



Council Information Package

Members of City Council may request that an information item be placed on the next available Committee of the Whole agenda.

Date: March 27, 2026

Contact: clerks@burlington.ca

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SUBJECT: Festivals and Events Listing Update – Q2 2026

TO: Council Information Package

FROM: Community Services
Recreation, Community and Culture

Report Number: CSS-08-26

Wards Affected: all

Date to Committee: N/A

Date to Council: N/A

CIP Date: 3/27/2026

Below is a list of the special events and major tournaments scheduled for Q2 2026, for your information.

Events & Major Tournaments List from April - June 2026:

Event	Date	Location
Elevated & co Easter Egg Hunt	April 3, 2026	Central Park
Good Friday Race	April 3, 2026	Spencer Smith Park
Easter Egg Hunt	April 4, 2026	Lansdown Park
Easter Egg Hunt	April 4, 2026	Brant Hills Park
Easter Event	April 4, 2026	Central Park
Annual Easter Egg Hunt	April 5, 2026	Palladium Park
Easter in the Park	April 5, 2026	Iroquois Park
Around The Bay Road Race	April 12, 2026	On-Road: Northshore Blvd, Plains Rd.

Event	Date	Location
Burlington Spring Home & Garden Show	April 17-19, 2026	Appleby Ice Centre
Khalsa Day Peace Parade	April 19, 2026	On -Road: Queensway Dr, Glenwood School Dr.
Naval Veterans: Battle of the Atlantic	May 3, 2026	Spencer Smith Park
King's Baton	May 6, 2026	Spencer Smith Park
Why Not Wine	May 9, 2026	LaSalle Park
LXK 5K for SickKids	May 10, 2026	Spencer Smith Park
City of Burlington - Touch a Truck	May 23, 2026	Nelson Park
MM Robinson Reunion	May 23, 2026	Appleby Ice Centre
Starlight Children's Foundation Lamborghini Rally	May 23, 2026	On-Road: Mainway, Walkers Line, Lakeshore Rd.
Tour d'Aldershot	May 23, 2026	On-Road: North Shore Blvd. & LaSalle Park (TBC)
HIA Eid Al-Adha	May 26-28, 2026 (TBC)	City View Park (rain: Alton Community Centre)
Run 4 Lighthouse	May 30, 2026	Spencer Smith Park
BTC Fight	June 6, 2026	Central Arena
Naval Veterans: D-Day	June 6, 2026	Spencer Smith Park
Moon in June Road Race, Car Show and Craft Fair	June 6, 2026	On Road: Brant St., Maple Ave & Locust St.
Anthem Events (Tri-Kids)	June 7, 2026	Nelson Park
Peer to Pier Men's Mental Health Awareness Walk	June 7, 2026	Spencer Smith Park
Princess Margaret Ride	June 13, 2026	On Road: Britannia Rd.
Staff Appreciation Event	June 18, 2026	Central Arena
Friendship Walk	June 20, 2026	Central Park

Event	Date	Location
Burlington Summer Music Parade	June 20, 2026	On Road: Drury Ln, Caroline St, Brant St.
Lakeshore Music & Arts Festival	June 20-21, 2026	Spencer Smith Park
National Indigenous People's Day	June 21, 2026	Central Park
Burlington Latino Festival	June 26-28, 2026	Ireland Park
Burlington Dad's Family BBQ	June 27, 2026	Central Park
HIA Annual BBQ	June 27, 2026	LaSalle Park
Multiculturalism Day	June 27, 2026	Sherwood Forest Park

Major Tournament	Date	Location
BGHC – Queen of the House Tournament	April 11-12, 2026	Mainway Recreation Centre
Burlington Gymnastics	April 23-26, 2026	Appleby Ice Centre
Burlington Minor Lacrosse – House League Opening Weekend	May 2-3, 2026	Appleby Ice Centre
BASA – Opening Day	May 9, 2026	Brant Hills Park
BOMBA – Baseball is back	May 9, 2026	Sherwood Forest Park
Burlington Soccer Club	May 15-18, 2026	City View Park, Norton Community Park, Hayden Field, Sherwood Forest Park
Roddy Allen Mini Rugby Tournament	May 23, 2026	Sherwood Forest Park
Halton Amateur Slo Pitch Association – HASPA Super Weekend	May 23-24, 2026	Sherwood Forest Park
BASA – HGSL Gala Day	May 30-31, 2026	Brant Hills Park
Halton District School Board- OFSAA A/AA Field Lacrosse Hosted by Aldershot HS	June 1-2, 2026	City View Park

Major Tournament	Date	Location
Halton Field Hockey Jr. Tournament	June 6-7, 2026	Norton Community Park
BOMBA – 12U Tournament	June 12-14, 2026	Sherwood Forest Park
Special Olympics Hometown Soccer	June 13, 2026	Sherwood Forest Park
Halton Minor Ball Hockey League – Minor Ball Hockey Championship Tournament	June 14 & 28, 2026	Appleby Ice Centre, Central Recreation Centre
Burlington Minor Lacrosse - House League Closing Weekend	June 19-20, 2026	Appleby Ice Centre
BMFA Flag House League Championships	June 19-21, 2026	Norton Community Park and Hayden Field
Burlington Oldtimers Slo Pitch League – Mid Season Tournament	June 26-28, 2026	Sherwood Forest Park
BASA – June Select Tournament	June 27-28, 2026	Brant Hills Park

Memo Details

Author:

Sandra Maxwell
 Manager of Festivals and Events
 905-335-7600 ext. 7724

Memo Approval:

All memos are reviewed and approved by the Commissioner, Head of Corporate Affairs, Chief Financial Officer, and Commissioner of Legal and Legislative Services/City Solicitor.



Box 8100
Montréal, Québec Canada
H3C 3N4

Boite 8100
Montréal, Québec/Canada
H3C 3N4

March 26, 2026

RE: CN RIGHT-OF-WAY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Dear Mayor,

At CN, we are committed to operating a safe and efficient railway while fostering trust and collaboration with the communities we serve. As part of this commitment, we are reaching out to inform you of our upcoming vegetation management activities in your area, scheduled to take place between April and October 2026. You can find a regularly updated schedule at www.cn.ca/vegetation.

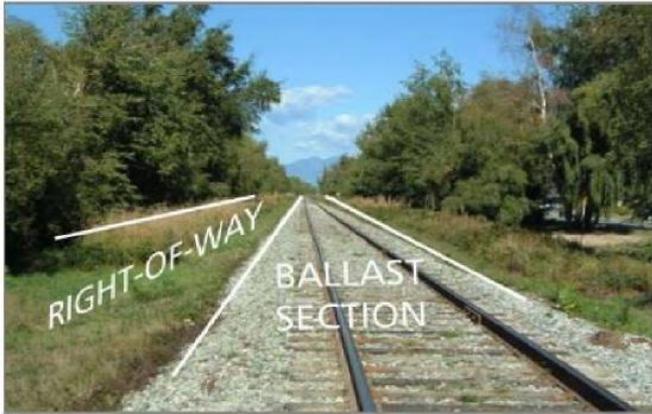
Vegetation management is a crucial component of railway safety and regulatory compliance. In accordance with Transport Canada's requirements, our program mitigates potential risks to railway operations. By proactively managing vegetation, we enhance safety for both rail operations and the surrounding communities.

Management Strategies

CN manages vegetation using both chemical and mechanical methods to ensure regulatory compliance and maintain safe railway operations. We are sensitive to concerns your community may have regarding chemical vegetation management and at CN, we strive to safeguard our neighbouring communities and the environment.

The track infrastructure is composed of two main sections, the 24-foot ballast section (which is primarily gravel and supports the track structure) and the right-of-way portion (which is the area outside of the ballast section to the CN property boundary).

The 24-foot ballast section and the areas around signals and communications equipment that are critical for safe railway operations will be managed using chemical methods. Application in these safety critical areas is done by spray trucks or spray trains with downcast nozzles that spray a short distance above the ground surface with shrouded booms, specially designed to limit the chemicals from drifting. The right-of-way section is maintained using mechanical control methods such as mowing, or brush cutting and may be chemically treated to control noxious or invasive weeds or brush in localized areas.



CN has retained professional contractors qualified to undertake this work. They are required to follow all laws and regulations that apply to CN. In addition, the contractors will ensure that vegetation control is performed with consideration of the environment and in accordance with the highest industry standards.

Inquiries

Should your community have any noxious weed management requests, we ask that you contact CN's Public Inquiry Line at contact@cn.ca or fill out the form at www.cn.ca/vegetation before June 1, 2026 with the specific information and location. CN will make every effort to include those locations as part of our 2026 Vegetation Management Program. All notices sent after the above-mentioned date will be included in the 2027 Vegetation Management Plan.

We look forward to working with you and answering any questions you may have regarding our vegetation control activities in your community.

Please find attached the notices CN is publishing in local papers to advise the public. We would kindly ask that you post copies on your community's website and at City Hall or other central locations for a wider distribution.

For any questions or more information, please contact the CN Public Inquiry Line by telephone at 1-888-888-5909, or by email at contact@cn.ca.

Please also find a list of FAQs regarding the program that may be of further assistance at www.cn.ca/vegetation.



ANNUAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Each year, CN is required to manage vegetation on its right-of-way. Managing this vegetation contributes to mitigating fire risks and enhances the efficiency of inspection of track infrastructure.

The spray program is not being done for aesthetic reasons.

To ensure safe railway operations, CN will conduct its annual spray program on its rail lines in the province of Ontario. A certified professional (Davey Tree Expert Company of Canada, Ltd., 1-800-465-6367) will apply herbicides on and around the railway tracks (primarily along the 24-foot graveled area/ballast). Product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments and municipal water supplies will be met.

CN may use the following products:

Product Name	Active Ingredient	Pest Control Product Act #
Arsenal Powerline	Imazapyr	30203
Aspect	Picloram, 2,4-D	31641
Clearview	Aminopyralid, Metsulfuron-Methyl	29752
Credit Xtreme	Glyphosate	29888
Detail	Salflufenacil	32773
Esplanade	Indaziflam	31333
Garlon RTU	Triclopyr	29334
Garlon XRT	Triclopyr	28945
Gateway (Adjuvant)	Paraffinic Oil	31470
Hasten (Adjuvant)	Methyl & ethyl oleate	31760
Milestone NXT	Aminopyralid	28517
Navius Flex	Aminocyclopyrachlor, Metsulfuron-Methyl	30922
Overdrive	Diflufenzopyr, Dicamba	30065
Telar XP	Chlorsulfuron	30036
Torpedo EZ	Flumioxazin, Pyroxasulfone	33872
Vision Max	Glyphosate	27736

CN only uses herbicides that have been approved for use in Canada and in the province within which they are applied. The program is expected to take place from April to October 2026.

All CN land is private property, accessible to CN employees and approved contractors only.

Visit www.cn.ca/vegetation for more information or to make an inquiry, contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at contact@cn.ca or 1-888-888-5909.



Council Resolution Form

Date: 19 Mar 2026 No: Resolution No.59-26
 Moved By: Councillor Thomson Disposition: CARRIED.
 Seconded By: Councillor Popkie
 Item No: 13.2

Description: Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) Extension - Motion brought forward by Councillor Thomson

RESOLUTION:

That Council support Resolution #7 carried by the Council of the Township of North Glengarry on February 23, 2026, calling for an extension and review of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF), and;

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Township of North Glengarry, the Premiere of Ontario Doug Ford, the Minister of Infrastructure Kinga Surma, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Ontario Municipalities.

MAYOR

Recorded Vote Requested by:		
.....NA.....		
	Yea	Nay
J. Levesque	___	___
T. Popkie	___	___
L. Thomson	___	___
R. Tripp	___	___
R. Weir	___	___

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:
.....NA.....
Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote

**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY
Council Meeting**

Resolution # 7

Date: Monday February 23, 2026

Moved by: Michael Madden

Seconded by: Carma Williams

WHEREAS the Township of North Glengarry acknowledges that municipal infrastructure—including roads, bridges, and water and wastewater systems—underpins public safety, economic vitality, and quality of life in Ontario’s rural and small urban communities; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) was created in 2015 to assist small and rural municipalities facing infrastructure deficits that exceed their local revenue capacities; and

WHEREAS in 2022, the Government of Ontario committed to increase the annual OCIF envelope from \$100 million to \$400 million over a five-year term, with that commitment scheduled to expire at the end of fiscal 2026; and

