tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca

From:	Tracy Cannon <tcannon@southalgonquin.ca>
Sent:	October 9, 2026 10:27 AM
To:	Tracy Cannon; Bryan Martin
Subject:	Urgent Request for Temporary Employment Insurance Relief for Seasonal Workers – 2026–2027 Off-Season
Attachments:	October 9, 2026 Urgent Request Employment Services Relief.pdf; October 9, 2026 Employment Service Program RES. 26-644.pdf

Good morning,

Please find attached a letter and resolution from the Council of the Township of South Algonquin requesting a review of the Employment Insurance Program and urgent relief for seasonal workers during the 2026–2027 off-season.

Feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tracy Cannon, Dipl.M.A.
Township of South Algonquin
Deputy CAO/Deputy Clerk-Planner
7 Third Avenue, P.O. Box 217
Whitney, ON
K0J 2M0
613-637-2650 Ext. 202

THE TOWNSHIP OF
SOUTH ALGONQUIN

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2026 Municipal Elections are October 26, 2026. Are you on the voterslist? Call the Township Office at 613-637-2650 ext 200 for more information.

THE TOWNSHIP OF
SOUTH ALGONQUIN

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info@southalgonquin.ca • www.southalgonquin.ca

October 9, 2026

Via Email: nancy.healey@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

Nancy Healey
Commissioner for Employers
Canada Employment Insurance Commission
Employment and Social Development Canada
Place du Portage, Phase IV
Gatineau, QC K1A 0J9

Re: Urgent Request for Temporary Employment Insurance Relief for Seasonal Workers – 2026–2027 Off-Season

Dear Commissioner Healey:

On behalf of the Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin, we are writing to urge the Federal Government to take immediate action to provide temporary Employment Insurance (EI) relief for seasonal workers as the 2026–2027 off-season approaches.

At its Regular Council Meeting held on April 1, 2026, Council passed Resolution No. 26-644, formally requesting that the Government of Canada review and consider adjustments to the Employment Insurance Program to better recognize the realities of seasonal tourism employment in Northern Ontario.

The Township of South Algonquin serves as an important gateway to Algonquin Provincial Park, one of Ontario's most significant tourism destinations. The Park is a major economic driver for our municipality and surrounding communities, providing seasonal employment opportunities both directly within the Park and through the many tourism-related businesses that depend on its visitors. These include accommodations, restaurants, outfitters, guiding services, and other local businesses that rely heavily on a stable seasonal workforce.

According to the 2021 Census, approximately 105 residents of South Algonquin are employed in the accommodation and food services sector, with an estimated additional 50 residents working seasonally within Algonquin Provincial Park. Many of these positions are inherently seasonal, with employment opportunities closely tied to the Park's operating seasons and tourism activity.

One of the most pressing concerns is the gap between the exhaustion of EI benefits, often in February or March, and the resumption of seasonal employment in late May or June. This gap

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places considerable financial hardship on workers and their families and creates challenges for local employers, including those operating within and around Algonquin Provincial Park, who rely on retaining an experienced and dependable seasonal workforce.

With the 2026–2027 off-season fast approaching, the Township strongly urges the Federal Government to immediately implement temporary relief measures, including a reduction in the number of insurable hours required to qualify for Employment Insurance benefits and an extension of benefit periods for seasonal workers.

While we recognize that permanent changes to the Employment Insurance Program may require further review and consultation, we believe that temporary measures are urgently needed to address the immediate needs of seasonal workers who may otherwise be left without adequate financial support during the coming winter and spring months.

The timing of this request is critical. Seasonal employment within Algonquin Provincial Park and the surrounding tourism industry is beginning to wind down, and any relief measures must be implemented promptly to provide meaningful assistance to affected workers.

The seasonal workforce associated with Algonquin Provincial Park is essential not only to the economic stability of South Algonquin but also to the continued success of tourism throughout the region. Without adequate support during the off-season, there is a risk of losing experienced workers who may be forced to relocate outside the community in search of year-round employment. This would make it increasingly difficult for local businesses and Park operations to retain a reliable workforce when the tourism season resumes.

