

rjohnson@townofparrysound.com; regional.clerk@peelregion.ca; info@pelee.ca; clerks@pelham.ca; pembroke@pembroke.ca; jlees@penetanguishene.ca; info@townshipofperry.ca; clerk@perth.ca; info@perthcounty.ca; ACarter@pertheast.ca; lscott@perthsouth.ca; email@petawawa.ca; info@ptbocounty.ca; cityptbo@peterborough.ca; petrolia@petrolia.ca; clerks@pickering.ca; clerktreasurer@picklelake.org; info@plummertownship.ca; info@plympton-wyoming.ca; info@villageofpointedward.com; cityclerk@portcolborne.ca; admin@porthope.ca; clerk@powassan.net; info@prescott.ca; sparisien@prescott-russell.on.ca; adminassist@princetwp.ca; clerks@pecounty.on.ca; kevinh@quintewest.ca; rainyriver@tbaytel.net; ramara@ramara.ca; municipality@redlake.ca; cao@redrocktownship.com; Info <info@countyofrenfrew.on.ca>; info@renfrew.ca; clerks@richmondhill.ca; info@twprideaulakes.on.ca; clerk.greffe@russell.ca; clerk@ryersontownship.ca; inquiries@sables-spanish.ca; clerks@sarnia.ca; clerk@saugeenshores.ca; info@cityssm.on.ca; clerk@schreiber.ca; mail@scugog.ca; info@seguin.ca; info@selwyntownship.ca; clerk@townshipofsevern.com; jwilloughby@shelburne.ca; clerkdept@shuniah.org; info@simcoe.ca; clerk@siouxlookout.ca; info@snnf.ca; info@smithsfalls.ca; townhall@townsrf.ca; info@southalgonquin.ca; vkennedy@southbruce.ca; admin@southbrucepeninsula.com; mail@southdundas.com; admin@southfrontenac.net; info@southglengarry.com; info@southhuron.ca; info@southriverontario.com; info@southstormont.ca; cao@swox.org; jhyde@southgate.ca; clerk@swox.org; info@southwestmiddlesex.ca; southwold@southwold.ca; info@townofspanish.com; info@springwater.ca; emcginty@stcatharines.ca; ksullivan@stcatharines.ca; webmaster@stclairtownship.ca; clerkadmin@stjosephtownship.com; general@townofstmarys.com; info@stthomas.ca; jbouthillette@stcharlesontario.ca; clerk@stirling-rawdon.com; caoclerk@stonemills.com; info@sdgcounties.ca; clerks@stratford.ca; clerk@strathroy-caradoc.ca; clerk@strongtownship.com; Village of Sundridge <admin@sundridge.ca>; clerk@tarbutt.ca; cbonneville@tay.ca; cao@tayvalleytwp.ca; info@tecumseh.ca; twptehk@amtelecom.net; projects@temagami.ca; municipality@temiskamingshores.ca; info@terracebay.ca; shenshaw@thamescentre.on.ca; info@thearchipelago.on.ca; townclerk@thebluemountains.ca; jbrizard@nationmun.ca; municipalclerk@townshipofthenorthshore.ca; townofthess@thessalon.ca; reynaldrivard@nt.net; clerk@thorold.ca; cityclerk@thunderbay.ca; contact@tillsonburg.ca; clerks@timmins.ca; swalton@tiny.ca; 311@toronto.ca; info@trentfills.ca; kstevenson@trentlakes.ca; clerk@tudorandcashel.com; info@tweed.ca; info@tyendinagatownship.com; info@uxbridge.ca; administration@valharty.ca; clerks@vaughan.ca; mkirkham@wainfleet.ca; info@warwicktownship.ca; clerk@wasagabeach.com; regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca; clerkinfo@waterloo.ca; info@wawa.cc; clerk@welland.ca; aharron@wellesley.ca; jennifera@wellington.ca; township@wellington-north.com; westelgin@westelgin.net; mturner@westgrey.com; reception@westlincoln.com; info@westnipissing.ca; info@westperth.com; kwestgate@villageofwestport.ca; info@whitby.ca; clerks@townofws.ca; info@whiteriver.ca; Deputy.clerk@whitestone.ca; info@whitewaterregion.ca; clerks@citywindsor.ca; tgarcia@wollaston.ca; cmcdonald@georgianbluffs.ca; woolwich.mail@woolwich.ca; accessyork@york.ca; admin@zorra.on.ca; mms@tehkummah.ca; deleitch@centralelgin.org; clerksinfo@cityofwoodstock.ca; info@larderlake.ca; lblazevic@huroncounty.ca

Cc: billy.denault@pc.ola.org

Subject: Township of McNab/Braeside - Letter of Support: Ontario Provincial Police Municipal Policing Cost Model

On behalf of the Township of McNab/Braeside, please find attached a copy of a letter sent to the Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General, regarding the current Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) municipal policing cost model.

While the Province has introduced a time-limited 11% cap on policing cost increases for 2027, an increase of this magnitude remains unsustainable for small rural municipalities with limited tax bases and expansive geographic areas.

The Township is advocating for a comprehensive, equitable review of the funding model to ensure it fairly reflects the realities of small rural communities.

We respectfully request that your municipality consider passing a resolution of support at an upcoming meeting to amplify this vital advocacy. Please forward copies of any supporting motions to the Office of the Solicitor General, with a copy sent to the Township of McNab/Braeside.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and collaboration on this important municipal matter.

Kaylin Lesway
Executive Assistant

T: 613-623-5756 ext. 223 F: 613-623-9138

klesway@mcnabbraeside.com

mcnabbraeside.com

2473 Russett Drive, Arnprior, ON K7S 3G8



My work hours and your work hours may differ; please do not feel obligated to reply outside of your normal working hours.

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September 10, 2026

The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner
Office of the Solicitor General
25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

Re: Request for Review of the OPP Municipal Policing Cost Model

Dear Minister Kerzner:

The Township of McNab/Braeside is writing to express its strong opposition to the current Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) municipal policing cost model and the significant cost increases being imposed on small rural municipalities. While the Province has limited the increase in OPP policing costs for 2027 to a maximum of 11 per cent, an increase of up to 11 per cent is not reasonable or sustainable for a small rural municipality. This level of increase places significant pressure on municipal budgets and local taxpayers, particularly at a time when communities are already facing substantial economic pressures.

The issue is not the importance of effective policing or the services provided by the OPP. The Township recognizes and values the OPP's role in keeping our community safe. Our concern is that the current funding model does not fairly reflect the financial realities and policing circumstances of small rural municipalities.

Municipalities with populations of 10,000 or less can have substantially different circumstances than larger urban communities, including smaller tax bases, larger geographic areas and different policing demands. These factors should be meaningfully reflected in how policing costs are allocated.

The Township therefore respectfully requests that the Province undertake a comprehensive review of the OPP municipal policing cost model and consider factors including population, geographic area, policing demand, calls for service and municipal financial capacity when determining municipal policing costs.

Small rural municipalities should not be expected to absorb increases of this magnitude under a funding model that does not adequately recognize the differences between rural and urban communities.

The Township urges the Province to re-evaluate the OPP municipal policing cost model and develop a more equitable, predictable and sustainable approach to policing costs for small rural municipalities.

The Township invites recipient municipalities to consider passing a resolution of support at an upcoming council meeting. Please forward any supporting motions to the Office of the Solicitor General to amplify this vital advocacy for rural communities.

Sincerely,



Mandy Cannon
CAO, Interim Clerk
Township of McNab/Braeside

cc:

MPP Billy Denault, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
All Ontario Municipalities

tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca

From: Tina Peplinskie <TPeplinskie@countyofrenfrew.on.ca>
Sent: September 15, 2026 4:20 PM
To: Tina Peplinskie
Cc: Hillary Panke
Subject: MR- Summer Company Wrap-Up Event_2026
Attachments: MR- Summer Company Wrap-Up Event 2026.jpg; MR- Summer Company Wrap-Up Event_2026.pdf; MR- Summer Company Wrap-Up Event_2026.docx

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached media release and photo for your consideration and distribution purposes in relation to the Summer Company wrap-up event held recently as part of County Council.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Hillary Panke, Program Coordinator with Enterprise Renfrew County, who is cc'd on this email.

The cutline is embedded in the photo but also copied below:

At the August 26 meeting of Renfrew County Council, the Summer Company Program participants received their certificates of completion and had an opportunity to showcase their products and services. Taking part in the certificate presentations (from left) were Warden Jennifer Murphy, Rusty Stuart, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP Billy Deanult, Hudson Warner, Councillor Michael Donohue, Bronwynn Dick, Evelyn Finan, Councillor James Brose, Nadia DeCarle, Councillor Neil Nicholson, Adelaide Lomore-Beaupré, Councillor Keith Watt and Hillary Panke, Program Coordinator with Enterprise Renfrew County. County of Renfrew photo

Have a good evening
Tina

Tina Peplinskie

Media Relations and Social Media Co-ordinator
County of Renfrew

t: 613-735-7288 ext. 516 / [1-800-273-0183](tel:1-800-273-0183)
c: 613-281-0590
e: TPeplinskie@countyofrenfrew.on.ca
a: 9 International Drive, Pembroke, ON K8A 6W5
w: www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca



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MEDIA RELATIONS

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PEMBROKE, ON, CANADA
K8A 6W5
(613) 735-7288
www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca



**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

RELEASE DATE:

September 15, 2026

Summer Company wrap-up event celebrates young entrepreneurs

The County of Renfrew is celebrating the success of seven young entrepreneurs who completed the 2026 Summer Company Program, launching and growing their own businesses with support from Enterprise Renfrew County.

On August 26, participants showcased their businesses during a special event held at the County Administration Building during the Renfrew County Council meeting. Joined by MPP Billy Denault, members of County Council, and County staff, the students displayed their products and services while sharing their entrepreneurial experiences.

The diverse group of businesses reflected the creativity and innovation of young entrepreneurs across Renfrew County, ranging from professional golf club detailing and landscaping services to custom pottery, handcrafted wood products, artisan creations, and sports coaching.

Renfrew County Warden Jennifer Murphy welcomed the participants and recognized the dedication, initiative, and determination they demonstrated in transforming their ideas into successful ventures throughout the summer. She highlighted the importance of programs such as Summer Company in providing young people with valuable hands-on business experience while helping them develop confidence, leadership skills, and an entrepreneurial mindset.

“Congratulations to each of you on everything you have accomplished through the Summer Company program,” said Warden Murphy. “Today is about celebrating not only the businesses you have built and the successes you have achieved, but also the initiative, commitment, and courage it took to take an idea, believe in it, and bring it to life. You should be incredibly proud of what you have accomplished, and we look forward to seeing where your entrepreneurial journeys take you from here.”

Elected officials from the participants' home municipalities joined MPP Denault, Warden Murphy, Development and Property Committee Chair James Brose, and Program Coordinator Hillary Panke in presenting certificates of completion to the young entrepreneurs. Pembroke Mayor Ron Gervais also attended to recognize the achievements of students from the City of Pembroke.

Chair Brose spoke to the lasting impact of the program and the valuable experience gained by participants.