WHEREAS fixed funding levels amid rising labour, materials, and climate resilience costs have eroded the purchasing power of the \$400 million envelope, jeopardizing municipalities’ ability to deliver and sustain essential services without incurring unsustainable debt; and

WHEREAS predictable, multi-year funding indexed to real-world cost drivers is critical for municipalities to develop, finance, and execute long-term asset management plans, reduce emergency repairs, and leverage complementary federal and private infrastructure financing; and

WHEREAS the Township of North Glengarry requires a steadfast provincial partner to extend and enhance OCIF beyond 2026, ensuring infrastructure resilience, fiscal sustainability, and equitable access for all small and rural municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Township of North Glengarry calls upon the Government of Ontario to extend the annual OCIF envelope at not less than \$400 million beyond its current five-year term ending in 2026, with no reductions in subsequent provincial budgets.
2. The Province be requested to index the total annual OCIF envelope—and each individual municipal allocation—to the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI), calculated on a calendar-year basis and disbursed in the first quarter of each fiscal year.
3. The Ministry of Infrastructure establish a new five-year OCIF funding framework that guarantees annual envelopes and allocation percentages by municipality, enabling long-term capital planning and stable cash-flow management.
4. The Province undertake a formal review of the OCIF allocation formula at least once every four years, incorporating current municipal asset management data, demographic projections, climate resilience metrics, and rural equity considerations.

**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY
Council Meeting**

Resolution #

Date: Monday February 23, 2026

5. A dedicated contingency reserve equal to 5 percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs, or project overruns without reallocating core funding.
6. The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report—including program disbursements, allocation adjustments, and reserve expenditures—in a transparent, publicly accessible online dashboard.

FURTHER THAT the Council of the Township of North Glengarry supports the September 29, 2025 resolution of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal, the October 20, 2025 resolution of the Municipality of South Huron, and the November 19, 2025 resolution of the Township of Pulsinch regarding the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF); and

FURTHER THAT this supporting resolution and the originating correspondence be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED

DEFEATED

DEFERRED



MAYOR / DEPUTY MAYOR

	YEA	NEA
Deputy Mayor: Carma Williams	—	—
Councillor: Jacques Massie	—	—
Councillor: Brian Caddell	—	—
Councillor: Jeff Manley	—	—
Councillor: Michael Madden	—	—
Councillor: Gary Martin	—	—
Mayor: Jamie MacDonald	—	—



Council Resolution Form

Date: 19 Mar 2026 No: Resolution No.58-26
 Moved By: Councillor Thomson Disposition: CARRIED.
 Seconded By: Councillor Tripp
 Item No: 13.1

Description: Canada Post Rate Reductions for Libraries - Motion brought forward by Councillor Thomson

RESOLUTION:

That Council support Resolution #2026-078 carried by the Council of the Township of Perry on February 18, 2026, calling upon the Government of Canada to maintain and protect reduced-rate postal distribution for library materials, and;

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Township of Perry, Minister of Government Transformation, Public Services and Procurement Joel Lightbound, MP Cheryl Gallant, MPP Billy Denault, and all Ontario Municipalities for support.

MAYOR

Recorded Vote Requested by:		
.....NA.....		
	Yea	Nay
J. Levesque	___	___
T. Popkie	___	___
L. Thomson	___	___
R. Tripp	___	___
R. Weir	___	___

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:
.....NA.....
Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote



**The Corporation of the
Township of Perry**

Box 70 1695 Emsdale Road Emsdale, Ontario P0A 1J0

Date: February 18, 2026

Resolution No.: 2026- 078

Moved By: Joe Lumley **Seconded By:** Paul Sowrey

Whereas public libraries play a vital role in ensuring equitable access to information, literacy, education, and culture for all residents;

And whereas interlibrary loan services are an essential component of public library operations, particularly for small and rural communities with limited local collections;

And whereas reduced postal rates for library materials have historically enabled libraries to share resources efficiently and affordably across Canada;

And whereas recent amendments to the Canada Post Corporation Act have removed the legislative requirement to provide reduced postal rates for library materials, creating uncertainty for the continued delivery of this essential service;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Perry calls upon the Government of Canada to maintain and protect reduced-rate postal distribution for library materials through legislation;

And that Council requests that the Minister responsible for Canada Post ensure continued, affordable postal access for libraries and interlibrary loan services;



The Corporation of the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan

March 23, 2026

Via Email: mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca

Rideau Lakes
1439 County Road 8
Delta, Ontario K0E 1G0

Dear Mayor Arie Hoogenboom:

Re: Resolution - Rideau Lakes Concerns re Alto High Speed Rail Project (Bill C-15 Budget)

Please be advised that the Council of the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan at its meeting on March 16th, 2026, passed the following resolution:

R67-2026

Moved by Councillor Terry Holmes
Seconded by Councillor Mark Allen

That Council hereby supports the letter to Senator from Rideau Lakes regarding concerns with the Alto High Speed Rail Project (Bill C-15 Budget), as attached.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to all parties listed on the original correspondence.

CARRIED.

Yours truly,
Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan

Liz Ross
Deputy Clerk

Cc: Prime Minister of Canada
MP Emma Harrison
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities

Email: deputy-clerk@osmtownship.ca Telephone: 705.295.6852 Facsimile 705.295.6405
P.O. Box 70 20 Third St Keene, ON K0L 2G0
Visit our website at www.osmtownship.ca or follow us on Twitter @OSMTownship



Rideau Lakes

1439 County Road 8, Delta, ON K0E 1G0
T. 613.928.2251 | 1.800.928.2250 | F. 613.928.3097
rideaulakes.ca

March 10, 2026

Dear Senator,

Re: Rideau Lakes Concerns re Alto High Speed Rail Project (Bill C-15 Budget)

We in Rideau Lakes Township are writing this letter because of major concerns about the Alto High Speed Rail Project (HSR), as well as a request to fully evaluate our concerns of Bill C-15 in relation to Alto HSR and expropriation of land.

The Alto HSR is lacking full and meaningful consultation of critical information for the early design and development phase. We recognize that having this information is important to the engineers in determining routes that minimize disruptions to the communities, residents, businesses, farmland, waterways, environment, and ecosystems that they pass through. What we have experienced is less than adequate information upon which to base our ability to conduct impact assessments involving our rural communities, agriculture, businesses, and countless heritage buildings and monuments. Alto's recently proposed Southern Ontario route included a 10 km wide corridor, and they provided high-level maps which are not useful in determining the impacts which more detailed route maps would give us and that are vital to our informed feedback. Without more information from Alto, this reduces our more local and valuable ability to provide critical information to Alto planners and engineers.

HSR will divide communities. There will be a major impact on our roadways for school buses, public transportation and emergency vehicles given the many closed roadways when fences are erected along the HSR route. This will increase mortality and morbidity as it will take longer to receive timely care. Farther to travel will also increase emissions and costs for plowing and road maintenance. Without more information from Alto, this reduces our local and valuable ability to provide critical information to Alto planners and engineers.

The Southern route would traverse the UNESCO recognized Frontenac Arch Biosphere Region, the ancestral lands of the Haudenosaunee (Kanien'kehá:ka) and Anishinaabeg (Algonquin); where a land bridge of the Canadian Shield connects the Algonquin and Laurentian Highlands to the Adirondack Mountains in the USA. Many animals use this migration route in both directions every year, and unless wildlife corridors are included in the ALTO plans, this would cut off their migration.

This does not begin to speak to the negative impact on tourism which is estimated in the order of \$30 million for the UNESCO Rideau Canal system from Ottawa to Kingston.

Another major concern is that the government proposes to grant Alto, as a Crown Corporation, the right to 3 methods of property expropriation! Until now the government itself held the right to a single method of property expropriation. This causes our residents varying degrees of stress ranging to mental anguish if their properties are affected and they will not get full current market value if they decided to sell. Under the new proposed legislation, they would be forced to sell to the Corporation! This is of particular concern to many potentially affected property owners who are in the business of farming and feeding our population.

Cost analysis to build the railway in the northern and southern routes has not been done. We have also been told that a route parallel to the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario is not viable. We do not have enough information to understand why this option is not viable.

Rideau Lakes Township is asking you, and your Senate colleagues, to undertake your considered review of our concerns that are being sent to you for First Reading. We hope that you will see that this portion of Bill-C15 (HSR and expropriation) is premature, given that there are many unanswered questions and important issues have not been adequately addressed in the information provided. There has been inadequate public consultation to move to the development stage of this generationally important Canadian transportation project affecting so many lives along whatever corridor may eventually be approved. Should the Senate determine that a delegation to a Senate committee be appropriate with a view to consolidating recommendations for changes that would go back to the House of Commons, we would be available to participate, of course upon invitation.

Thank you for your attention in this very important matter affecting all of us here and across Ontario! It would be very much appreciated if I could receive a response in order to brief my Council.

Yours respectfully,



Arie Hoogenboom
Mayor, Rideau Lakes Township
mayor@rideaulakes.ca
613-323-0901

Cc: Prime Minister of Canada
All Members of Parliament
All Provincial Cabinet Ministers
MPP Steve Clark
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities

Community Notice: Statutory Public Meeting

Town Official Plan Update

In accordance with the provisions of the *Planning Act*, this is to advise that a statutory public meeting has been scheduled by the Town of Milton's Development Services Department for an Official Plan update.

Meeting details

Members of the public are invited to attend to share their comments. You can attend the meeting online or in person.

Date: Monday, April 13, 2026

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers, Milton Town Hall, 150 Mary Street, Milton

A decision about the application will not be made by Milton Council at this meeting.

Application details

- The Town of Milton is undertaking a comprehensive review and update of the Official Plan. The new Plan presents the vision for long-term development and policies to achieve this vision. The Plan clearly facilitates growth to shape neighbourhoods, while being flexible to respond to future emerging opportunities.
- Through the proposed updates to the Official Plan, the Town will achieve conformity with Provincial policy direction and be responsive to updated growth trends.

View the [Report](#) to Council on or after Monday, April 7, 2026.

Get involved

The community is invited to attend and participate in the statutory public meeting. This meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting with members of the public having the opportunity to participate in-person at Town Hall or virtually. Currently, members of the public are encouraged to continue to view the meeting by watching the live stream. Should you wish to delegate to a Council meeting please complete the online [delegation form](#) by 12:00 noon on **Thursday, April 16, 2026**.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of Milton Council on the proposed official plan amendment, you must make a written request to the Town Clerk, 150 Mary St., Milton ON L9T 6Z5 or [by email](#). For a copy of the documents, contact the [Development Services Department](#).

The Town of Milton is dedicated to meeting the needs of all members of the public. For documents in an alternative format such as braille, large print, electronic or plain language, contact the [Town Clerk](#).

Contact

Any questions or concerns relating to this application, including information about appeal rights, contact [Gail Anderson](#), Senior Planner, Policy and Urban Planning.

Legal notices required under the *Planning Act*

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of Milton Council to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Milton before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to Milton Council before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

Personal information is collected under the authority of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P. 13 and may be contained in an appendix to a staff report, published in the meeting agenda, delegation list and/or the minutes of the public meeting and made part of the public record. The Town of Milton collects this information to make informed decisions on the relevant issues and to notify interested parties of Council's decisions. It may also be used to serve notice of Ontario Land Tribunal hearing. Names and addresses contained in submitted correspondence and other information will be available to the public, unless the individual expressly requests the Town to remove their personal information. The disclosure of this information is governed by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.M. 56. Questions about this collection and disclosure should be directed to the Planner listed above.

Jill Hogan, Commissioner
Town of Milton Development Services Department
150 Mary Street, Milton, Ontario L9T 6Z5

Date published: March 24, 2026

March 20, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
Via email: Pm@pm.gc.ca

The Honourable Marjorie Michel
Minister of Health
Via email: Marjorie.michel@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Via email: Premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health
Via email: Sylvia.Jones@ontario.ca

Dear Prime Minister Carney, Minister Michel, Premier Ford and Minister Jones:

Re: Food Insecurity Emergency Declaration

The following motion was passed by Council declaring food insecurity an emergency in our community. This declaration reflects our growing concern about the impact of food insecurity on the health and well-being of residents across Chatham-Kent.

In passing this motion, we have joined other cities in Ontario who have declared food insecurity an emergency and hope it will initiate collaborative action and policy development at the provincial and federal levels of government.

“Whereas food insecurity is defined as, the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints, a marker of material deprivation (poverty), and a serious public health problem because it increases the risk of non-communicable and infectious diseases, and premature death.