Given the significant number of South Algonquin residents employed seasonally within Algonquin Provincial Park, we are also bringing this matter to the attention of the Province of Ontario, including the ministries responsible for Ontario Parks and employment services. We recognize that some provincial park employees, depending on the terms and duration of their employment contracts, may also be affected.

We hope that a coordinated approach between the federal and provincial governments will help address the unique circumstances faced by seasonal workers and employers in tourism-dependent rural communities such as South Algonquin.

The Township continues to advocate for longer-term changes to the Employment Insurance Program that recognize the unique circumstances of these communities. However, we respectfully request that immediate consideration be given to implementing temporary relief for the upcoming off-season, rather than delaying assistance while broader program reforms are being reviewed.

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We ask that you bring these concerns forward to the appropriate federal decision-makers and advocate for timely action on behalf of seasonal workers, particularly those employed within Algonquin Provincial Park and the surrounding tourism industry.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter. We look forward to your response and to meaningful action that will support seasonal workers, their families, and the economic sustainability of South Algonquin and other tourism-dependent communities across Northern Ontario.

Sincerely,

Bryan Martin

Bryan Martin, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer
On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin

cc:

- Cheryl Gallant, MP – Algonquin—Renfrew—Pembroke
- The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and Families
- Pauline Rochefort, MP – Nipissing—Timiskaming
- Chris Roberts, Acting Commissioner for Workers, Canada Employment Insurance Commission
- Billy Denault, MPP – Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke
- Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Ontario Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
- Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming
- Ontario Parks – Algonquin Provincial Park Superintendent
- Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO)
- Northern Municipalities and Surrounding Municipalities

Enclosed: Resolution No. 26-644, April 1, 2026

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October 9, 2026

Re: Resolution pertaining to the Employment Insurance Program

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting held on April 1, 2026, Council passed the following resolution:

Moved by: Councillor Siydock **Seconded by: Councillor Kuiack** **Res # 26-644**

WHEREAS the Township of South Algonquin is a rural municipality within the Nipissing District that serves as an important gateway to Algonquin Provincial Park; and

WHEREAS tourism is a foundational component of the local economy in South Algonquin and across surrounding Northern Ontario communities, supporting accommodations, restaurants, outfitters, guiding services, and seasonal park operations that rely on a stable seasonal workforce; and

WHEREAS according to the 2021 Census, approximately 105 residents of South Algonquin are employed in the accommodation and food services sector, with an estimated additional 50 residents working seasonally within Algonquin Provincial Park; and

WHEREAS many of these positions are inherently seasonal due to the nature of tourism activity associated with Algonquin Provincial Park and the seasonal operations of tourism-related businesses across Northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS under the current framework of the Employment Insurance Program, many seasonal tourism workers experience a gap between the end of their Employment Insurance benefits—often in February or March—and the resumption of seasonal tourism employment in late May or June when visitor activity returns to the region; and

WHEREAS this gap creates financial hardship for workers who reliably return to seasonal employment each year and creates workforce instability for tourism operators and small businesses across the region; and

WHEREAS recognition of tourism-dependent rural communities within the framework of the Employment Insurance Program would help stabilize the regional workforce, support tourism businesses, and contribute to the economic sustainability of rural municipalities that depend on seasonal tourism; and

WHEREAS municipalities across Northern Ontario experience similar workforce challenges associated with seasonal tourism economies and would benefit from federal policies that better reflect the realities of seasonal employment in rural regions; and

