:

Please be advised that Council for the Town of Georgina considered the position of the Region of York during its March 25th Council Meeting regarding concerns that have arisen following the implementation of the Blue Box Extended Producer Responsibility framework, transferring responsibility for municipal recycling to producer responsibility organizations and their contractors, including Circular Materials Ontario. The Region of York's resolution has been attached for your reference.

Municipalities are experiencing inconsistent recycling collection service levels under the new model, including differences in collection frequency, missed collections, accepted materials, cart provision, contamination management, customer service response times and contractor accountability, resulting in reduced or inferior recycling collection services compared to others despite participating in the same provincial Blue Box program.

Town Council endorsed the Region of York's position and passed the following motion:

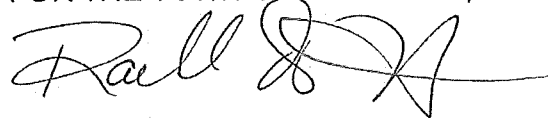
"That Council endorse York Region's resolution regarding Extended Producer Responsibility and fair, consistent and equitable recycling collection service levels across all Ontario municipalities, and call upon the Province to pay due attention to said resolution and act accordingly, that Circular Materials and the Province of Ontario be requested to move Georgina back to weekly collection as per the southern municipalities in York Region and that this endorsement be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, all Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Circular Materials Ontario and all Mayors of Ontario."

... 2

Accordingly, we respectfully request that Town Council's endorsement of the Region of York's position be seriously considered, calling upon the Provincial Government to intervene to ensure that Circular Materials Ontario and its contractors provide fair, consistent and equitable recycling collection service levels across all municipalities in Ontario, and that it establish, enforce and publicly report on consistent provide-wide service standards for Blue Box recycling, including collection frequency, missed-collection recovery, accepted materials, cart provision, customer service response times and contractor performance.

Sincerely,

FOR THE TOWN OF GEORGINA,



Rachel Dillabough,
Town Clerk

cc: Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks; minister.mecp@ontario.ca
Association of Municipalities of Ontario; amo@amo.on.ca
Members of Provincial Parliament
Circular Materials Ontario; info@circularmaterials.ca
Municipalities in Ontario

tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca

From: EA Modernization (MECP) <EAModernization.MECP@ontario.ca>
Sent: April 20, 2026 4:21 PM
To: EA Modernization (MECP)
Subject: Proposed Environmental Assessment Act amendments - Comprehensive Environmental Assessments
Attachments: Stakeholder letter_Proposed EA Act Amendments_April 20 2026.pdf

Please find attached a letter from Annamaria Cross, Director, EA Modernization, about the above-noted environmental assessment modernization initiative.

Best regards,

The EA Modernization Team

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Environmental Assessment
Modernization Branch

135 St. Clair Avenue West
4th Floor
Toronto ON M4V 1P5

Ministère de l'Environnement, de
la Protection de la nature et des Parcs

Direction de la modernisation des processus
d'évaluation environnementale

135, avenue St. Clair Ouest
4^e étage
Toronto ON M4V 1P5



April 20, 2026

TO: Stakeholder Distribution List

RE: Proposed *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) amendments to improve the comprehensive environmental assessment (EA) process

Today, Ontario introduced the *Protecting Ontario's Workers and Economic Resilience Act, 2026* (POWER Act) in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. If made, the changes would support a more efficient comprehensive EA process and make it easier to navigate by removing certain steps while maintaining strong environmental protections and other consultation opportunities.

The proposed legislation would, if passed, amend the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) to make three key changes to the comprehensive EA process:

- Remove the requirement to publish and consult on a Ministry Review
- Remove the opportunity for the public to request a hearing before the Ontario Land Tribunal (Tribunal) while maintaining the Minister's authority to refer an application or matter related to an application to the Tribunal for a hearing and decision on their own initiative
- Remove the requirement for Cabinet approval of the Minister's decision, while providing the Minister discretion to refer an application to Cabinet for a decision

In addition, we also proposed minor updates to improve clarity and flexibility in the EAA.

If the proposed EAA amendments are made, the regulation that sets out deadlines for certain steps in the comprehensive EA process (Ontario Regulation 616/98 (Deadlines)) would be adjusted to align with the changes.

The proposal has been posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) for public comment. More information is available [here](#). Input is being accepted until **May 20, 2026**.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at EAModernization.MECP@ontario.ca. Any comments on the proposal can be submitted through the ERO posting via the link above, or by email to us.

We are committed to keeping you apprised about EA modernization and working with you to build a strong EA program for Ontario. We value your perspectives on the EA program and look forward to your further participation. More information on our other efforts to modernize the EA program can also be found [here](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Cross". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Annamaria Cross
Director, Environmental Assessment Modernization Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks