

Robbie Dean Family Counselling Centre

84 Isabella St Unit 5 Pembroke Ontario K8A 5S5

613- 629-4243 www.robbedeancentre.com

01 October 2026

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

Request for Funding – Preventive Mental Health Services in Rural Communities

On behalf of the Robbie Dean Family Counselling Centre (RDFCC), I am pleased to submit this Letter of Inquiry to explore the possibility of your support for our work.

We are seeking your support to help provide accessible, preventive mental health services to individuals and families throughout the Ottawa Valley. Your support would help remove financial and geographic barriers to care, allowing people to access counselling and support early—before challenges escalate into more serious and complex mental health concerns.

Every year, the RDFCC helps approximately 1,200 individuals access professional mental health support. Those we serve live in rural communities and face significant financial and geographic barriers to accessing care. The Centre has become their only accessible source of professional counselling.

Investing in Prevention

Mental health challenges do not wait for a crisis, yet many individuals struggle to access support until their needs have escalated. The cost of private counselling, limited services in rural communities and long wait times often prevent people from getting help when early intervention could make the greatest difference.

The RDFCC removes financial barriers by offering **FREE** services and provides individuals with an opportunity to seek support before their challenges become a crisis. Our counselling helps people develop coping strategies, strengthen resilience, improve relationships and address mental health concerns while they are still manageable.

Prevention and early intervention can change the trajectory of an individual's mental health while reducing pressure on an already overburdened health-care system.

Collaboration and Community Impact

We recognize that no single organization can meet the mental health needs of our communities. RDFCC works collaboratively with community organizations, health-care providers and other service agencies to provide timely and appropriate supports. This collaborative approach strengthens the local continuum of care and helps ensure that individuals do not fall through the gaps between services.

The Opportunity

Funding from the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards would help us:

- Provide accessible counselling to individuals who cannot afford private services;
- Reach individuals facing rural, geographic and financial barriers;
- Intervene earlier, before mental health concerns escalate;
- Strengthen collaboration and referral pathways with community partners; and
- Continue providing support to approximately 1,200 individuals annually while responding to unmet demand.

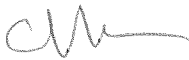
We are committed to measuring the impact of our work through the number of individuals served, counselling sessions provided, client engagement, access and wait times, client-reported outcomes, referrals and client feedback.

Investing in accessible mental health services is an investment in healthier individuals, stronger families and more resilient communities. Your support would help ensure that people do not have to wait until they are in crisis to receive the help they need.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our work and explore how a partnership with the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards would help expand access to preventive mental health services throughout the Ottawa Valley.

Thank you for considering our request and for your commitment to the health and well-being of our communities.

Sincerely,



Monique Yashinskie
Founder and Director of Community Engagement
Robbie Dean Family Counselling Centre
(613) 401-3526 monique@rdfcc.ca

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much" Helen Keller

From: Council Secretariat <clerks@aurora.ca>
Sent: October 6, 2026 5:09 PM
To: Council Secretariat
Subject: Aurora Council Resolution - Cannabis Retail Review Task Force - Findings and Recommendations
Attachments: Letter-AuroraResolution-Cannabis Retail Review Task Force-Findings and Recommendations.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please find attached correspondence further to the Town of Aurora Council meeting held on September 22, 2026, regarding a resolution adopted by Council re Cannabis Retail Review Task Force - Findings and Recommendations.

Thank you,
Linda

Linda Bottos (she/her)
Council/Committee Coordinator
Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, Aurora, Ontario L4G 6J1
Phone: 365-500-3054
lbottos@aurora.ca
aurora.ca
aurora.ca/Vote2026



We acknowledge that in Aurora we are on the traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, who are Anishinaabe peoples, and one of the First Nations reserves in Ontario. We are grateful to them for sharing their lands with us.



Legislative Services
Anne Kantharajah
905-726-4771
clerks@aurora.ca

Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, Box 1000
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

September 30, 2026

Executive Director
York Regional Police Services Board

Delivered by email
psb@yrp.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

minister.mah@ontario.ca

Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO)

municipal@agco.ca

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of September 22, 2026
Report No. CS26-022 - Cannabis Retail Review Task Force - Findings and
Recommendations**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on September 22, 2026, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

1. That **Report No. CS26-022** be received; and
2. That the Local Actions set out in the Recommendations section of the final report of the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force be implemented; and
3. That the final report of the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force be circulated to York Regional Police, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), Local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all municipalities in Ontario for consideration and support.