“The Summer Company Program gives young people the opportunity to discover what they are capable of while gaining practical skills and experiences that extend far beyond one summer,” said Chair Brose. “Whether they continue operating these businesses, pursue new entrepreneurial ventures, further their education, or follow a completely different path, the lessons they have learned through this experience will continue to serve them well.”

The County of Renfrew congratulates the following students on successfully completing the 2026 Summer Company Program:

- **Nadia DeCarle** – Riverscout Clay (handcrafted custom pottery)
- **Hudson Warner** – Shine My Clubs (professional golf club detailing)
- **Bronwynn Dick** – Green Thumb (landscaping and outdoor maintenance)
- **Rusty Stuart** – RedPine Woodworks (handcrafted custom wood products)
- **Adelaide Lomore-Beaupré** – Addie Made (custom yarn creations and crochet pieces)
- **Evelyn Finan** – Garden Palette Goods (hand-painted garden décor and organic dog treats)
- **Kelsea Moore** – Moore Volleyball (volleyball coaching and skill development)

Delivered by Enterprise Renfrew County on behalf of the Government of Ontario, the Summer Company Program provides aspiring entrepreneurs aged 15 to 29 with startup funding, training, mentorship, and hands-on experience operating their own businesses. The program helps participants develop valuable entrepreneurial, financial, and leadership skills while building confidence and real-world experience.

The next application deadline for the Summer Company Program is May 21, 2027. For more information, visit www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com.

Enterprise Renfrew County is a non-profit government organization funded by the Government of Ontario, County of Renfrew, Town of Renfrew and the City of Pembroke. Its mandate is to encourage and contribute to the enterprising spirit and economic development of Renfrew County by assisting entrepreneurs with the development of new or existing companies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Hillary Panke	Program Coordinator, ERC	613-735-7288
Tina Peplinskie	Media Relations Coordinator	613-735-7288



tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca

From: Heather InwoodMontrose <HinwoodMontrose@countyofrenfrew.on.ca>
Sent: September 17, 2026 12:33 PM
Subject: ERC Small Business Month to SHARE!
Attachments: ERC Bridges to Business Empowerment Oct 6 MV.png; ERC Bridges to Business Empowerment Oct 13 PemPetLV.png; ERC Bridges to Business Empowerment Oct 20 Horton.png; ERC Bridges to Business Empowerment Oct 27 Whitewater.png

Greetings!

Bridges to Business Empowerment (small business month) October events are coming soon! With limited registrations to date, we would appreciate if you could kindly share with your networks, friends, small business owners, and entrepreneurs!

Bridges to Business Empowerment guides business owners to adapt to economic uncertainty, rising costs, workforce challenges, and rapid technological change with resilience, creativity, community support, and optimism. It positions networking and knowledge-sharing as critical tools for building stronger businesses and thriving communities. Sessions focus on future-ready strategies that help entrepreneurs navigate challenges while building businesses that are sustainable, agile, and purpose-driven. With four events occurring across the region over the month of October and multiple expert keynote speakers, entrepreneurs are sure to find the networking and learning opportunities valuable! Noting ticket fees are tax deductible as a business expense.

All events run 8:30 am to 12:00 pm and include breakfast (\$30+HST).

Hosted by Enterprise Renfrew County in partnership with Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation, which is funded by the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario). Sponsored by Perri-Rae Boell & Associates Inc., Northern Credit Union, the Town of Petawawa, City of Pembroke, Townships of Laurentian Valley, Whitewater Region, Horton, and Madawaska Valley. These events are delivered locally by Enterprise Renfrew County and funded in partnership with the Government of Ontario. Registration data may be shared with sponsors/partners for outcomes reporting purposes.

Register Now

Many Thanks & Warm Regards, H😊

Heather Inwood-Montrose

Small Business Advisor

Enterprise Renfrew County

County of Renfrew

9 International Drive, Pembroke, ON K8A 6W5

P: 613-735-8224 x 462/F: 613-735-2492

Ottawa Valley Business Hive, Renfrew Town Hall

127 Raglan Street South, Renfrew, ON K7V1P8

C: 613-639-5853

E: HInwoodMontrose@countyofrenfrew.on.ca / W: www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com

Note: My office hours are Monday/Tuesday, (out of office Wed), in Thursday/Friday 8am – 5pm



From: Heather InwoodMontrose

Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 11:04 AM

To: Scott Hamilton <SHamilton@countyofrenfrew.on.ca>

Subject: ERC Small Business Month to share with OVED

Hi Scott,

Could you kindly share the Bridges to Business Empowerment posters and registration link with OVED partners please? Thank you!

[Workshops & Events | Enterprise Renfrew County](#)

Warm Regards, H😊

Heather Inwood-Montrose

Small Business Advisor

Enterprise Renfrew County

County of Renfrew

9 International Drive, Pembroke, ON K8A 6W5

P: 613-735-8224 x 462/F: 613-735-2492

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2025

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1 Day/1

1 Day/1



BRIDGES TO BUSINESS EMPOWERMENT



OCTOBER 6

Hiring for Success: Proven
Strategies to Recruit,
Onboard & Retain Great
Employees

*with Kris Dawson,
People & Culture Strategist*



8:30AM to 12:00PM

Le Belge Euro Bistro
Barry's Bay

Catering by: Le Belge Bistro



\$30+HST to register

To Register Visit: www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com/workshops-events

This event is delivered locally by Enterprise Renfrew County and funded in partnership with the Government of Ontario.
Presented in Partnership with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario)





BRIDGES TO BUSINESS EMPOWERMENT



OCTOBER 20

Hacking the Human: How
Cybercriminals Trick Small
Businesses

with Travis Czech
of Solis Indago

Solis Indago



Community Marketing &
Brand Building

with Matthew O'Leary
of Remind Media

**Remind
MEDIA**



8:30AM to 12:00PM

Horton
Community Centre

Catering by:
Horton Township
Breakfast Volunteers

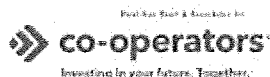


\$30+HST to register

To Register Visit: www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com/workshops-events

This event is delivered locally by Enterprise Renfrew County and funded in partnership with the Government of Ontario.

Presented in Partnership with the **Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario)**





BRIDGES TO BUSINESS EMPOWERMENT



OCTOBER 13

AI for Main Street
Retailers:
Practical Ways to
Increase Sales, Save
Time, and Improve
Customer Service



BizLaunch
we train entrepreneurs

with Andrew Patricio
of BizLaunch

8:30AM to 12:00PM

Pembroke
Fire Department

Catering by:
The Kitchen Eatery

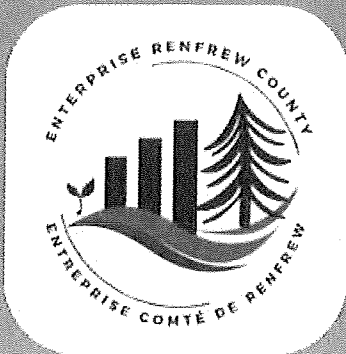


\$30+HST to register

To Register Visit: www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com/workshops-events

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BRIDGES TO BUSINESS EMPOWERMENT



OCTOBER 27

The Operational Edge:
Systematizing Your Business
for Growth and Consistency

with Dez Bair Patel
of Integrated Health



Better Together: Building
Strategic Partnerships
Through Co-Marketing

with Erin Norris
of OVTA



8:30AM to 12:00PM

Ottawa River Barn
Whitewater Region

Catering by: Ottawa River Barn



\$30+HST to register

To Register Visit: www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com/workshops-events

This event is delivered locally by Enterprise Renfrew County and funded in partnership with the Government of Ontario.

Presented in Partnership with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario)



MEDIA RELATIONS

9 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE
PEMBROKE, ON, CANADA
K8A 6W5
(613) 735-7288
www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca



**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

RELEASE DATE:

September 17, 2026

Renfrew County invites nominations for 2026 Warden's Community Service Awards

The County of Renfrew is proud to announce that nominations are now open for the 2026 Warden's Community Service Awards, recognizing outstanding contributions made by individuals, not-for-profit organizations, and for-profit businesses across the region.

The awards celebrate the spirit of community service and honour those who go above and beyond to make Renfrew County a better place to live, work, and play. Through volunteerism, leadership, innovation, and community support, nominees exemplify the values of compassion, dedication, and civic pride that strengthen communities across the county.

"The strength of Renfrew County lies in the people and organizations who give their time, talents, and resources to support others," said Warden Jennifer Murphy.

"These awards recognize the volunteers, community groups, and businesses that go above and beyond to make our communities more vibrant, welcoming, and resilient. I encourage residents to help us recognize these remarkable contributions by submitting a nomination for someone who is making a meaningful difference in our county."

Who Can Be Nominated?

Individual Award – Individuals who contribute to community life through volunteer work, event organization, political engagement, sports leadership, cultural preservation, or other activities that enhance community well-being.

Not-for-Profit Organization Award – Not-for-profit organizations that provide valuable services, programs, and support to residents, particularly those who may be facing challenges or barriers.

For-Profit Business Award – Businesses that demonstrate exceptional corporate citizenship through sponsorships, volunteer initiatives, support for community programs, investment in arts and culture, youth development, or other community-building efforts.

Residents are encouraged to nominate individuals, organizations, or businesses whose efforts have made a meaningful and lasting impact in their communities.

Nominations will be reviewed by a selection committee consisting of Warden Jennifer Murphy, the County's Director of Development and Property, and one member of County Council. Nominees will be evaluated based on their contributions to enhancing quality of life and building stronger communities throughout Renfrew County.

To review the nomination criteria or submit a nomination, residents can complete the [fillable PDF nomination form](#) or the [online nomination form](#) available on the County of Renfrew website.

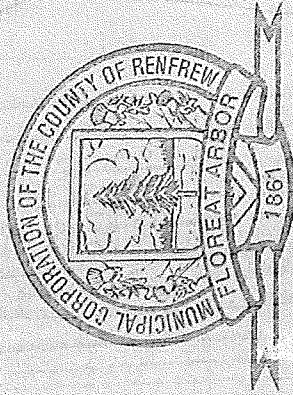
For questions, to submit a completed nomination form, or to request nomination materials by mail or fax, please email wardensawards@countyofrenfrew.on.ca or call 613-735-7288.