WHEREAS regional municipal organizations such as the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities play a key role in advocating for policy solutions that address the unique economic conditions of Northern Ontario communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of South Algonquin formally request that the Government of Canada review and consider adjustments to the Employment Insurance Program to better recognize the realities of seasonal tourism

employment in Northern Ontario and communities within the Nipissing District. Council further requests the support and advocacy of the local Member of Parliament, Cheryl Gallant, in bringing this matter forward to the Government of Canada. Additionally, Council requests that the Government of Canada, including the Honourable Steven MacKinnon and Honourable Patty Hajdu, review potential policy measures or pilot programs that address the seasonal Employment Insurance gap affecting tourism-dependent rural communities. Council also calls upon the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities and municipalities across Northern Ontario to support advocacy efforts aimed at ensuring federal Employment Insurance policies reflect the economic realities of tourism-dependent communities.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution be circulated to M.P. Cheryl Gallant, M.P. Pauline Rochefort, the Honourable Steven MacKinnon, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all municipalities within the Nipissing District and Northern Ontario for endorsement and support.
-Carried-

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me,

Sincerely,
Tracy Cannon

Tracy Cannon
Deputy CAO/Deputy Clerk-Planner
Email: tcannon@southalgonquin.ca
Phone: 613-637-2650 ext. 202

To: Otonabee South Monaghan; Ottawa; Owen Sound; Oxford; Papineau-Cameron; Parry Sound; Peel; Pelee; Pelham; Pembroke; Penetanguishene; Perry; Perth; Perth East; Perth South; Perth, County; Petawawa; Peterborough; Peterborough, County; Petrolia; Pickering; Pickle Lake; Plummer Additional; Jim Burns; Port Colborne; Port Hope; Powassan; Prescott; Prescott & Russell; Prince; Prince Edward; Puslinch; Qunite West; Rainy River; Ramara; Red Lake; Red Rock; Renfrew; Renfrew, County; Richmond Hill; Rideau Lakes; Russell; Ryerson; Sables-Spanish Rivers; Amy Burkhart; Saugeen Shores; Sault Ste. Marie; Schreiber; Scugog; Seguin; Selwyn; Severn; Shelburne; Shuniah; Simcoe; Sioux Lookout; Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls; Smith Falls; Smooth Rock Falls; South Algonquin; South Bruce; South Bruce Peninsula; South Dundas; South Frontenac; South Glengarry; South Huron; South River; South Stormont; Southgate; Southwest Middlesex; South-West Oxford; Southwold; Spanish; Springwater; St. Catharines; St. Charles; St. Clair; St. Joseph; St. Marys; St. Thomas; Stirling-Rawdon; Stone Mills; Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; Straford; Strathroy-Caradoc; Strong; Sundridge; Tarbutt; Tay; Tay Valley; Tecumseh; Tehkummah; Temagami; Temiskaming Shores; Terrace Bay; Thames Centre; The Archipelago; The Blue Mountains; The Nation; The North Shore; Thessalon; Thornloe; Thorold; Thunder Bay; Tillsonburg; Timmins; Tiny; Toronto; Trent Hills; Trent Lakes; Tudor and Cashel; Tweed; Tyendinaga; Uxbridge; Val Rita-Harty; Vaughan; Wainfleet; Warwick; Wasaga Beach; Waterloo, Regional; Waterloo, City; Wawa; Welland; Wellesley; Wellington North; Wellington, County; West Elgin; West Grey; West Lincoln; West Nipissing; West Perth; Westport; Whitby; Whitchurch-Stouffville; White River; Whitestone; Whitewater; Wilmot; Windsor; Wollaston; Woodstock; Woolwich; York; Zorra; Township of Minden Hills; Municipality of Highlands East

Cc: John Beddows; steve.clark@pc.ola.org; graham.mcgregor@ontario.ca

Subject: Request for Endorsement - Declaration Against Religious Violence

Attachments: Cover Letter-Request for Endorsement-Declaration Against Religious Violence-14Oct2026-EN.pdf; Cover Letter-Request for Endorsement-Declaration Against Religious Violence-14Oct2026-FR.pdf; Declaration Against Religious Violence-07Oct2026-EN.pdf; Declaration Against Religious Violence-07Oct2026-FR.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Gananoque, during their October 7, 2026 Council meeting, passed a motion to circulate the attached Declaration Against Religious Violence to all Ontario Municipalities for endorsement.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mayor Beddows at jbeddows@gananoque.ca.