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Sincerely,

Anne Kantharajah
Town Clerk
The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

013-401

AK/lb

Attachments (Council meeting extract and final report of the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force)

Copy: Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP Newmarket—Aurora
(dawn.gallaghermurphy@pc.ola.org)
Hon. Michael Parsa, MPP Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill
(michael.parsaco@pc.ola.org)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) (resolutions@amo.on.ca)
All Ontario Municipalities



100 John West Way
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 6J1
(905) 727-3123
aurora.ca

Town of Aurora

Council Meeting Extract

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

8. Committee of the Whole Meeting Report of September 8, 2026

Moved by Councillor Thompson

Seconded by Councillor Gallo

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Report of September 8, 2026, be received and the recommendations carried by the Committee approved, with the exception of sub-items 8.4.1, 8.4.2, and 8.9.1, which were discussed and voted on separately as recorded below.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Carried (7 to 0)

8.4 Corporate Services Committee Agenda

8.4.4 CS26-022 - Cannabis Retail Review Task Force - Findings and Recommendations

1. That Report No. CS26-022 be received; and
2. That the Local Actions set out in the Recommendations section of the final report of the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force be implemented; and
3. That the final report of the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force be circulated to York Regional Police, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), Local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all municipalities in Ontario for consideration and support.

Carried

Cannabis Retail Review Task Force

Final Findings and Recommendations

August 27, 2026

1. Purpose

The Cannabis Retail Review Task Force was established by Council to review the Town of Aurora's experience since opting in to Ontario's retail cannabis framework and to report back to Council with findings and recommendations.

The Task Force reviewed the provincial regulatory framework, previous Council decisions and reports, information from Town staff and York Regional Police, enforcement and complaint information, community concerns, the experience of neighbouring residents and businesses, and feedback received through the 2026 Cannabis Retail Review Survey.

The Task Force recognizes that legal cannabis retailers are legitimate businesses operating within a provincially regulated framework. The purpose of this review is not to reconsider the legalization of cannabis or Aurora's decision to opt in, but to determine what has been learned from Aurora's experience and identify opportunities to better address community impacts.

2. Background

Aurora Council opted in to permit private cannabis retail stores on January 21, 2019.

At the same time, Council recognized potential concerns regarding the location and concentration of cannabis retail stores and requested that the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario consider additional location restrictions.

Specifically, Council requested:

- A minimum 150-metre separation between cannabis retail stores; and
- A minimum 150-metre separation between cannabis retail stores and specified sensitive uses, including daycares, nurseries, parks, group homes, addiction and

counselling facilities, recreation facilities, the Aurora Public Library, Town Hall and similar public gathering uses.

Despite Council's request, these additional criteria were not adopted by the AGCO.

The Province currently requires a 150-metre separation from schools and private schools. Municipalities do not have authority to license private cannabis retailers or regulate cannabis retail as a separate land use. Cannabis stores are otherwise subject to the same applicable municipal zoning requirements as other permitted retail uses.

The Town's 2023 Retail Cannabis Update subsequently confirmed that the number or proximity of cannabis stores is not an objectionable criterion under the provincial framework and that municipalities have no control over their locations beyond the zoning requirements applicable to retail uses generally.

3. Community Survey

Council authorized a Cannabis Retail Review Survey to provide the Task Force with current community feedback.

The survey was conducted from July 14 to August 9, 2026 and was promoted through Town communication channels.

The survey received:

- 479 visits; and
- 154 completed responses.

The survey should be considered an important source of community feedback rather than a statistically representative referendum of all Aurora residents.

Overall, the survey indicates that the principal concern among respondents is not simply the existence of legal cannabis retail stores. Concerns are more strongly associated with:

- The number of cannabis retail stores;
- Concentration and clustering;
- Store locations;
- Proximity to sensitive uses;

20
15
10
5
0
NO
YES

- Youth exposure; and
- Neighbourhood impacts.

The Task Force also recognizes that a segment of respondents supports cannabis retail and considers these businesses legitimate and appropriately regulated retail operations.

These results generally reinforce the location and concentration concerns identified by Aurora Council when it opted in to cannabis retail in 2019.

4. Task Force Findings

Finding 1: Cannabis retail has not created a significant town-wide enforcement problem

The available information does not demonstrate widespread public safety, crime or municipal enforcement problems associated with cannabis retail stores across Aurora.

Town staff have historically reported relatively few complaints associated with legal cannabis retailers, and proactive By-law inspections conducted in March 2026 did not identify violations.

The Task Force therefore does not find evidence supporting a conclusion that cannabis retail stores, as a class of business, represent a significant town-wide enforcement problem.

Finding 2: Town-wide statistics do not necessarily reflect localized impacts

While aggregate complaint and enforcement numbers are relatively low, the Task Force heard concerns regarding impacts experienced by residents and businesses neighbouring certain cannabis retail locations.

Issues identified during the Task Force's work included:

- Litter and discarded cannabis packaging;

- Parking;
- Signage;
- Patron behaviour;
- Loitering or prolonged gathering;
- Neighbourhood compatibility; and
- Other nuisance and quality-of-life concerns.

The Task Force finds that a relatively small number of locations can generate significant impacts for immediate neighbours without producing large town-wide complaint statistics.

Accordingly, aggregate complaint data should not be the sole measure used to determine whether a localized problem exists.

Finding 3: Location and concentration are central concerns

The Task Force finds that one of the most consistent concerns is the location and concentration of cannabis retail stores rather than the existence of legal cannabis retail itself.