The nomination deadline is October 16, 2026 and the awards will be presented at the November 12, 2026 session of Renfrew County Council.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jason Davis	Director, Development and Property	613-735-7288
Tina Peplinskie	Media Relations Coordinator	613-735-7288

Warden's
Community
Service Award

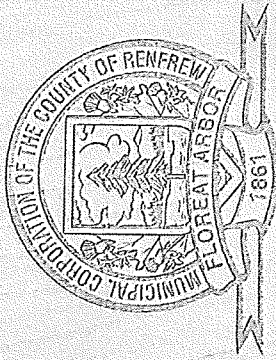


*Arnprior Regional
Health Auxiliary*

Not-For-Profit Category

County of Renfrew
November 2025

Warden's
Community
Service Award

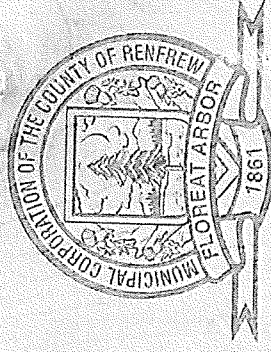


Valerie Hinsperger

Individual Category

County of Renfrew
November 2025

Warden's
Community
Service Award



*Arnprior / McNab / Braeside
Men's Shed*

Not-For-Profit Category

County of Renfrew
November 2025

tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca

From: Parkash, Ruchi (MMAH) <Ruchi.Parkash@ontario.ca>
Sent: September 21, 2026 9:27 AM
To: tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca
Cc: mayor@khrtownship.ca; Billy Denault MPP; MFPB (MMAH); Miller, Laurie (MMAH)
Subject: 2025 Financial Information Return (FIR) Award
Attachments: 2025 FIR Award Letter - Killaloe Hagerty Richards Tp.pdf

Dear Ms. Gorgerat,

I am very pleased to inform you that your municipality has won a 2025 Financial Information Return (FIR) Recognition Award. We greatly appreciate the efforts that municipalities like yours make to file your FIR in a timely manner each year. I'm also pleased to attach a letter from the Honourable Robert J. Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, that recognizes your diligence.

Thank you and congratulations,

Ruchi

Ruchi Parkash, CPA, CFA, CIA

Director | Municipal Finance Policy/Local Government Division
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing | Ontario Public Service
647-531-9548 | ruchi.parkash@ontario.ca



Taking pride in strengthening Ontario, its places and its people

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 585-7000

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416 585-7000



234-2026-3221

September 18, 2026

Ms. Tammy Gorgerat
CAO/Clerk/Treasurer
Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards
1 John Street
P.O. Box 39
Killaloe, ON, K0J 2A0
tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca

Dear Ms. Gorgerat:

I am very pleased to inform you that your municipality has won a 2025 Financial Information Return (FIR) Recognition Award. Thank you for your efforts and contribution in ensuring that timely, reliable and accurate financial information was submitted for the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty, and Richards' 2025 Financial Information Return. Your municipality will be identified on the FIR website (<https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/fir/index.php/en/financial-information-return-en/>) as one of the winners of this award.

As you know, the FIR reports capture important financial and statistical information for each municipality in the province. This information assists the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in providing current data to the growing number of users of our municipal database and supports informed government decision-making.

Thank you for the leadership and diligence your municipality has demonstrated in this important area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert J. Flack'.

Hon. Robert J. Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

cc: Mayor David Mayville mayor@khrtownship.ca
Billy Denault, MPP – Renfrew–Nipissing–Pembroke Billy.Denault@pc.ola.org

tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca

From: Clerks@Ramara <Clerks@ramara.ca>
Sent: September 22, 2026 1:44 PM
To: sylvia.jones@ontario.ca; hcminister.ministresc@hc-sc.gc.ca; jill.dunlop@pc.ola.org; adam.chambers@parl.gc.ca
Cc: media@hc-sc.gc.ca; resolutions@amo.on.ca; roma@roma.on.ca; Clerks@Ramara
Subject: Township of Ramara Support Resolution - Continued Research, Clinical Guidance, and Access to Care for Individuals Experiencing Persistent Lyme-Related Illness
Attachments: Township of Ramara - Support for Continued Lyme Disease Research and Care.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please be advised that Ramara Council passed a resolution at their September 14, 2026, Regular Council Meeting regarding the above-noted matter. The resolution has been attached.

Kind regards,



Nate Harrington

Assistant Clerk

Phone: 705-484-5374 ext. 245

Email: nharrington@ramara.ca

www.ramara.ca



The municipal election will be held on Monday, October 26, 2026. Make sure you're on the voters' list, find out how to vote in the Township of Ramara, and learn more at www.ramara.ca/election.

The Township of Ramara is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Unless stated otherwise, we will respond to all email or call inquiries or concerns within two business days. To access services after hours, visit our [online services](#) page or [website](#) for all the latest news and information. Remember to [stay informed](#) and [subscribe](#) to receive up to date information by email.

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2297 Highway 12,
PO Box 130
Brehin, Ontario L0K 1B0
p.705-484-5374
f. 705-484-0441

September 22, 2026

Via Email

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, Province of Ontario
The Honourable Marjorie Michel, Minister of Health, Government of Canada
The Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response and
MPP for Simcoe North
Adam Chambers, MP for Simcoe North

**Re: Support for Continued Research, Clinical Guidance, and Access to Care for
Individuals Experiencing Persistent Lyme-Related Illness**

At its meeting held on September 14, 2026, the Council of the Township of Ramara adopted the following resolution regarding persistent Lyme-related illness and access to care. Council respectfully requests your consideration and support of this resolution.

Resolution Number CR.221.2026

Moved by Jennifer Fisher

Seconded by Joe Gough

WHEREAS Lyme disease is a growing public health concern in Ontario and across Canada due to the expanding range of tick populations and increasing incidence of tick-borne illnesses;

AND WHEREAS early diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease are essential to reducing the risk of long-term health complications;

AND WHEREAS some individuals continue to experience persistent, debilitating symptoms following recommended treatment for Lyme disease, significantly affecting their quality of life, ability to work, and overall well-being;

AND WHEREAS Lyme disease is recognized and insured under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP), but Canada has not adopted a nationally accepted clinical definition of "chronic Lyme disease," and current Canadian clinical guidance instead recognizes Post-Treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome (PTLDS);

AND WHEREAS the absence of a nationally accepted definition for persistent Lyme-related illness may contribute to inconsistencies in diagnosis, treatment options, physician education, access to care, and publicly funded services for affected patients;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have an interest in advocating for equitable access to healthcare services that improve the health and well-being of their residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ramara calls upon the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to collaborate with medical experts, researchers, healthcare providers, and patient representatives to:

- Continue research into persistent symptoms following Lyme disease and emerging evidence related to long-term outcomes;
- Review existing clinical guidance as new scientific evidence becomes available;
- Enhance physician education and awareness regarding the diagnosis and management of patients experiencing persistent Lyme-related symptoms;
- Improve access to multidisciplinary assessment and care for individuals experiencing ongoing symptoms following Lyme disease; and
- Review current funding policies and access to medically necessary diagnostics and treatments, where supported by emerging evidence and best clinical practice;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council requests the Province of Ontario advocate to the Government of Canada for continued national leadership in developing evidence-informed guidance on persistent Lyme-related illness;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to request support from:

- Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, Province of Ontario;
- Marjorie Michel, Minister of Health, Government of Canada;
- Public Health Agency of Canada;
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association;
- Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response and MPP for Simcoe North;
- Adam Chambers, MP for Simcoe North; and
- All Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED.

The Township of Ramara respectfully requests your support for this resolution.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Harrington
Assistant Clerk

Cc. Public Health Agency of Canada
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)

Bcc. All Ontario Municipalities

From: Kitchi-Ott-CoCChapter <kitchissippiottawacocchapter@gmail.com>
Sent: September 22, 2026 6:01 PM
To: CLIMATE MATTERS!
Subject: Cheerful updates on our Fabric of Hopes & Walk for the Water projects
Attachments: Threading Hopes announcement Fall 2026 small.pdf; Please read_ Traditional Knowledge re the Walk for the Water (final).pdf; WALK FOR THE WATERsm.pdf

Hi Everyone! Fall formally begins about 8PM tonight, so happy times with all the gorgeous colours. As someone recently reminded me, in autumn Mother Earth reminds us how refreshing it is to "let go" of some things. ❤️ One thing we can't set aside is acting on our love for the natural environment that sustains us. Here you read about our two current projects and an upcoming plan.

Walk for the Water: October 12th, Killaloe, Noon

Here is our FINAL flyer:

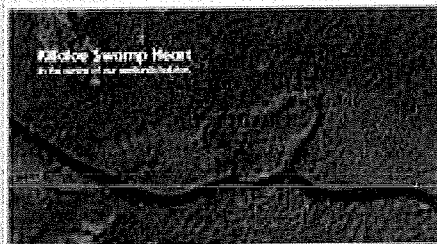
WALK FOR THE WATER

BRENNANS CREEK, KILLALOE

12 pm Monday, October 12, 2026

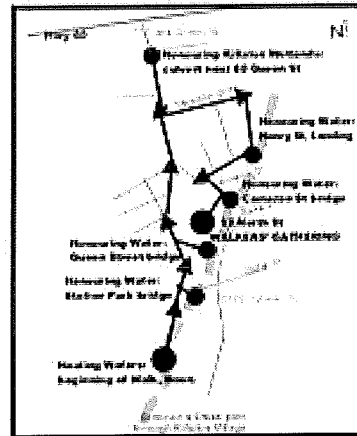
This Walk to Honour the Water will be led by Elders from The Circle of Turtle Lodge.

It begins at Healing Waters (behind 49 Mill St) where we can see the water flowing upstream. Enroute, we will make several brief stops to thank the Water. The route is now 5 km it extends north to the Queen Street culvert because the vast lands in the 'Killaloe Swamp' provide for so many of our non-human relations. Wetland protection is crucial in these times of great change. We will have support vehicles for anyone who needs to take a break. About 1:50 PM we will fill our plates with a celebratory Potluck Feast at 12 North Street in Killaloe.

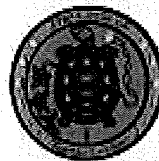


Visit our website at
kovcouncil.wordpress.com
to find important details about:

- bringing water from other locations to be part of this ceremony
- carrying Brennans Creek water during the walk
- the concluding Feast and Ojigaway at 12 North St.
- safe food handling for your Potluck Feast donations



Protecting the water with Anishinaabe protocols and cultural practices is a real-time opportunity to strengthen ReconciliACTION skills.



THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS
A Reconciling Action's Ability



KILLALOE-BURNABY-RICHARDS

Attached is a document that tells "what we need to know" to respectfully and joyfully take part in this Walk for the Water. Please take time to read it!

Threading Hopes stitching circles for our Fabric of Hopes:

Between now and the end of November, we have planned these "Hopes Stitching Circles":

- Town of Renfrew, Saturday, October 24, Noon to 3 PM
- Wilno Hills, Saturday, November 14, Noon to 3 PM
- Pembroke, Saturday, November 28, Noon to 3 PM
- If you are planning to join our Walk for the Water on October 12th in Killaloe: our lead "Fabric" artists Evan Nickerson and Fran Pinkerton will guide you to easily create a *Ribbon of Hope*, which will subsequently become part of the *Fabric of Hopes* tapestry (no sewing!).
- If you can offer another Threading Hopes location this Fall, that would be lovely -- please get in touch.

All welcome: no skill-judging, new friends, like-minded chat, and learning opportunities. If you're Interested to join us, email kovclimatematters@gmail.com, to get deets on street address.

In this part of the "SUMMER" section, you can see our process.
It was worked on in Barry's Bay on September 19th.
The *Fabric of Hope*, written on fabric by people across the Upper
Ottawa Valley, then embroidered by other HOPE helpers,
form what is becoming our *Fabric of Hopes* tapestry.



We don't publish addresses for our Fall 2026 *Threading Hopes* circles because they happen in people's homes. We respect their privacy. Don't let this discourage you!
RSVP to kovclimatematters@gmail.com or call/text 613-312-7485 for details.