Regards,

Lynsey Zufelt
Deputy Clerk
Corporation of the Town of Gananoque
30 King St East
Gananoque, ON K7G 1E9
(Vehicular entrance via Garden St. Parking along Adelaide St.)

(p) 613-382-2149 ext 1115
(f) 613-382-8587

www.gananoque.ca
www.travel1000islands.ca

GANANOQUE

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Please consider the environment before printing.

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

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF

GANANOQUE

Canadian Gateway to the 1000 Islands

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

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF

GANANOQUE

Canadian Gateway to the 1000 Islands

14 octobre 2026

Aux conseils municipaux de l'Ontario

Demande d'appui – Déclaration contre la violence à caractère religieux

Chers collègues,

Je vous écris aujourd'hui en sachant que nous sommes tous conscients de la tendance effroyable à la violence fondée sur la religion qui sévit au Canada depuis quelques années; ce phénomène touche l'ensemble du pays et a pris pour cible des personnes et groupes de diverses confessions. Compte tenu de cette situation, et à la suite des récents événements tragiques survenus à la synagogue Sons of Jacob de Belleville, j'ai rédigé, présenté et signé la « Déclaration contre la violence à caractère religieux » ci-jointe lors de la réunion du conseil municipal de Gananoque du 7 octobre.

Fort de trente années de service au sein des Forces armées canadiennes — ici au Canada, en Europe, au Moyen-Orient en tant que membre d'une mission de maintien de la paix de l'ONU, ainsi qu'en Afghanistan —, j'ai été témoin des conséquences lorsque l'intolérance et l'exclusion de « l'autre » s'enracinent et se propagent.

J'estime qu'il est primordial d'affirmer publiquement les principes fondamentaux que nous défendons et sur lesquels nous refusons de faire des compromis, ainsi que de désigner les comportements auxquels nous nous opposons fermement. Au cœur de cette démarche se trouve la défense du principe fondamental selon lequel tous les êtres humains sont égaux et jouissent des mêmes droits fondamentaux et de la même dignité.

Par conséquent, au nom du Conseil de Gananoque, nous vous invitons à vous joindre à nous en souscrivant à la Déclaration contre la violence religieuse ci-jointe et vous prions de bien vouloir nous en faire parvenir une copie, avec copie conforme au ministre Graham McGregor, ministre de la Citoyenneté et du Multiculturalisme de la province de l'Ontario.

Je vous remercie de l'attention que vous porterez à cette demande.

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

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF

GANANOQUE

Canadian Gateway to the 1000 Islands

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

Déclaration

Compte tenu de la tendance tragique à la violence fondée sur la religion observée au Canada ces dernières années — violence ciblant des personnes de diverses confessions ainsi que leurs lieux de culte —je m'adresse à vous aujourd'hui en tant que maire de Gananoque. Je souhaite exprimer publiquement un message simple concernant les valeurs que nous défendons dans notre ville, ainsi que ce à quoi nous nous opposons.

Ici, à Gananoque, nous embrassons et défendons des principes, comme l'importance de de la communauté, de la compréhension, de la communication, de la bienveillance, du soutien envers nos voisins, de la courtoisie, de la gentillesse et ce la valeur du travail acharné. Nous croyons que le respect se mérite par notre comportement et notre façon de mener notre vie, tant sur le plan individuel que collectif. Nous partageons également cette conviction simple et inébranlable : un inconnu est un ami que l'on n'a pas encore rencontré.

Nous croyons qu'au fond, tous les êtres humains partagent les mêmes espoirs et les mêmes aspirations. Nous voulons tous que nos enfants puissent se rendre à l'école, se déplacer librement, vivre, jouer et se rassembler sans crainte ni inquiétude. Nous voulons qu'ils bénéficient d'opportunités égales ou supérieures aux nôtres pour grandir, apprendre, aimer, rire, faire des expériences, voyager, travailler et réussir selon leurs propres termes et leur propre définition de la réussite. Nous aspirons tous à la sécurité du lieu de vie, à la sécurité alimentaire, ainsi qu'à la sécurité de nos personnes et de nos biens. Nous croyons qu'il faut bâtir des ponts plutôt que des barrières. Nous croyons au pouvoir du débat, à l'importance des faits et à la vertu de la compréhension. Nous croyons qu'il faut aider ceux qui en ont besoin et faire tout notre possible pour que chacun puisse trouver de l'aide, de la chaleur humaine et de l'espoir en cas de nécessité, et ce, sans jugement.