This finding is reinforced by the 2026 community survey, which identified the perceived number, concentration and location of stores as primary concerns.

The existing provincial framework provides Aurora with little ability to address these concerns.

Finding 4: Aurora anticipated these concerns in 2019

The Task Force finds it significant that Aurora Council identified location and concentration as potential concerns before cannabis retail stores began operating in the Town.

Council's 2019 request for:

- 150-metre separation between cannabis retail stores; and
- 150-metre separation from specified sensitive uses

was intended to provide reasonable safeguards while allowing legal cannabis retail businesses to operate in Aurora.

Seven years of experience and the results of the 2026 review demonstrate that many of the concerns identified by Council in 2019 remain relevant.

Finding 5: The provincial framework significantly limits municipal control

The Task Force finds that there is a significant gap between municipal responsibility for responding to community concerns and municipal authority to prevent or address the underlying location issues.

Aurora can enforce generally applicable municipal bylaws, including parking, signage and property-related regulations.

However, Aurora cannot:

- License cannabis retail stores;
- Regulate cannabis retail as a separate land use;
- Establish cannabis-specific zoning;
- Establish mandatory separation distances between cannabis stores; or
- Establish additional cannabis-specific setbacks from sensitive uses.

The ultimate authority respecting retail cannabis authorizations rests with the Province through the AGCO.

Finding 6: Localized problems require targeted responses

Given the relatively low level of town-wide complaints but more significant concerns associated with particular locations, the Task Force finds that targeted intervention is preferable to blanket enforcement.

Where persistent problems are identified, the Town should coordinate available resources and work with retailers, property owners, neighbouring businesses, residents, By-law Services, YRP and the AGCO, as appropriate, to address the specific circumstances.

Finding 7: Residents need clearer information about where and how to report concerns

Responsibility for cannabis-related concerns is divided among several organizations.

Depending upon the issue, residents may need to contact:

- Town of Aurora By-law Services;
- York Regional Police;
- The AGCO;
- York Region; or
- A property owner or business operator.

The Task Force finds that clearer public information would improve reporting, allow concerns to be directed to the appropriate authority and improve the quality of information available for future monitoring.

5. Recommendations

The Cannabis Retail Review Task Force recommends that Council endorse the following actions.

A. Local Actions

1. Improve public information and reporting

That the Town develop clear public information identifying where residents and businesses should report cannabis retail concerns, including the respective responsibilities of the Town, AGCO, York Regional Police and other appropriate agencies.

2. Establish a targeted response approach

That where recurring concerns are identified around a cannabis retail location, appropriate Town departments coordinate a targeted response using existing municipal

enforcement authorities and engage the retailer, property owner, neighbouring residents and businesses, YRP and AGCO where appropriate.

3. Encourage retailer and property-owner engagement

That the Town encourage cannabis retailers and property owners to proactively address legitimate neighbourhood concerns, including litter, parking, property maintenance and patron behaviour occurring on their properties.

4. Continue monitoring

That the Town periodically monitor cannabis retail-related complaints and enforcement activity to identify emerging trends or recurring locations of concern and report significant developments to Council as appropriate.

B. Provincial Advocacy

5. Reaffirm Aurora's 2019 position

That Council reaffirm its January 21, 2019 position respecting cannabis retail store locations and advocate to the Province of Ontario and the AGCO for implementation of those principles.

Specifically, Aurora should continue to advocate for authority to establish:

- A minimum 150-metre separation between cannabis retail stores; and
- A minimum 150-metre separation between cannabis retail stores and appropriate sensitive uses, including daycares, nurseries, parks, group homes, addiction and counselling facilities, recreation facilities, libraries and other appropriate public gathering places.

6. Provide municipalities greater authority over location and clustering

That Council request that the Province amend the cannabis retail regulatory framework to provide municipalities with meaningful authority to address the location, density and clustering of cannabis retail stores within their communities.

Any expanded municipal authority should allow municipalities to develop locally appropriate standards while maintaining reasonable opportunities for legal cannabis retailers to operate.

7. Strengthen municipal input into AGCO decisions

That Council request that the Province strengthen the municipal role in the AGCO retail store authorization process, including requiring meaningful consideration of municipal concerns regarding location, concentration, sensitive uses and documented community impacts.

8. Review operating conditions where neighbourhood impacts exist

That the Province and AGCO be requested to examine whether additional regulatory tools are appropriate where a cannabis retail operation generates repeated, documented impacts on neighbouring residential or commercial properties, including whether operating conditions or hours may be considered where warranted.

9. Coordinate advocacy with other Ontario municipalities

That Aurora's final Task Force report and Council resolution be forwarded to:

- The Premier of Ontario;
- The appropriate Provincial Ministers;
- The AGCO;
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- York Region;
- All Ontario municipalities,

with a request for support for greater municipal authority over cannabis retail location and clustering.

6. Conclusion

Aurora's experience with legal cannabis retail is nuanced.