As the weather shifts from "Busy Fall" to "Chill Winter"
we plan to arrange for "one-off" *Threading Hopes* sewing circles
in community spaces such as libraries.

There is interesting news, and also disturbing news, and some good news, on the climate change front.

Did you know the Government of Canada just published a report saying the extreme and unsettling weather from climate change are here to stay? In fact, their scenarios seem to suggest things will get worse, not better? Are you wondering what the County of Renfrew's Climate Advisory Ctte is doing? Are you concerned provincial and federal politicians are ignoring protection of the environment? Did you know 70% of Texas' electricity and 80% of Australia's come from solar and wind, and renewable energy research is winning the battle on durable, affordable battery storage? Do you want to chat with like-minds about how to prepare ourselves and our young ones for the future we all face?

We will convene a Zoom meeting to catch us all up on the facts and recent events when things slow down a bit. Watch for an email promoting this session: we'll brainstorm what makes sense for KOV to do here in the Upper Ottawa Valley. In the meantime, you can always go on our [KOV FaceBook](#) page to see the latest good, bad, encouraging, and ugly research and news stories. ♥

Hope to see you at the Walk for the Water (with Feast & Giveaway) on October 12th, or at one of our upcoming Threading Hopes stitching circles. You can help out by sharing the Walk for the Water and the Threading Hopes flyers on local bulletin boards and with friends/fam who might be interested. THANKS!

Happy ***Beautiful Falling-Leaves Season*** here, on the original homeland of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg. May we each find an opportunity to breathe in the special Fall scent as we kick our way through piles of jewel-coloured leaves.

Respectfully,
Ann Pohl, KOV Co-Chair & Animator



OUR WALK FOR THE WATER HONOURS INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, TRADITIONS, & CEREMONIAL PROTOCOLS

WATER IS ONE OF OUR LIVING RELATIONS:

This *Walk for the Water* is inspired by the tremendous work done by Grandmother Josephine Mandamin, known as the "Water Walker." (Please look her up if you are not familiar already.)

To our knowledge, this is the first *Walk for the Water* in Killaloe. As we plotted our route, we learned more about the "basin" or drainage area of all the wetlands and streams that feed into Brennans Creek. This moved us to include the vast "Killaloe Swamp" in our *Walk for the Water*, which lengthened our route. It is important to care for our wetlands in these times of extreme weather and damaged ecosystem habitats. We intend to have photos from the Killaloe Swamp on display during the Feast and Giveaway.

ABOUT RECONCILIATION:

This *Walk for the Water* is LED by local Indigenous Elders from The Circle of Turtle Lodge. Since we formed in 2021, our "KOV" chapter of the Council of Canadians has prioritized learning about Algonquin Anishinaabeg history and culture. We are committed to supporting the full and free expression of original Indigenous culture, customs, and worldview. We believe that valid cross-cultural knowledge and respect are essential for social justice. We approach this *Walk* with open hearts and minds, and in gratitude for the building of friendships. **We have asked for the Elders' ongoing guidance re: how to proceed with proceeding respectfully.** Here we share the Elders' instructions...

- **Remember that The Water is a living being.** When water is collected, it needs prayers to begin its journey. Prayers to let it know why it will be traveling, and to where. Promise that what you are taking will be returned to its home.
- **Reassure the water with this promise: I WILL DO IT FOR THE WATER.** Say this when you collect it, and whenever you are close to the water. This pledge is also made whenever the vessel holding the water is passed from one Carrier to another during the Walk. Both the giver and the receiver say it.
- **Perhaps some of you will collect water at other locations.** You may want to do this because you wish for this day's ceremonial prayers, for water's well-being and respect for its gifts, to extend to your local water. Regardless of your own particular religious or spiritual worldview, please follow these guidelines. Put your mind and heart (your prayers) to telling the water why you are borrowing some for a short period.
- **Copper helps with healing the waters.** It is vital to carry water in a copper vessel.
- **We carry tobacco with us to offer prayers** and also to honour any animals we may encounter or cross over along the roads or trails. (NOTE: If you want the teaching on tobacco's ceremonial use, please ask one of the Elders.)

- **Women are the caretakers and protectors of the water.** While everyone is asked to dress respectfully for the Walk, women are asked to wear ceremonial dress. Long skirts show our respect for the grasses, Mother Earth, and ourselves. Women on their moon time are already in ceremony, and don't carry the water. (NOTE: If you want the teaching on these matters, please ask one of the Elders.)
- **The Feast and Giveaway are parts of the ceremony.** Yes, when we arrive at 12 North Street as the "walking" part of the *Walk for the Water* ends, we are still "in ceremony." Feasting and Gift-Giving are traditional ways to thank and honour all of us participants, our ancestors, our descendants, and all our crawling, flying, swimming, rooted, and other relatives in the natural world.
- **In Anishinaabe tradition, there are two Must-Do's before we start eating at the Feast.** All potluck contributions to our shared meal will be smudged, and a "Spirit Plate" will be prepared with a taste of each dish. This Plate will be placed outside for the nourishment of beings who are not seen in the community hall. It is also customary for ALL the elder people in the room to be served by helpers before others serve themselves.
- **Following the Feast, we will each be invited to visit the "Giveaway" table.** The Giveaway items are donated and brought to the Feast by Walk participants. Your donation needn't be fancy or expensive *but* it must come from your heart! (Sharing gifts at community events is a tradition that is important in many Indigenous cultures: read up on the Potlatch as one example.) **Just before our Giveaway, a Helper will guide us all through the protocols.** Ultimately, the Giveaway item we take home becomes a memento celebrating this purposeful cross-cultural gathering of friends. This kind and inclusive sharing echoes how the water works to share itself to each and all of us and our relations.

POTLUCK FEAST DONATIONS: FRIENDLY DO's AND DON'Ts:

1. From 10:30 AM on October 12th, a volunteer will be at the 12 North community hall to receive contributions for the potluck Feast and for the Giveaway table.
2. If your contribution is perishable in any way, kindly bring it to 12 North before the Walk begins, so it can be stored safely. A person with a valid safe food handling certificate will oversee management of the kitchen.
3. To help people with dietary concerns, please create a label for your donation that identifies all the ingredients.

* ————— Thanks, Merci, Meegwetch. All Our Relations. ————— *

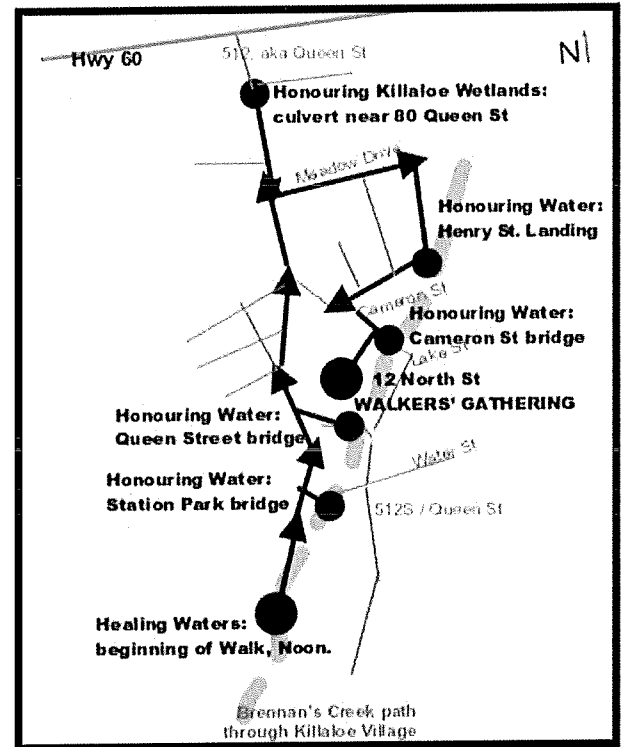
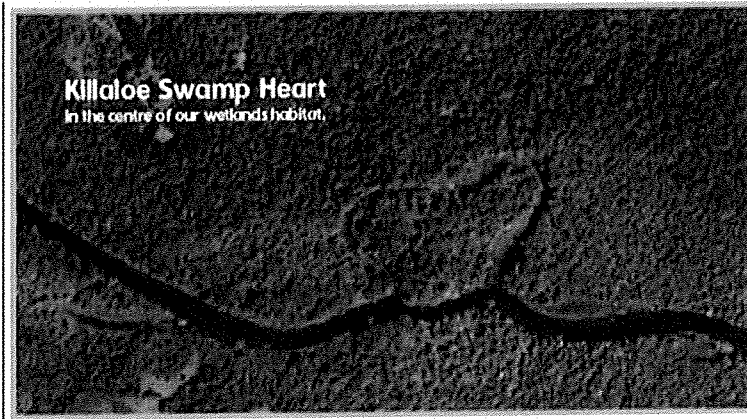
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12 pm Monday, October 12, 2026

This *Walk to Honour the Water* will be led by Elders from The Circle of Turtle Lodge.

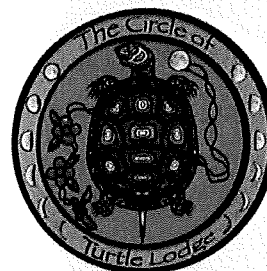
It begins at Healing Waters (behind 49 Mill St) where we can see the waterfall upstream. Enroute, we will make several brief stops to thank the Water. The route is now 3 km: it extends north to the Queen Street culvert because the vast lands in the 'Killaloe Swamp' provide for so many of our non-human relations. Wetland protection is crucial in these times of great change. We will have support vehicles for anyone who needs to take a break. About 1:30 PM we will fill our plates with a celebratory Potluck Feast at 12 North Street in Killaloe.



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**Visit our website at
kovcouncil.wordpress.com
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- bringing water from other locations to be part of this ceremony
- carrying Brennans Creek water during the walk
- the concluding Feast and Giveaway at 12 North St.
- safe food handling for your Potluck Feast donations



**THE COUNCIL
OF CANADIANS**
Kitchissippi-Ottawa Valley



Opening Doors...Growing Together...Making A Difference



KILLALOE HIGARTY-RICHARDS

Threading Hopes

Join in our local embroidery and sewing circles, honouring what we most cherish in the natural world – what we want to protect and save, in these uncertain and troubling times. Be part of making a beautiful statement about what sustains us.

These and many more
Ribbons of Hope
will be sewn into our
Fabric of Hopes.

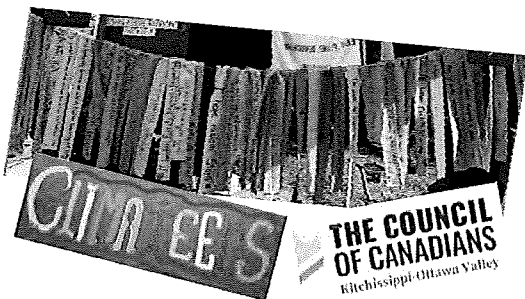


The *Fabric of Hopes* community-led tapestry project is designed by artist Evan Nickerson. It features the four seasons, trees, and waterways, like we see across the Upper Ottawa Valley. Fran Pinkerton, a multi-creative and slow-stitching enthusiast, is our lead on embroidery. Each *Ribbon of Hope* tells what someone local cherishes.