Nous croyons que la foi est un choix personnel et que la quête individuelle et collective de la vérité apporte espoir et lumière à un monde qui en a grandement besoin.

Nous affirmons, défendons et soutiendrons le principe fondamental selon lequel tous les êtres humains sont égaux et jouissent des mêmes droits fondamentaux et de la même dignité.

L'autre facette de la médaille : voici ce à quoi Gananoque s'oppose.

Nous nous opposons au fait de rejeter l'Autre en le définissant comme un étranger ou un être à part (le phénomène de l'« altérisation »). Nous nous opposons à la réification des personnes. Nous nous opposons à toute personne ou à tout groupe qui nie l'égalité de tous en matière de droits, de dignité et de libertés. Nous nous opposons à toute personne ou à tout groupe qui cherche à recourir — ou qui a recours — à la violence ou à l'intimidation pour cibler des individus ou des groupes, ou pour tenter de transformer notre société, notre mode de vie et notre identité de Canadiens.

Ici, à Gananoque, lorsque la maison d'un voisin est en feu, nous courons vers les flammes plutôt que de les fuir. Cela ne changera pas.

Ici, nous refusons la haine une place.

Signé et daté le 7 Octobre 2026.

John S. Beddows, Mayor

2026 Levy Summary Report

MUNICIPALITY	Levy 2025	Levy 2026	Levy Change ($)	Levy Change (%)	Weighted CVA Growth (%)	Notional Levy Change (%)
MADAWASKA VALLEY	$ 4,024,071	$ 5,208,823	$ 1,184,751	29.44%	0.97%	28.47%
HEAD, CLARA & MARIA	$ 600,000	$ 691,510	$ 91,510	15.25%	0.22%	15.03%
RENFREW	$ 12,295,046	$ 13,216,282	$ 921,236	7.49%	0.73%	6.76%
COUNTY OF RENFREW	$ 61,428,226	$ 66,282,345	$ 4,854,119	7.90%	1.22%	6.68%
LAURENTIAN VALLEY	$ 7,323,499	$ 7,886,161	$ 562,663	7.68%	1.05%	6.63%
PETAWAWA	$ 13,489,242	$ 14,494,074	$ 1,004,832	7.45%	0.87%	6.58%
WHITEWATER REGION	$ 7,748,500	$ 8,301,891	$ 553,391	7.14%	1.19%	5.95%
GREATER MADAWASKA	$ 4,600,646	$ 4,921,091	$ 320,445	6.97%	2.14%	4.82%
NORTH ALGONA WILBERFORCE	$ 4,019,638	$ 4,282,461	$ 262,823	6.54%	1.75%	4.79%
KILLALOE, HAGARTY & RICHARDS	$ 3,373,681	$ 3,530,091	$ 156,410	4.64%	1.10%	3.54%
DEEP RIVER	$ 8,289,564	$ 8,552,436	$ 262,872	3.17%	0.06%	3.11%
ARNPRIOR	$ 12,876,114	$ 13,467,191	$ 591,077	4.59%	1.54%	3.05%
McNAB/BRAESIDE	$ 7,868,247	$ 8,222,720	$ 354,473	4.51%	1.98%	2.52%
HORTON	$ 3,031,622	$ 3,146,713	$ 115,091	3.80%	2.01%	1.79%
BONNECHERE VALLEY	$ 4,242,516	$ 4,352,074	$ 109,558	2.58%	1.76%	0.82%
BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH RAGLAN	$ 1,579,086	$ 1,609,615	$ 30,528	1.93%	1.41%	0.52%
ADMASTON/BROMLEY	$ 3,672,881	$ 3,733,334	$ 60,453	1.65%	1.61%	0.03%
EDUCATION	$ 32,595,667	32,912,975	$ 317,308	0.97%	0.97%	0.00%
LAURENTIAN HILLS	$ 3,570,928	$ 3,594,269	$ 23,341	0.65%	0.65%	0.00%
	196,629,173	208,406,054	11,776,881	5.99%	1.22%	4.77%