The Task Force did not find evidence that cannabis retailers generally represent a significant town-wide public safety or enforcement problem. Legal cannabis retailers

are regulated businesses that contribute to Aurora's economy and should be treated fairly.

At the same time, the review demonstrates that legitimate localized impacts can occur and that the current provincial framework leaves municipalities with limited tools to address one of the community's principal concerns: where cannabis stores locate and how closely they may be concentrated.

Importantly, Aurora anticipated these issues in 2019.

When Council opted in to cannabis retail, it supported reasonable separation distances between stores and from sensitive uses. Those recommendations were not incorporated into the provincial framework. The concerns identified through the Task Force's work and the 2026 community survey demonstrate that those principles remain relevant today.

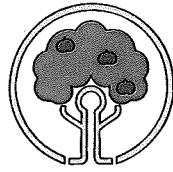
The Task Force therefore recommends a balanced approach.

Locally, Aurora should improve reporting, monitoring, communication and targeted responses where problems occur.

Provincially, Aurora should renew and strengthen its advocacy for the principles Council established in 2019 and request meaningful municipal authority over cannabis retail location, concentration and neighbourhood compatibility.

This approach recognizes cannabis retailers as legitimate businesses while also recognizing the responsibility of municipal government to protect the quality of life of residents and neighbouring businesses.

Councillor John Gallo
Town of Aurora
Cannabis Retail Review Task Force Chair



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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, October 8, 2026)

RCDHU Encourages RSV Immunization for Infants and High-Risk Children

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is encouraging parents and caregivers to protect infants and high-risk children against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) through immunization. Beginning in October, RCDHU is offering RSV immunization for infants and high-risk children who qualify. Immunization will be offered throughout the RSV season, from October to March.

"RSV can cause serious illness in infants and high-risk children, and immunization is our most effective means of preventing these harms," says Dr. Jason Morgenstern, Medical Officer of Health at RCDHU. "I encourage parents and caregivers of eligible children to take advantage of this protection by booking an appointment with their health care provider or RCDHU."

Who Can Receive Publicly Funded RSV Immunization:

Ontario's publicly funded Infant RSV Prevention Program is available to:

- Infants born on or after April 1, 2026 and who are under 8 months of age at the time of immunization
- Certain high-risk children under 24 months of age who remain vulnerable to severe RSV disease

Where to Receive RSV Immunization:

Infants and high-risk children who qualify may receive RSV immunization through the following providers:

- Hospitals, for newborns prior to discharge
- RCDHU immunization clinics
- Participating health care providers, including family physicians and nurse practitioners
- Participating obstetricians (OB-GYNs) and midwives

RCDHU Infant and High-Risk Children RSV Clinics

Beginning October 21, 2026, RCDHU will provide RSV immunization clinics for infants, high-risk children, and pregnant individuals. To book an appointment:

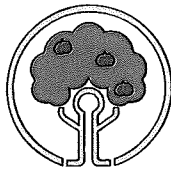
- Visit RCDHU's [Online Appointment Booking](#) page, or
- Contact RCDHU at 613-732-9436 or 1-833-773-0004

Pregnant individuals who are between 28 to 36 weeks pregnant and are expected to give birth during RSV season may receive an RSV vaccine as an alternative to immunizing their infant.

For most infants, only one RSV prevention product is recommended. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to speak with their health care provider about the option that is most appropriate for their family. For more information, including complete criteria for publicly funded RSV immunization visit Ontario's [Respiratory Syncytial Virus](#) page.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to keep a record of their child's RSV immunization. Remember to ask your health care provider for a copy of your child's immunization record and keep it for future health care visits.

Learn more about RCDHU's RSV clinics by visiting: [Immunization Clinics](#).



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



For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, October 9, 2026)

Let's Reduce Lung Cancer from the Ground Up!

Residents of Renfrew County and District are invited to protect their health by testing their homes for radon this winter by participating in the **100 Radon Test Kit Challenge**. A free online Radon Information Session is being offered for anyone interested in learning more about the health risks of radon and a limited number of free radon home test kits are also available. The information session will cover the health effects of radon, why it's a concern, and what Health Canada recommends for homeowners. Interested residents are invited to pre-register to reserve a spot and a test kit.

The Radon Information Session will be held online on October, 28 at 7:00 p.m. Radon test kits will be available to pick up after the information session from November 2 – 6 at Renfrew County and District Health Unit, 141 Lake Street, Suite 100, Pembroke, ON, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Radon is a radioactive gas that is released by the breakdown of uranium in the soil. It is odourless, tasteless, and colourless, and can enter buildings and enclosed spaces undetected. Since Canadian homes are sealed against the weather, radon can become trapped indoors, building up to dangerous levels. Long-term exposure to high levels of radon damages the DNA in our lung tissue and is currently leading to over 3,000 Canadian deaths each year – more than the combined toll of car collisions, house fires, carbon monoxide poisoning and drowning.