Threading Hopes circles are hosted in private homes. Here are circles already planned:

- Barry's Bay, Saturday, September 19, Noon to 3 PM
- Town of Renfrew, Saturday, October 24, Noon to 3 PM
- Wilno Hills, Saturday, November 14, Noon to 3 PM
- Pembroke, Saturday, November 28, Noon to 3 PM

All welcome: no skill-judging, new friends, like-minded chat, and learning opportunities. Are you Interested to join us? You can email kovclimatematters@gmail.com, or phone 613-859-3803, for information. If you can offer another *Threading Hopes* location, please get in touch.



Many crucial social and environmental changes are not happening. Our disappointment can lead to passivity, even despair. We nourish the possibility of change by acting together to do what we can, regardless of doubts. Hope is an imperative!

(Comment inspired by both Maude Barlow & Gal Beckerman, 2026.)

From: Goold, Carmen (MTCG) <Carmen.Goold@ontario.ca>
Sent: September 23, 2026 9:44 AM
Subject: Rural Ontario Inspiration Awards – Nominations Now Open - Prix Inspiration pour l'Ontario rural – Les mises en candidature sont maintenant ouvertes

*******VOIR VERSION FRANÇAISE CI-BAS*******

Hello,

We would like to share an opportunity that may be of interest to your community, local organizations, businesses, and residents.

The **Ministry of Rural Affairs' Rural Ontario Inspiration Awards** recognize individuals, businesses, organizations and communities who are helping strengthen rural Ontario.

Nominations are now open to recognize those who are making a positive impact in their communities and contributing to economic growth, community development, and the prosperity of rural Ontario.

The awards celebrate leadership, innovation, volunteerism, community development, entrepreneurship, partnerships, and contributions that support economic growth and community well-being in rural communities.

Applicants and nominees must show how their work supports at least one of the pillars in Enabling Opportunity: Ontario's Rural Economic Development Strategy.

Nomination deadline: Friday, October 23, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. ET

Award categories include:

- Rural Inspiration
- Rural Community
- Rural Entrepreneur
- Rural Youth Leader
- Rural Economic Innovation
- Rural Partnerships
- Rural Champion
- Rural Heart

Eligible nominees may include:

- Rural municipalities
- Not-for-profit organizations
- Businesses
- Individuals and families
- Youth (24 years of age or younger)
- Indigenous communities and businesses

If you know an individual, organization, business, or community project deserving of recognition, I encourage you to consider submitting a nomination or sharing this opportunity within your networks.

For program details, eligibility requirements, and nomination forms, please visit:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/rural-ontario-inspiration-awards>

Please feel free to circulate this information to anyone who may be interested.

****FRANÇAIS****

Bonjour,

On souhaite vous faire part d'une occasion qui pourrait intéresser votre municipalité, vos organismes, vos entreprises et les membres de votre collectivité.

Les **Prix Inspiration pour l'Ontario rural du ministère des Affaires rurales** récompensent les personnes, entreprises, organismes et collectivités qui contribuent au renforcement de l'Ontario rural.

Les mises en candidature sont maintenant ouvertes pour reconnaître les personnes, entreprises, organismes et collectivités qui contribuent au dynamisme, à la prospérité et au développement des régions rurales de l'Ontario.

Les candidats doivent démontrer en quoi leur travail soutient au moins l'un des piliers de l'initiative Meilleures perspectives : Stratégie ontarienne de développement économique des collectivités rurales.

Date limite pour soumettre une candidature : Le vendredi 23 octobre 2026 à 16 h (HE)

Catégories de prix :

- Inspiration rurale
- Collectivité rurale
- Entrepreneur rural
- Leader de la jeunesse rurale
- Innovation économique rurale
- Partenariats ruraux
- Champion rural
- Cœur rural

Les mises en candidature peuvent être soumises pour :

- des municipalités rurales;
- des organismes sans but lucratif;
- des entreprises;
- des particuliers et des familles;
- des jeunes de 24 ans ou moins;
- des entreprises et communautés autochtones admissibles.

Si vous connaissez une personne, une organisation, une entreprise ou une initiative communautaire qui mérite d'être reconnue pour sa contribution à l'Ontario rural, je vous encourage à soumettre une candidature ou à transmettre cette information dans vos réseaux.

Pour obtenir tous les détails concernant les critères d'admissibilité et le processus de mise en candidature, consultez : <https://www.ontario.ca/fr/page/les-prix-inspiration-pour-lontario-rural>

N'hésitez pas à partager cette information avec toute personne ou organisation susceptible d'être intéressée.

Cordialement,

Carmen Goold and Louise Lauzon

Regional Development Advisors | Regional Services Branch
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming | Ontario Public Service

613-323-3118 | carmen.goold@ontario.ca



Taking pride in strengthening Ontario, its places and its people

Carmen Goold et Louise Lauzon

Conseillères en développement régional | Direction des services régionaux
Ministère du Tourisme, de la Culture et des Jeux | Fonction publique de l'Ontario

613-323-3118 | carmen.goold@ontario.ca



Fiers de renforcer l'Ontario, ses lieux et sa population

As per the [accessible customer service policy](#), please contact me if you wish to provide feedback, require accommodations, communication supports, or an alternate format.

Conformément à la [politique d'accessibilité pour les services à la clientèle](#), veuillez me contacter si vous souhaitez faire part de vos commentaires, si vous avez besoin d'adaptations, d'aides à la communication ou d'un autre format.

From: Ontario Honours And Awards (MCM) <OntarioHonoursAndAwards@ontario.ca>
Sent: September 29, 2026 3:51 PM
To: Ontario Honours And Awards (MCM)
Subject: 2026 Ontario Senior Achievement Award / Prix d'excellence de l'Ontario pour les personnes âgées de 2026

(Un message en français suivra)

**Ministry for Seniors
and Accessibility**

**Ministère des Services aux
aînés et de l'Accessibilité**



Minister

Ministre

College Park
777 Bay Street
5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1S5

College Park
777, rue Bay
5e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1S5

September 2026

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to invite you to submit a nomination for the 2026 Ontario Senior Achievement Award.

Each year, the program recognizes extraordinary seniors who, **after the age of 65**, have made significant contributions to their community or province.

This is to inform you the deadline to nominate someone has been extended to December 1st. You can submit a nomination online by registering through the Ontario Honours and Awards Portal.

For more information about the program, please visit the Ontario Senior Achievement Award webpage.

You may also contact Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat at OntarioHonoursAndAwards@ontario.ca, if you have questions about the Ontario Senior Achievement Award and how to submit a nomination online.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider putting forward the name of a special senior in your community.

Sincerely,



Raymond Cho
Minister for Seniors and Accessibility

**Ministry for Seniors
and Accessibility**

Minister

College Park
777 Bay Street
5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1S5

**Ministère des Services aux
aînés et de l'Accessibilité**

Ministre

College Park
777, rue Bay
5e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1S5



Septembre 2026

Madame, Monsieur,

J'ai le plaisir de vous inviter à proposer une candidature au Prix d'excellence de l'Ontario pour les personnes âgées de 2026.

Chaque année, le programme rend hommage aux aînés extraordinaires qui, **après l'âge de 65 ans**, ont apporté une contribution exceptionnelle à leur communauté ou à la province.

Nous souhaitons vous informer que la date limite pour présenter une candidature a été prolongée jusqu'au 1^{er} décembre. Pour soumettre une candidature en ligne, veuillez-vous inscrire au Portail des distinctions et prix de l'Ontario.

Pour plus de renseignements sur le programme, veuillez consulter la page Web du Prix d'excellence de l'Ontario pour les personnes âgées.

Si vous avez des questions au sujet du Prix d'excellence de l'Ontario pour les personnes âgées, veuillez contacter aussi le Secrétariat des distinctions et prix de l'Ontario à OntarioHonoursAndAwards@ontario.ca.

Je vous remercie d'avance de prendre le temps de songer à proposer le nom d'une personne âgée exceptionnelle de votre collectivité.

Veuillez agréer, Madame, Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs.

Sincèrement,

Raymond Cho

Raymond Cho
Ministre des Services aux aînés et de l'Accessibilité

Raymond Cho

tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca

From: Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus <eowc@eowc.ccsend.com>
Sent: October 1, 2026 11:57 AM
To: tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca
Subject: EOWC September 2026 Newsletter



Newsletter

September 2026

EOWC Advocacy Update

**The EOWC Attends the 2026 International
Plowing Match**



Left-to-right: Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Hon. Doug Ford, Premier, Ontario; Christa Lowry, Chair, ROMA.

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus was pleased to attend the **107th International Plowing Match** and Rural Expo in Bruce County as part of **Rural Ontario Week**, celebrating the people, communities, and industries that keep rural Ontario strong and moving forward.

"The International Plowing Match is a celebration of everything that makes rural Ontario strong: hard work, innovation, community spirit, and a deep commitment to agriculture. We are proud to represent eastern Ontario's rural communities and stand alongside the people who help feed our province, and the world, and drive our rural economy forward."

— **Chair Bonnie Clark**

The Caucus extends its thanks to Minister Lisa Thompson, IPM Chair, farm hosts Tony and Joe Lang, and the more than 1,600 volunteers whose dedication and hard work helped make this year's event a tremendous success.

The International Plowing Match is a proud showcase of rural Ontario, and a reminder of the vital role our agricultural communities play in our province's economy and future.

The EOWC Attends Ontario East Municipal Conference



Left-to-right: Jennifer Murphy, Warden, Renfrew County; John Jordan, Member of provincial Parliament, Lanark–Frontenac–Kingston; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Billy Denault, Member of Provincial Parliament, Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke; Mario Zanth, Vice-Chair, EOWC; Richard Kidd, Warden, Lanark County.

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus was pleased to attend the **Ontario East Municipal Conference** as a Bronze Sponsor.

As eastern Ontario's leading economic development event, the conference brings together municipal decision-makers, industry leaders, and economic development professionals to share insights, strengthen collaboration, and help shape the region's future.

With **eastern Ontario's population expected to grow by more than 36% by 2051**, collaboration is essential to planning for sustainable growth while ensuring the resources and services residents rely on today continue to meet their needs.

Thank you to President TJ Flynn, Executive Director Jay Amer, and the entire Ontario East Economic Development Commission team for hosting an impactful event. The EOWC is proud to be part of the collective effort to support and strengthen the continued growth of eastern Ontario.

EOWC Submits 2026 Canada Pre-Budget Recommendations

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus has submitted its 2026 Canada Pre-Budget recommendations to the Department of Finance Canada, highlighting the importance of strong collaboration between federal, provincial, and municipal governments to address the unique challenges facing rural and small urban communities.

The **EOWC's recommendations** call for:

- **Targeted federal funding to support rural and small municipalities.**
- **Strategic investment in eastern Ontario's ports and the St. Lawrence Seaway** to strengthen regional infrastructure and economic opportunities.
- **Alignment between defence spending and local infrastructure** investments to support communities and maximize regional benefits.
- **Modernization of paramedic services** through federal funding, coordination, and leadership.

These recommendations reflect the EOWC's continued advocacy for investments that strengthen communities, support economic growth, and ensure eastern Ontario is well positioned to meet the needs of residents now and into the future.