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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, October 27, 2026)

RCDHU Launches New Five-Year Strategic Plan: Forward Together

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is pleased to announce the release of its new strategic plan, *Forward Together: Strategic Plan 2027-2031*, which will guide the organization's work over the next five years. This plan outlines the priorities and strategies RCDHU will follow to deliver high-quality public health programs and services to the residents of Renfrew County and District.

The Strategic Plan was developed based on valuable input from staff, community members, partner organizations, and Board of Health members. Their collective perspectives helped shape a framework that will strengthen RCDHU's ability to prevent illness, promote health, respond to emerging challenges, advance health equity, and make a meaningful difference in the health and well-being of the communities RCDHU serves.

The plan identifies four strategic priorities that will guide RCDHU's direction and decision-making through 2031:

- **Future Ready**: Build a modern, agile, and prepared organization through technology, data, and innovation to improve effectiveness.
- **Public Health Excellence**: Deliver high-quality, responsive, and evidence-informed public health programs and services that improve population health, respond to community needs and advance health equity.
- **People & Culture**: Invest in staff, cultivate a healthy and inclusive workplace, and build the leadership and organizational capacity needed for the future.
- **Partnerships & Communication**: Strengthen partnerships, engage communities and communicate effectively across Renfrew County and District to build trust, shape shared public health priorities, and support informed decisions and collective action.

"This Strategic Plan reflects our commitment to evolving alongside the communities we serve," say Dr. Jason Morgenstern, *Medical Officer of Health*; Heather Daly, *Chief Executive Officer*; and Joanne King, *Chair, Board of Health*, in a joint statement. "*Forward Together* is a roadmap for the future of public health in Renfrew County and District. These strategic priorities will guide our decisions, focus our efforts, and help create lasting value for the people and communities we serve."

RCDHU's vision remains "Optimal Health for All". Through the implementation of this plan, RCDHU will continue to build on its strengths, embrace new opportunities, and work together with purpose to advance optimal health for all.

To view the complete Strategic Plan, visit **RCDHU Strategic Plan 2027-2031**.

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Renfrew County and District Health Unit
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Request to Reopen a ServiceOntario Centre in Killaloe

Billy Denault, MPP
Renfrew–Nipissing–Pembroke
The Victoria Centre, 84 Isabella Street, Suite 6
Pembroke, ON K8A 5S5

Dear Mr. Denault,

We, the residents of Killaloe and the surrounding communities, are writing to respectfully request your help in reopening a ServiceOntario centre in Killaloe.

Until about a year ago, our community was served by a local ServiceOntario centre. Since the operator retired, the centre has remained closed, and no replacement has been found. For more than a year, residents have had no local access to essential services such as driver's licence renewals, health card renewals, and vehicle registrations.

This closure has caused real hardship. Our community is made up largely of seniors, and many residents no longer drive or have reliable transportation. The nearest ServiceOntario centre is in Pembroke, about 45 minutes away by car. Residents must either pay for costly rides or wait until a family member or neighbour is available to drive them there and back. For some, this means delaying important renewals, including their health cards.

A ServiceOntario centre in Killaloe would serve not only our village but also the surrounding communities of Barry's Bay, Wilno, Deacon, Whitney, Madawaska, Combermere, Palmer Rapids, and Golden Lake, none of which currently has a ServiceOntario centre of its own. Restoring this service would ensure that essential government services are once again within reach for everyone in our area, especially those who cannot travel.

We respectfully ask that you raise this matter with the Ministry responsible for ServiceOntario and support efforts to find a new operator for a Killaloe location as soon as possible. Your prompt action would make a meaningful difference in the daily lives of our residents.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

The Residents of Killaloe and Surrounding Areas