"Although Canadians are becoming more aware of radon and its link to lung cancer in non-smokers, we still see hesitancy before homeowners take steps to test and reduce their radon exposure," says Pam Warkentin, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (CARST), and Project Manager for Take Action on Radon. "Reducing radon exposure saves lives and the 100 Test Kit Challenge is a great way for a community to come together and take action on radon."

"We are challenging Renfrew County and District residents to complete 100 radon tests because awareness starts with action. Every test completed helps us better understand local radon risks and empowers residents to make informed decisions about their homes and their

health. Radon is a well-established human carcinogen. Testing and reducing radon levels is cancer prevention," adds Dr. Jason Morgenstern, Medical Officer of Health for RCDHU.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

A limited number of free kits are available, and residents must sign up for the program at: <https://form.jotform.com/262325966224258>.

The Free Radon Information Session will be October, 28 at 7:00 p.m. online. Registrants for the free kit will receive an email to join. Anyone wanting to listen into the session, can contact *Take Action on Radon* for information: info@takeactiononradon.ca.

Radon test kits will be available to pick up from Renfrew County and District Health Unit
141 Lake Street, Suite 100, Pembroke, ON, open 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

About Take Action on Radon

Take Action on Radon is a national initiative that works to bring together radon stakeholders and raise radon awareness across Canada. The initiative is led by the Canadian Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (CARST) and the Canadian Cancer Society.

To learn more about radon and how to test your home, visit: TakeActionOnRadon.ca.

To find photos to use with this press release, you can download free, high-quality images from here: <https://pixabay.com/users/takeactiononradon-18149510/>.

Find details about the program at: <https://takeactiononradon.ca/resources/100-radon-test-kit-challenge/>

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To schedule an interview with a representative, please contact:

Pam Warkentin
204-798-9649
p_warkentin@carst.ca

Renfrew County and District Health Unit
Fax: 613-735-3067
media@rcdhu.com
www.rcdhu.com

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



Notice of Collection/Use/Disclosure: All information about municipal services is collected in accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001*, under s.8 and for Council's purposes under s.239(1) and may be used in Council deliberations, and disclosed in full, including email, names, opinions and addresses to other persons requesting access to records, or as part of a public agenda. All information submitted to the municipality is subject to the Municipal Freedom of Information Act (MFIPPA). Questions about this notice of collection should be directed to the Clerk 613-637-2650 extension 202.

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.

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

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.

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

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

Flu & COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

➤ *For High-Risk Individuals Only*



BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT ONLINE

See if you are eligible and
book online at:

www.rcdhu.com 🔍



**Limited walk-ins may be available*



AVAILABLE VACCINES:

- **Flu & COVID-19**
- **Pneumococcal:** Ages 65+
Needed once per lifetime
- **RSV:** Ages 75+
Needed once per lifetime

Early Fall Clinics for Eligible High-Risk Individuals Only

ARNPRIOR	Arnprior Public Library	October 13 1 pm - 5pm
BARRY'S BAY	Royal Canadian Legion	October 14 1 pm - 5 pm
PEMBROKE	Royal Canadian Legion	October 15 12 pm - 5 pm
CHALK RIVER	Chalk River & Area Lions Club	October 21 2 pm - 5 pm
RENFREW	MyFM Centre	October 22 1 pm - 4 pm

2026



Flu & COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics



BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY

Reserve your spot in advance:

www.rcdhu.com 



**Limited walk-ins may be available*



AVAILABLE VACCINES:

- **Flu & COVID-19:** Ages 6 months+
- **Pneumococcal:** Ages 65+
Needed once per lifetime
- **RSV:** Ages 75+
Needed once per lifetime

**Appointments Recommended.
Open to Ages 6 months and Older.**

ARNPRIOR	Nick Smith Centre	October 27 1:30 - 5:30 pm
BARRY'S BAY	Royal Canadian Legion	October 28 1 pm - 5 pm
PEMBROKE	Royal Canadian Legion	October 29 12 pm - 5 pm
DEEP RIVER	North Renfrew Family Health Team	November 2 2 pm - 6 pm
PETAWAWA	Petawawa Public Library	November 3 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm
RENFREW	MyFM Centre	November 5 1 pm - 4 pm
ARNPRIOR	Arnprior Public Library	November 9 2 pm - 6pm
KILLALOE	Killaloe Fire Hall	November 10 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm



Flu & COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics



BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY

Reserve your spot in advance:

www.rcdhu.com 



**Limited walk-ins may be available*



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**Appointments Recommended.
Open to Ages 6 months and Older.**

PEMBROKE	Royal Canadian Legion	November 12 1 pm - 6 pm
EGANVILLE	Royal Canadian Legion	November 16 2 pm - 6 pm
RENFREW	MyFM Centre	November 17 1 pm - 4 pm
CHALK RIVER	Chalk River & Area Lions Club	November 18 3 pm - 6 pm
ARNPRIOR	Nick Smith Centre	November 24 2 pm - 6 pm
BARRY'S BAY	Royal Canadian Legion	November 25 2 pm - 6 pm
PEMBROKE	Royal Canadian Legion	November 26 1 pm - 6 pm