[**Read the EOWC's Submission**](#)

The EOWC Announces Deloitte as Project Partner for the Eastern Ontario Transformation Action Plan



The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus is pleased to announce **Deloitte Inc. as our project partner to advance the Eastern Ontario Transformation Action Plan.** Following a competitive procurement process, Deloitte will work with the EOWC to help deliver on this important regional initiative.

The EOWC is excited to begin this regional project and looks forward to engaging with municipal leaders, staff, and key economy-building partners over the coming months.

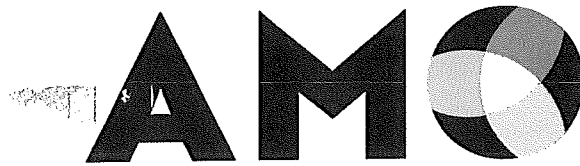
GLSLCI Partners with the EOWC to Support HST Reinvestment for Municipal Infrastructure

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has sent a letter of support to the Government of Ontario in support of the **EOWC's advocacy that the Ontario Government consider allowing municipalities to retain the 1.76% of the non-refundable portion of the HST, to be reallocated for infrastructure.**

This change would provide local governments with additional resources to invest in critical infrastructure and help address Ontario's estimated \$200 billion infrastructure deficit. Learn more [here](#).

[Letter of Support Template](#)

Partner Updates



Association of
Municipalities
of Ontario

AMO's New Council Program: AMO's Local Leadership Foundations

AMO has modernized its post-election onboarding with Local Leadership Foundations, developed with the Institute on Governance and delivered by experienced municipal governance experts.

Guided by consultations with municipal associations, staff groups, and AMO's Executive Committee, the program reflects what members need to lead with confidence.

Regional Updates and News



Ontario Invests \$1.9 Million to Strengthen Nuclear Supply Chain

Ontario is investing nearly \$1.9 million to strengthen the province's nuclear supply chain and prepare workers and businesses for major upcoming projects. Through a two-year initiative led by the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCNI), the funding will assess workforce, manufacturing and supply-chain capacity, identify gaps and develop recommendations to expand training pathways and help Ontario businesses compete for nuclear opportunities at home and abroad

Ontario Expands Postsecondary Education with 40,000 New Seats

Ontario is funding 40,000 new postsecondary seats at publicly assisted colleges and universities as part of a broader \$1.7 billion investment supporting more than 70,000 additional seats. Available as early as fall 2026, the new spaces will focus on in-demand fields including STEM, health care, education and skilled trades, helping

students prepare for careers aligned with regional labour market needs. The province says the expansion is the largest in more than a decade and is intended to strengthen Ontario's skilled workforce and support economic growth.

Ontario Premier Announces Cabinet Changes

Ontario Premier Doug Ford announced changes to his cabinet as the province responds to ongoing U.S. tariffs and trade uncertainty. Changes to the cabinet include:

- Hon. Sam Oosterhoff, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
 - Hon. David Piccini, Minister of Infrastructure
 - Hon. Trevor Jones, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
 - Hon. Brian Saunderson, Minister of Sport
 - Hon. Zee Hamid, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming
 - Hon. Kinga Surma, President of the Treasury Board
 - Hon. Vijay Thanigasalam, Associate Minister of Artificial Intelligence Adoption
 - Hon. Matthew Rae, Associate Minister of Energy-Intensive Industries
 - Hon. Michelle Cooper, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
-

Nominations Open for 2027 Rural Ontario Inspiration Awards

Nominations have opened for the 2027 Rural Ontario Inspiration Awards, recognizing people, businesses, organizations and communities contributing to rural economic growth and community development.

Nominations are open until October 23, 2026, with details and submissions available through Ontario.ca/RuralAwards.

Ontario Invests \$1.8 Million to Protect the Great Lakes

Ontario is investing up to \$1.8 million in community-led projects to protect and restore the Great Lakes through the fourth round of the Great Lakes Local Action Fund. Eligible projects can focus on improving water quality, restoring wetlands and habitats, reducing pollution and strengthening ecosystem resilience.

Upcoming Events

Ontario 2026 Municipal Elections

Municipal elections within Ontario will take place on **Monday, October 26, 2026**.

Visit the [2026 Voters' Guide](#) to learn more about the municipal and school board elections, and visit [Elections Ontario](#) for information about your municipality's election.



OMAA 2026 Fall Conference

The OMAA 2026 Fall Conference will take place from October 7 to 9, 2026, in Westin Trillium House Blue Mountain.

[Register](#)

Connect on LinkedIn, Facebook and X



About the EOWC

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

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

Visit the EOWC's website at eowc.org.

Connect with the EOWC

2026 Chair, Warden of Peterborough County, Bonnie Clark

2026 Vice-Chair, Warden of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell, Mario Zanth

Executive Director, Meredith Staveley-Watson

info@eowc.org



Meredith Staveley-Watson, Director of Government Relations and Policy | 235 Pinnacle Street | Belleville, ON K8N 3A9 CA

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tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca

From: Melissa Marquardt <MMarquardt@countyofrenfrew.on.ca>
Sent: September 28, 2026 4:47 PM
To: Township of Admaston Bromley; Town of Arnprior; Township of Bonnechere Valley; Town of Deep River; Township of Greater Madawaska; Township of Horton; Township of Killaloe Hagarty Richards; Town of Laurentian Hills; Township of Laurentian Valley; Township of Madawaska Valley; Township of McNab Braeside; Township of North Algona Wilberforce; Town of Petawawa; Town of Renfrew; Township of Whitewater Region; kzamojski@arnprior.ca; Township of Brudenell Lyndoch Raglan; Jackie Mellon; clerk@greatermadawaska.com; Dawn Recoskie; cerrett@renfrew.ca; Carmen Miller; Township of Head Clara Maria; Dave Unrau - Pembroke; Victoria Charbonneau
Cc: Gwen Dombroski; Craig Kelley; Jason Davis; Chris Neff; Lauree Armstrong; Lindsay Wilson; Christian Kaiser; Christine Mitchell; Rudy Kadlec; Hannah MacMillan - Renfrew; Sarah Richer - BV; Jenna McEwan; Rachel Eden; MV Recreation; Mackenzie Baird; Rebecca Gill; Heather Sutherland; Kathleen Barr
Subject: Request for Letter of Support: Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program's Regional Economic Development Immigration (REDI) Initiative
Attachments: Municipal template letter.docx
Importance: High

Hello CAOs, Clerks and Economic & Community Development Officers,

In follow-up to my email from June and as discussed at our Sept 17 Ottawa Valley Economic Development (OVED) Partners meeting, the next step in our application to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD) for the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program's REDI Initiative, is to **provide letters of support from all municipalities within Renfrew County confirming endorsement of the County's application.**

The Ministry has requested all letters of support be submitted by October 14th. In order to help expedite this process, a draft template letter is attached for your consideration. Please have signed letters sent directly to me so that I can submit the final package.

Understanding the election is just around the corner, if you are unable to meet the October 14th deadline please let me know as soon as possible.

If you have any questions/concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Cheers... Melissa

Melissa Marquardt (she/her/elle)
Manager of Economic Development Services
~ Enterprise Renfrew County
~ Invest Renfrew County
~ Ottawa Valley Tourist Association

County of Renfrew
9 International Drive
Pembroke, Ontario K8A 6W5
(t) 613.735.7288 / 800.757.6580 x459
(c) 613.281.4273

Note: My office hours are Monday to Thursday



From: Melissa Marquardt

Sent: June 11, 2026 4:45 PM

To: Township of Admaston Bromley <cao@admastonbromley.com>; Town of Arnprior <rpaquette@arnprior.ca>; Township of Bonnechere Valley <annetteg@eganville.com>; Town of Deep River <spatterson@deepriver.ca>; Township of Greater Madawaska <cao@greatermadawaska.com>; Township of Horton <hdillabough@hortontownship.ca>; Township of Killaloe Hagarty Richards <tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca>; Town of Laurentian Hills <cao@laurentianhills.ca>; Township of Laurentian Valley <dsauriol@lvtownship.ca>; Township of Madawaska Valley <cao@madawaskavalley.ca>; Township of McNab Braeside <mcannon@mcnabbraeside.com>; Township of North Algona Wilberforce <cao@nalgona wil.com>; Town of Petawawa <choward@petawawa.ca>; Town of Renfrew <ewithers@renfrew.ca>; Township of Whitewater Region <iburton@whitewaterregion.ca>; Township of Admaston Bromley <cao@admastonbromley.com>; kzaamowski@arnprior.ca; Township of Bonnechere Valley <annetteg@eganville.com>; Township of Brudenell Lyndoch Raglan <clerk-treasurer@blrtownship.ca>; Jackie Mellon <jmellon@deepriver.ca>; clerk@greatermadawaska.com; peggy@e4m.solutions; Township of Horton <hdillabough@hortontownship.ca>; Township of Killaloe Hagarty Richards <tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca>; Town of Laurentian Hills <cao@laurentianhills.ca>; Township of Laurentian Valley <dsauriol@lvtownship.ca>; Township of Madawaska Valley <cao@madawaskavalley.ca>; Township of McNab Braeside <mcannon@mcnabbraeside.com>; Township of North Algona Wilberforce <cao@nalgona wil.com>; Dawn Recoskie <drecoskie@petawawa.ca>; cerrett@renfrew.ca; Carmen Miller <cmiller@whitewaterregion.ca>
Cc: Gwen Dombroski <GDombroski@countyofrenfrew.on.ca>; Craig Kelley <CKelley@countyofrenfrew.on.ca>; Jason Davis <JDavis@countyofrenfrew.on.ca>; Chris Neff <cneff@lvtownship.ca>; Lauree Armstrong <larmstrong@lvtownship.ca>; Lindsay Wilson <lwilson@arnprior.ca>; Christian Kaiser <ckaiser@deepriver.ca>; Christine Mitchell <cmitchell@petawawa.ca>; Rudy Kadlec <rkadlec@renfrew.ca>; Hannah MacMillan - Renfrew <hmacmillan@renfrew.ca>; Sarah Richer - BV <sarah@eganville.com>; Jenna McEwan <jmcewan@greatermadawaska.com>; Rachel Eden <reden@hortontownship.ca>; Municipal Corporation of the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards <communitydevelopment@khrtownship.ca>; MV Recreation <recreation@madawaskavalley.ca>; Mackenzie Baird <mbaird@whitewaterregion.ca>
Subject: RE: Confirmation of EOI Submission - OINP Regional Immigration Initiative / Confirmation de la soumission de la DI – Initiative régionale d’immigration du POCI

Hello everyone,

The County of Renfrew has submitted an Expression of Interest for the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program on behalf of all municipalities in Renfrew County, which is why you have all received the email below.

In the EOI, the province indicated only one applicant per census division is permitted and prefers that it be a regional body (ie; chamber of commerce, upper tier, economic development agency, etc), so we took the lead. As part of the application, we (County) needs to obtain a letter of support from local municipalities naming the County as the lead on behalf of municipalities. We are currently awaiting further clarification from the Ministry about the letter of support and required timelines. As soon as I have further information, I will reach out.

In our application, we cast a wide net on the sector focus including health, education & childcare, manufacturing, construction & skilled trades, public administration, transportation and forestry. If accepted, this program will be promoted County-wide.