From: Clerk Cobourg <clerk@cobourg.ca>
Sent: October 13, 2026 4:43 PM
To: premier@ontario.ca
Subject: Town of Cobourg Council Resolution - Review of the Ontario Land Tribunal and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions
Attachments: Town of Cobourg Council Resolution - Ontario Land Tribunal Review.pdf; Attachment 1 - Correspondence from the Township of Puslinch regarding Ont. Land Tribunal and Municipal Planning.pdf; Attachment 2 - Correspondence from the City of Whitby regarding Review of the Ontario Land Tribunal and Enhancing Deference to Municipal.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached resolution passed by the Town of Cobourg Council at the August 26, 2026 Regular Council meeting regarding a review of the Ontario Land Tribunal and enhancing deference to municipal planning decisions.

Best regards,



Laryssa McGlashon (she/her)
Council and Committee Coordinator

The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg
Legislative Services Division
55 King Street West, Cobourg, ON, K9A 2M2
P: 905-372-4301 x 4403 | cobourg.ca



The Cobourg 2026 Municipal Election voting period will run from October 16 to 26, 2026, visit www.cobourgvotes.ca
Are you on the voters list? [Register To Vote!](#)



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Town of Cobourg
55 King Street West,
Cobourg, ON, K9A 2M2
clerk@cobourg.ca

Sent via email
premier@ontario.ca

October 13, 2026

RE: Correspondence from the Township of Puslinch regarding the review of the Ontario
Land Tribunal and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions

Please be advised that the Town of Cobourg Council, at its meeting held on August 26, 2026, passed the following resolution:

**Correspondence from the Township of Puslinch regarding the review of the Ontario
Land Tribunal and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions**

THAT Council support the correspondence from the Township of Puslinch regarding the review of the Ontario Land Tribunal and enhancing deference to municipal planning decisions.

Sincerely,

Laryssa McGlashon
Council and Committee Coordinator

CC: clerk@whitby.ca; minister.mah@ontario.ca; peter.bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org;
lorne.coe@pc.ola.org; jfrench-co@ndp.on.ca; todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org;
rcerjanec.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org; laurie.scott@pc.ola.org; amopresident@amo.on.ca;
all Ontario municipalities



The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Rob Flack,
Minister of Municipal Affairs
and Housing -
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

July 29, 2026

RE: Town of Whitby's resolution regarding the Review of the Ontario Land Tribunal and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on July 15, 2026 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2026-223:

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the Consent Agenda item 6.13 be received for information; and

Whereas Council supports Town of Whitby's resolution regarding the Review of the Ontario Land Tribunal and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions;

That Council direct staff to send a support resolution accordingly.

CARRIED

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston
Municipal Clerk

CC: C. Harris, Director of Legislative Services/Town Clerk - clerk@whitby.ca



The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing -
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP, Pickering-Uxbridge - peter.bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org

Lorne Coe, MPP, Whitby - lorne.coe@pc.ola.org

Jennifer K. French, MPP, Oshawa - jfrench-co@ndp.on.ca

Todd J. McCarthy, MPP, Durham - todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org

Rob Cerjanec, MPP, Ajax - rcerjanec.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Laurie Scott, MPP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock - laurie.scott@pc.ola.org

Robin Jones, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario -
amopresident@amo.on.ca

All Ontario Municipalities

Laryssa McGlashon

June 25, 2026

Via Email

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

Re: Review of the Ontario Land Tribunal and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions

Please be advised that at its meeting held on June 22, 2026, the Council of the Town of Whitby adopted the following as Resolution # 166-26:

Whereas local councils are elected by residents to make planning decisions that reflect the needs and priorities of their communities;

Whereas municipalities rely on extensive public consultation, professional planning advice, engineering studies, and technical reports when making land-use decisions;

Whereas the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) has the authority to overturn municipal planning decisions, often requiring municipalities to spend significant taxpayer dollars defending decisions that have already undergone a thorough local review process;

Whereas lengthy and costly appeals can delay housing projects, consume municipal resources, and reduce the ability of municipalities to focus on delivering services to residents; and,

Whereas local governments should have greater certainty and authority when decisions are consistent with approved Official Plans, provincial policies, and sound planning principles.

Now Therefore be it Resolved:

1. That the Government of Ontario be requested to review the role and mandate of the Ontario Land Tribunal to ensure greater respect for municipal planning decisions that are supported by evidence, public consultation, and approved planning policies;

2. That the Province consider amendments to the Planning Act and Ontario Land Tribunal Act to provide stronger deference to municipal decisions that align with provincial planning frameworks and Official Plans;
3. That the Province improve transparency and accountability within the Ontario Land Tribunal by requiring clear and detailed reasoning when municipal decisions are overturned;
4. That the Province explore measures to reduce the financial burden on municipalities defending planning decisions before the OLT, helping to protect taxpayer dollars and improve the efficiency of the planning process; and,
5. That Staff be directed to circulate this resolution to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities for consideration and support.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Town Clerk at 905-430-4300.



Kathryn Douglas
Supervisor, Legislative Services
clerk@whitby.ca

Copy: C. Harris, Director of Legislative Services/Town Clerk - clerk@whitby.ca

The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing -
minister.mah@ontario.ca
Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP, Pickering-Uxbridge - peter.bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org
Lorne Coe, MPP, Whitby - lorne.coe@pc.ola.org
Jennifer K. French, MPP, Oshawa - jfrench-co@ndp.on.ca
Todd J. McCarthy, MPP, Durham - todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org
Rob Cerjanec, MPP, Ajax - rcerjanec.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
Laurie Scott, MPP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock - laurie.scott@pc.ola.org
Robin Jones, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario -
amopresident@amo.on.ca
All Ontario Municipalities

american greetings



12120522
SAL07002552T
©AGC, LLC

thanks!

October 8, 2020

Dear Tammy + Council:

Thank you SO much for again
supporting our Horne Hudder Memorial
BGF Tournament as a Title Sponsor.
It was again a beautiful day and
we raised \$3,135 for local
healthcare. This was our 5th
year + to-date we have raised
\$14,431.15 for the Foundation

Thanks again!

Pat + Sue



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Renfrew**
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STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2026

Committee & Council reflection and transition briefing

Four years of progress

A better connected, better planned and better positioned County

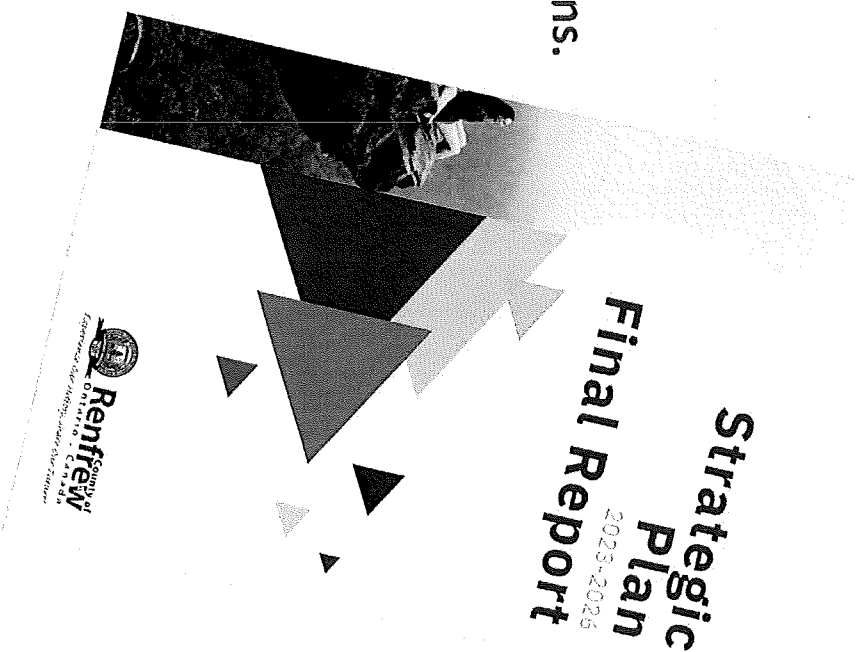
October 14, 2026

The question behind the report

A Council term can be counted in budgets, kilometres, units, policies, grants and resolutions.

But the more important question is:

What changed?



The term began under real pressure

Affordability

Rising costs affected households, businesses and County operations.

Health access

Rural distance and limited primary care capacity created real barriers.

Housing

Demand grew faster than supply and construction costs continued to rise.

Infrastructure

A large road and structure network required sustained renewal.

Workforce

Shortages affected care, paramedicine, planning, finance and technology.

The defining achievement was stronger connections

HEALTHCARE



HOUSING

COUNTY



LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

PLANNING



CAPITAL DELIVERY

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



RESIDENTS

The legacy is a stronger platform of plans, partnerships, facilities, trained people and service models.

Progress across all six priorities

Financial sustainability	Substantial progress
Workforce development	Substantial progress
Community wellness and healthcare	Major progress; sustainability risk
Shared services and resources	Progressing
Attainable housing and infrastructure	Substantial progress; demand exceeds delivery
Environmental resiliency	Framework established

An honest assessment: meaningful advancement, with important work still unfinished.

The County strengthened its foundation

Financial discipline

Annual asset and long-term financial planning became more closely linked to capital decisions. Clean audits, pre-budget authority and reserve-policy work improved confidence and continuity.

Organizational capacity

Modern HR systems, recruitment pathways, training, recognition and wellness initiatives strengthened the people behind public service.

The shift

From managing one year at a time toward designing systems that can carry the County forward.

Rural care began to operate as a connected system

19,048	68,361	40,103	6,500+
unique residents served by RCVTAC	requests for assistance	virtual physician appointments	unattached residents connected to permanent primary care

RC VTAC	Community Paramedicine	Mesa and HART Hub	Long-term care
Access closer to home	Prevention and hospital avoidance	Coordinated navigation and support	Homes, workplaces and communities

The next task is sustainability: permanent funding, deeper integration and consistent public outcome measures.