We are supposed to be notified in August if we are successful. If we are, the plan is to make a business case for shared staffer with Lanark County to work with the local business community. Similar to the shared settlement coordinator position that we had as part of a previous RED project with Lanark County.

Apologies for the confusion this has caused! As soon as I have more information about the letter of support I will reach out.

Members of the OVED Partners group are copied on this email as this was also discussed at our meeting this morning.

Do not hesitate to reach out directly if there are any other questions!

Cheers... Melissa

Melissa Marquardt (she/her/elle)
Manager of Economic Development

County of Renfrew
9 International Drive
Pembroke, Ontario K8A 6W5
(t) 613.735.7288 / 800.757.6580 x459
(c) 613.281.4273

Note: My office hours are Monday to Thursday



From: Immigration Ontario (MLITSD) <Immigration.Ontario@ontario.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 11:27 AM

To: Township of Admaston Bromley <cao@admastonbromley.com>; Town of Arnprior <rpaquette@arnprior.ca>; Township of Bonnechere Valley <annetteg@eganville.com>; Town of Deep River <spatterson@deepriver.ca>; Township of Greater Madawaska <cao@greatermadawaska.com>; Township of Horton <hdillabough@hortontownship.ca>; Township of Killaloe Hagarty Richards <tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca>; Town of Laurentian Hills <cao@laurentianhills.ca>; Township of Laurentian Valley <dsauriol@lvtownship.ca>; Township of Madawaska Valley <cao@madawaskavalley.ca>; Township of McNab Braeside <mcannon@mcnabbraeside.com>; Township of North Algona Wilberforce <cao@nalgonawil.com>; Town of Petawawa <choward@petawawa.ca>; Craig Kelley <CKelley@countyofrenfrew.on.ca>; Town of Renfrew <ewithers@renfrew.ca>; Township of Whitewater Region <iburton@whitewaterregion.ca>; Township of Admaston Bromley <cao@admastonbromley.com>; kzamojski@arnprior.ca <kzamojski@arnprior.ca>; Township of Bonnechere Valley <annetteg@eganville.com>; Township of Brudenell Lyndoch Raglan <clerk-treasurer@blrtownship.ca>; Jackie Mellon <jmellon@deepriver.ca>; clerk@greatermadawaska.com <clerk@greatermadawaska.com>; peggy@e4m.solutions <peggy@e4m.solutions>; Township of Horton <hdillabough@hortontownship.ca>; Township of Killaloe Hagarty Richards <tgorgerat@khrtownship.ca>; Town of Laurentian Hills <cao@laurentianhills.ca>; Township of Laurentian Valley <dsauriol@lvtownship.ca>; Township of Madawaska Valley <cao@madawaskavalley.ca>; Township of McNab Braeside <mcannon@mcnabbraeside.com>; Township of North Algona Wilberforce <cao@nalgonawil.com>; Dawn Recoskie <drecoskie@petawawa.ca>; Gwen Dombroski <gdombroski@countyofrenfrew.on.ca>; cerrett@renfrew.ca <cerrett@renfrew.ca>; Carmen Miller <cmiller@whitewaterregion.ca>

Subject: Confirmation of EOI Submission - OINP Regional Immigration Initiative / Confirmation de la soumission de la DI – Initiative régionale d'immigration du POCI

Some people who received this message don't often get email from immigration.ontario@ontario.ca. [Learn why this is important](#)

[CAUTION -- EXTERNAL E-MAIL - Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.]

****A French version to follow****

Hello,

We are writing to confirm that an Expression of Interest (EOI) has been successfully submitted on behalf of County of Renfrew County for the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program's (OINP) Regional Immigration Initiative. Note that submission of an EOI does not guarantee participation.

Now that the EOI has been submitted, **please ensure that the lead organization's contact person sends an email confirming that they are the representative for your Census Division and providing their contact information.**

As a reminder, the lead organization is required to obtain formal council support from the lead municipality to act on its behalf. All interested municipalities within a Census Division can confirm their endorsement through letters of support and additional correspondence, including their contact information. Both were **not required by the June 5th deadline** but will be requested at a later stage.

Thank you for your interest in the OINP.

Immigration Promotion and Employer Outreach Unit

Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP)

Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development | Ontario Public Service

immigration.ontario@ontario.ca

Bonjour,

Nous vous écrivons afin de confirmer qu'une déclaration d'intérêt (DI) a été soumise avec succès au nom du comté de Renfrew dans le cadre de l'Initiative régionale d'immigration du Programme ontarien des candidats à l'immigration (POCI). Veuillez noter que la soumission d'une DI ne garantit pas la participation.

Maintenant que la déclaration d'intérêt a été soumise, **veuillez-vous assurer que la personne ressource de l'organisme responsable envoie un courriel confirmant qu'elle est la représentante de votre division de recensement avec ses coordonnées.**

Nous vous rappelons que l'organisation principale doit obtenir l'appui officiel du conseil municipal de la municipalité principale afin d'agir en son nom. Toutes les municipalités intéressées au sein d'une

division de recensement peuvent confirmer leur appui au moyen de lettres de soutien ou d'autres communications, incluant leurs coordonnées. Ces deux éléments **n'étaient pas exigés à la date limite du 5 juin**, mais seront demandés à un stade ultérieur.

Nous vous remercions de l'intérêt que vous portez à l'OINP.

Unité de la Promotion de l'immigration et de la liaison avec les employeurs
Programme ontarien des candidats à l'immigration (POCI)

Ministère du Travail, de L'Immigration, de la Formation et Développement des compétences
| Fonction publique de l'Ontario
immigration.ontario@ontario.ca

Fiers de renforcer l'Ontario, ses lieux et sa population

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(Date)

Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP)

Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
Government of Ontario

Re: Municipal Support for Renfrew County's Application to the 2026 Regional Economic Development through Immigration (REDI) Initiative

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Council of the **Municipality of [Municipality Name]**, I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the **County of Renfrew's application to participate in the 2026 Regional Economic Development through Immigration (REDI) initiative** under the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP).

Our municipality recognizes the critical role immigration plays in addressing workforce challenges, supporting local employers, strengthening communities, and contributing to long-term economic growth. Like many rural and regional communities across Ontario, we are experiencing labour market pressures across a range of sectors and acknowledge the importance of attracting and retaining skilled newcomers as part of our economic development strategy.

The Municipality of [Municipality Name] fully endorses the **County of Renfrew's role as the lead community and coordinating applicant** for the REDI initiative on behalf of participating local municipalities within Renfrew County. We believe a collaborative, county-wide approach will strengthen our ability to address common workforce needs, support employers, and create welcoming communities for newcomers and their families.

Should Renfrew County be selected to participate in the 2026 REDI initiative, our municipality is committed to working collaboratively with the County of Renfrew, local employers, community organizations, settlement service providers, and other partners to support the successful implementation of the program. We recognize the value of a coordinated regional approach to immigration attraction and retention and are prepared to contribute to local workforce development and newcomer integration efforts as opportunities arise.

We appreciate the Province of Ontario's continued commitment to supporting economic development through immigration and respectfully request that the County of Renfrew's application be given favourable consideration.

Sincerely,

Mayor, Municipality of [Municipality Name]



Medical Officer of Health Report to the Board

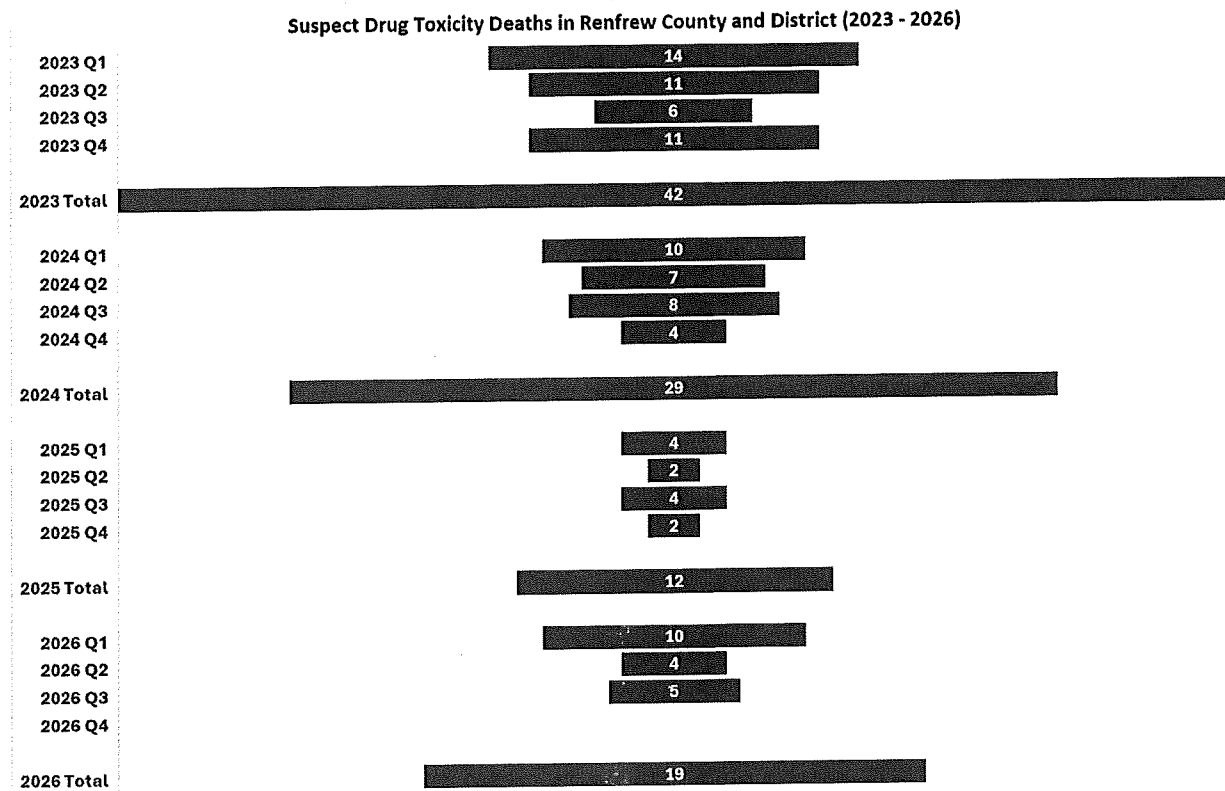
September 29th, 2026

HEALTH PROMOTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy (RCDDS)

RCDDS Steering Committee and Working Group partners remain committed to advancing the priorities of the strategy through collaboration and evidence-based interventions. Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) staff have contributed to this work in many ways over the summer through outreach, naloxone distribution, overdose response training, and the development of "don't use alone" and stigma awareness campaigns. Staff have also been evaluating partnership agreements to explore further opportunities for priorities related to drug testing, remote spotting applications, and data collection.

Since the previous report in June, six additional suspect drug toxicity deaths have been reported, bringing the total to 19 in 2026 to date.



Emergency department visits have decreased by 41% when compared to the same period in 2025, dropping from 41 to 24 as of the end of August.

Public Health Outreach and Sexual Health

RCDHU's Outreach Team continues to expand its services and presence across Renfrew County and District (RCD). Outreach visits have increased from 12 in the first quarter to 37 in the second quarter and 42 so far in the third quarter. The team continues to reach out to community agencies across RCD, adding three new sites this quarter.

Syphilis Point-of-Care Rapid Testing and Immediate Treatment Evaluation (SPRITE) study testing for sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBIs) continues to be offered at suitable Outreach Team events and at RCDHU's Pembroke office. Since its implementation in August 2024, RCDHU nurses have completed 279 tests for syphilis, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B, and hepatitis C for individuals at higher risk of infection, 31 of which were completed so far this quarter. Individuals who tested positive have been treated and/or referred to appropriate specialists.

Work from the SPRITE study was also published in two recent peer-reviewed articles, with multiple RCDHU team members listed as co-authors. Below are links to the two publications:

- [Evaluation of a Real-Time Knowledge Exchange Network Supporting Syphilis Rapid Testing and Immediate Treatment in Seven Public Health Units in Ontario, Canada](#)
- [Females at the intersection: Housing instability, drug use, and syphilis risk among street-involved populations in Ontario, Canada](#)

Sexual Health:

In response to community needs, the Sexual Health program is working to increase access to sexual health services in RCD, including making STBI testing available for all residents. PHNs have completed 32 STBI testing interactions so far this quarter, mostly for clients who do not have a primary care provider or whose primary care provider is unavailable.

RCDHU PHNs are now available for a walk-in Sexual Health Clinic at the RCDHU Pembroke office every Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Additional clinics are always available by appointment. Along with STBI testing, other services offered include lower-cost birth control, pregnancy testing, and sexual health education and counselling. Individuals who require additional sexual health care services are referred to a nurse practitioner or physician in their area. Three new partnerships have been developed with nurse practitioners and physicians in communities across RCD to connect these individuals to appropriate care.

Nutrition - Community Food Champions

RCDHU is developing a new food literacy program, Community Food Champions, in partnership with the Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team (OVOHT), supporting older adults experiencing food insecurity. The program is intended to reduce stigma and create a welcoming space for older adults with diverse food experiences, needs, and circumstances. The program builds local capacity through a train-the-trainer model, empowering community leads to deliver practical, hands-on sessions within their own settings and support sustainable delivery. Recipes centre on food bank and pantry staples and are designed around small portions, minimal ingredients, and basic cooking equipment to reflect the financial realities of older adults experiencing poverty and food insecurity. Recipes also emphasize protein, fibre, and other considerations for healthy aging, along with food safety and practical food skills. Dignity, choice, and participant autonomy are central to the program, and it is important to recognize that food skills alone do not address the inadequate income underlying household food insecurity. RCDHU is working collaboratively with community partners to develop a practical, evidence-informed program that reflects local needs and supports meaningful community uptake.

Healthy Families

From Pilot to Practice - Expanding Well-Baby Assessment Skills Across RCDHU Programs:

In August 2026, six PHNs participated in a half-day well-baby head-to-toe assessment training session facilitated by a nurse practitioner at the Pembroke Family Medicine Teaching Unit (PFMTU). While the training supports the ongoing primary care pilot, it was expanded to build broader clinical assessment capacity across RCDHU. The training focused on comprehensive infant assessments, distinguishing normal findings from potential concerns, and early identification of health and developmental needs. RCDHU aims to apply these skills beyond the pilot, where appropriate, to improve access to early assessment and intervention for families, particularly those with limited or no access to primary care.

Advancing Integrated Care - Launch of the Ocean eReferral Platform:

On September 15th, 2026, RCDHU launched the Ocean eReferral platform, initially supporting the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) and Healthy Growth and Development (HGD) programs. Future expansion is planned for Harm Reduction, Sexual Health, Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD), and other programs. The platform allows us to receive electronic referrals from health care partners using the Ocean network, including primary care providers, the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC-VTAC), and ConnectWell. This means that partners will have more convenient access to RCDHU referrals, which will be embedded in their electronic medical records. It is intended to improve referral coordination and service navigation across RCD.

Infectious Diseases

Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Initiative:

On May 15th, 2026, RCDHU implemented a rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (RPEP) program to support its clients and primary/urgent care partners.

Historically, health care providers in hospital emergency departments have been responsible for administering the full RPEP regimen. For previously unimmunized patients, this includes immunoglobulin and the day 0 vaccine dose, followed by vaccine doses on days 3, 7, and 14, with an additional dose on day 28 for immunocompromised patients.

Since mid-May, the Infectious Diseases team, Healthy Environments team, and emergency departments have collaborated on a new care pathway that offers follow-up vaccine doses at RCDHU as part of regular case management. This reduces demand on emergency department health care providers and supports the patient experience through one-on-one follow-up.

Fifty individuals received RPEP vaccine doses at RCDHU through visits at the Pembroke office, the Renfrew Service Hub, or home visits where barriers to accessibility existed. Five individuals for whom RPEP was indicated opted to complete their vaccine series at the hospital.

Approximately 130 RPEP vaccine doses were administered. Providing these doses at RCDHU offers an alternative to emergency department visits, where wait and treatment times vary depending on other urgent care needs.

Respiratory Illness Activity:

Respiratory outbreak activity in institutions has remained low, with only five respiratory outbreaks confirmed since mid-May. Rhinovirus/enterovirus was identified as the causative pathogen in four of these outbreaks.

According to RCDHU's Respiratory Illness Data Summary for September 6th to 12th, 2026, average daily hospital bed occupancy due to COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) was zero, and respiratory-related concerns accounted for a low 4.7% of emergency

department visits by RCD residents. Overall respiratory illness activity remained low. Reported test positivity for influenza, RSV, and COVID-19 was 0%.

Provincially, influenza A test positivity increased from 0.3% to 1.7% between the weeks ending August 8th and September 12th, 2026, alongside rising influenza-positive hospital admissions, which is higher than the influenza activity typically seen at this time of year. These trends suggest a possible early start to the influenza season, supporting preparedness and timely vaccination when available and eligible next month.

HEALTH PROTECTION, DENTAL HEALTH, AND SCHOOL HEALTH

Immunization

Immunization Access and School-Year Results:

As announced in a June 9th, 2026 media release, RCDHU introduced online booking for routine immunization clinic dates beginning July 1st, 2026, with telephone booking assistance remaining available. This provides an additional way to access services, including for residents without a primary care provider. Following the 2025–2026 school-year immunization surveillance and catch-up efforts, more than 94% of students met Immunization of School Pupils Act requirements, and measles immunization coverage among students was approximately 95%.

Cold Chain Inspections:

RCDHU's vaccine inventory team is conducting annual cold chain inspections at facilities in RCD that store publicly funded vaccines. Between June and September 2026, 112 of 114 vaccine fridges were inspected. The remaining two inspections are scheduled for completion. These inspections support compliance with provincial vaccine storage and handling guidelines and maintain vaccine integrity.

Grade 7 School-Based Immunization Program:

During the summer, RCDHU staff offered catch-up clinics for Grade 7 students. Through these efforts, a combined total of 160 doses of hepatitis B, meningococcal, and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines were administered to eligible students.

The first round of Grade 7 school immunization clinics for the 2026–2027 school year is underway. Approximately 1100 students are eligible, with 43 school-based clinics planned for the fall and a second round scheduled for spring 2027. As of September 16th, 2026, 10 school clinics have been completed.

Respiratory Illness Season Immunization Campaign:

RCDHU is preparing for the 2026–2027 respiratory season immunization campaign. The phased rollout of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines will begin with high-risk and priority populations in October, followed by the general population aged six months and older in November.

RCDHU will offer mobile clinics at retirement homes and mass community clinics throughout RCD. Based on provincial eligibility, vaccines will be available for influenza, COVID-19, RSV, and pneumococcal disease. RCDHU will also continue to work with community partners to provide accessible and convenient immunization options across RCD.

Healthy Environments

Rabies Prevention and Control Program:

RCDHU public health inspectors continue to investigate potential human exposures to rabies. Consistent with trends observed in 2025, bat-related exposures increased during July and August but remained below 2025 levels. These incidents increased the need for RPEP, which includes vaccine and, where indicated, immunoglobulin. During July and August, 44 individuals

received RPEP, a 31% decrease from the 64 individuals who received it during the same period in 2025.

To date in 2026, RCDHU has completed 58 investigations involving bat-related exposures and submitted seven bats for rabies testing; all results were negative.

Safe Water Program:

RCDHU's public beach sampling program is conducted during the summer months, when recreational water use is at its highest. In 2026, sampling took place from June 15th through the final week of August. In July, Douglas Beach was posted as unsafe for swimming for seven days, and Barry's Bay Beach was posted for eight days, due to elevated bacterial levels. No public beaches were posted as a result of blue-green algae blooms.

Cobden Drinking Water - Elevated Manganese:

RCDHU supported the Township of Whitewater Region and the Ontario Clean Water Agency in responding to elevated manganese levels in Cobden's municipal drinking water. This included reviewing water-quality results, providing health-risk advice, supporting public communications, and answering questions at the September 2nd Council meeting. A joint advisory issued on August 21st recommended an alternative drinking water source for infants 12 months of age and younger. Following sustained results below Health Canada's 0.12 mg/L guideline, the advisory was lifted on September 10th in consultation with RCDHU. RCDHU continues to review monitoring results with municipal and operator partners.

Vector-Borne Disease Control Program:

RCDHU completed its 10-week mosquito testing program again this summer. A total of 118 mosquito pools from 13 trapping locations across RCD were tested for West Nile virus (WNV) and eastern equine encephalitis virus. Two pools tested positive for WNV: one in Arnprior (July 22nd) and one in Deep River (August 19th). A media release and additional social media posts were issued to notify the public and provide information on reducing the risk of mosquito bites and WNV exposure.

Heat and Wildfire Smoke Response:

During the summer, RCDHU issued public advisories in response to extreme heat and wildfire-related poor air quality, including media releases on the July 1st heat warning and July 14th air-quality alert. Communications emphasized practical protective measures, symptom recognition, and precautions for people at greater risk. Residents were also directed to local cooling centres, air-conditioned public spaces, and resources for monitoring conditions.

RCDHU also updated its Air Quality and Wildfire Smoke webpage with practical health guidance and access to local air-quality readings. Working with community partners, RCDHU expanded fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) monitoring through additional sensors hosted in Arnprior and Barry's Bay. These supplement existing monitoring in Renfrew, Pembroke, Petawawa, and Smoke Lake in Algonquin Provincial Park, helping residents and organizations assess local conditions and reduce smoke exposure.

Dental Health

Summer Community Dental Clinics at Local Libraries:

This summer, RCDHU delivered its third year of community dental clinics at local libraries. Library staff took a more active role in promoting the clinics, and attendance increased by 14% as communities became more familiar with the program.

2026 Highlights

- 9 community library clinics
- 135 residents reached
- 15 clients per clinic on average
- 69 children (ages 3–18) served
- 11 fluoride treatments provided

Delivered in partnership with Service Canada and RCDHU's HGD team, the clinics provided access to multiple services in one location. Eligible residents received support enrolling in Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO), the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP), and the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP), as well as information on oral health, dental coverage, school screenings, and other available services.

Feedback from residents and library partners was positive. This interest demonstrates the value of bringing services directly into community settings and the demand for accessible oral health supports.

Submitted by:

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