Housing became more than a building

A safe home

Health access

Stability

Safe discharge

Dignity

Community safety

This term returned the County to community-housing construction and connected housing more directly to health, recovery and community supports.

\$5M

HART Hub

2026 - Authorized

National Housing Co-

Transitional housing

- Hospital-to-Home pilot

Investment Fund

opened its first wing

- Seniors Supportive Housing pilot

contribution for

in 2025

- 12 seniors supportive beds with

RCHC repairs

Carefor

Infrastructure planning moved to a longer horizon

42.5 km	71.5 km	60.58 km	52.3 km
roads rehabilitated in 2023	roads rehabilitated in 2024	roads rehabilitated in 2025	roads rehabilitated in 2026



Council strengthened the full path from identifying a need to delivering the work.

Partnership increased the County's reach

Shared municipal capacity

HR support, group purchasing, emergency agreements, training, GLT and common advocacy helped local partners access capacity that can be difficult to build alone.

Resilience through readiness

Climate planning, forestry stewardship, flood mapping, energy upgrades, trails and mutual aid strengthened the County's ability to prepare and respond.

The next phase requires true collaboration and concurrence.

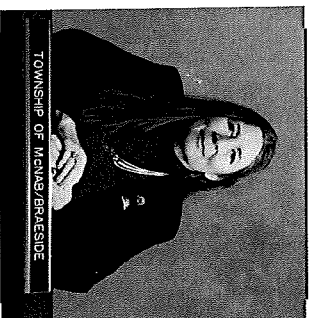
**Coordinate where it is enough. Share where it makes sense.
Integrate where results justify it.**

The work carried forward to 2030

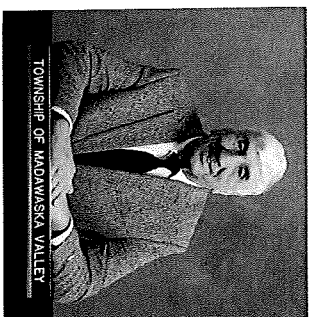
Affordability and infrastructure	Rural health and housing	Modern government	Workforce and resilience
Complete financial-system and reserve work. Keep capital pipelines grant-ready link advocacy to rural growth and energy readiness.	Secure permanent funding. Align housing renewal with supportive pathways, seniors housing and hospital flow.	Review municipal modernization. Treat ERP, cybersecurity, records, digital service and responsible AI as infrastructure.	Connect workforce strategy to municipal careers, health care, youth, newcomers and housing. Move climate plans into measurable action.

The next Council inherits momentum, but also responsibility for sustainability, scale and measurement.

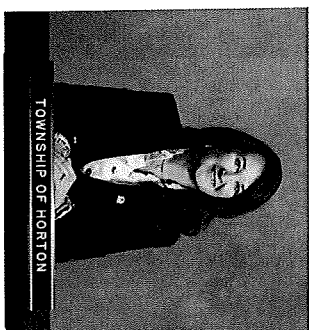
Changes...



TOWNSHIP OF MCNAB/BRAESIDE



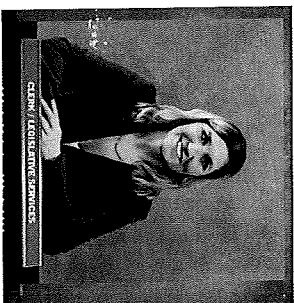
TOWNSHIP OF MADAWASKA VALLEY



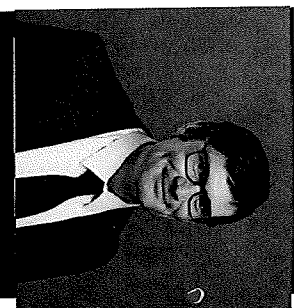
TOWNSHIP OF HORTON



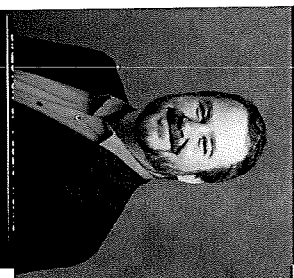
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



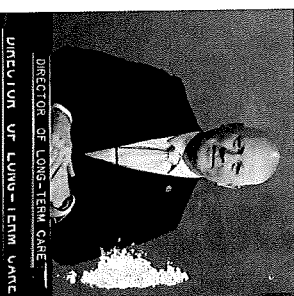
CLERK / LEGISLATIVE SERVICES



DIRECTOR OF LONG-TERM CARE



DIRECTOR OF LONG-TERM CARE



DIRECTOR OF LONG-TERM CARE

COUNCIL LEGACY

**Better connected.
Better planned.
Better positioned.**

The legacy of this term is the stronger future we built together.

Plan. Invest. Partner. Deliver.

WWW.COUNTYOFRenfrew.ON.CA