Whereas chronic stressors like disability, precarious work, and acute shocks like COVID-19, illness or eviction, make it more difficult to afford life’s basic needs and live free from poverty. Whereas income-based policies are necessary to effectively reduce household food insecurity, which Chatham-Kent Public Health reports is experienced by at least 1 in 5 households in Chatham-Kent. Whereas the income provided through provincial and federal programs has not kept up with rising costs of food, housing and other basic needs.

Cont’d...

Whereas Ontario Works rates have been frozen since 2018: the maximum single person monthly benefit for basic needs is \$343 and \$390 for shelter, totalling \$733 per month.

Whereas Chatham-Kent Public Health reports a single person on Ontario Works spends ~134% of their income on food and rent. Whereas the Municipality of Chatham-Kent provides programs and services that decrease the impacts of poverty and income inequality and provides participants with a better quality of life which can positively improve health and well-being.

Whereas the number of individuals using Chatham-Kent Outreach for Hunger has increased by ~38% from 2022 to 2024, from 2781 unique individuals in 2022, to 3752 unique individuals in 2024, with a ~51% increase in families with children.

Whereas the number of households using the food assistance program within the Village Pantry has increased by ~124%, from 76 unique households in 2022, to 170 unique households in 2024.

Whereas the number of meals served to under-housed people by Reach Out Chatham-Kent has increased by ~17% from 2022 to 2024, from 43,594 meals in 2022, to 51,313 meals 2024.

Whereas Hope Haven has already had 4000 more visits in 2025 compared to 2024.

Whereas poverty costs Ontario around \$27.1 – 33 billion dollars per year: justice system \$1.1 billion; health care \$3.9 billion; lost income \$19.4 – 25 billion; lost tax revenue \$2.7 – 3 billion.

Whereas the provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy's (Building a Strong Foundation for Success: Reducing Poverty in Ontario (2020-2025)) primary measure of success is that more social assistance recipients move into employment, despite people with employment income being one of the fastest growing groups at food banks.

Whereas the Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council's mission is to lead in the development of relevant policies and to advocate for our local food system, and values that all people should have physical and economic access to healthy, culturally diverse, local food.

Whereas the Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council's Strategic Plan for 2025-2027 highlights the need to advocate for government-level policies that impact food systems, and specifically, to advocate for income-based solutions to food insecurity to provide families with more agency in food choices.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Mayor and Council support the advocacy of the Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council by declaring food insecurity an emergency in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

Cont'd...

And that Mayor and Council request the Provincial Government focus its upcoming 2026-2030 Poverty Reduction Strategy around reducing measures of material deprivation, such as food insecurity.

And that Mayor and Council request the Provincial Government immediately raise social assistance rates to meet life's basic needs.

And that Mayor and Council request the Provincial and Federal Governments to address the causes of food insecurity by establishing a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income for those living in poverty.

And that Mayor and Council request the Provincial and Federal Governments to increase the rates of income support programs to ensure they are adequate to address the basic needs of individuals and families.

And that Mayor and Council request that the Provincial and Federal Governments include the reduction of food insecurity as a component of all appropriate government policies. And that a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Municipalities of Canada (FCM), Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), all Ontario Municipalities, all Members of Provincial Parliament and Parliament, The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, all federal party leaders, the Honourable M.P.P. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Minister of Health Sylvia Jones, and the Federal Minister of Health Marjorie Michel.”

Sincerely,



Darrin Canniff, Mayor/CEO
Municipality of Chatham-Kent

C: All Members of Provincial Parliament and Parliament
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA)
Federation of Municipalities of Canada (FCM) Association of
Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA)
Ontario Municipalities



CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

N0M 1S6

Phone: 519-235-0310 Fax: 519-235-3304

Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

www.southhuron.ca

March 24, 2026

Via email: trevor.jones@pc.ola.org

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness

11th Floor

77 Grenville Street

Toronto, ON M7A 1B3

Dear Hon. Trevor Jones,

Re: Ontario Veterinary College Enrollment Capacity

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their March 16, 2026, Regular Council Meeting:

126-2026

Moved By: Jim Dietrich

Seconded by: Wendy McLeod-Haggitt

That South Huron Council supports the February 26, 2026 correspondence of the Township of Papineau-Cameron regarding Ontario Veterinary College Enrollment Capacity; and

That this supporting resolution and the originating correspondence be circulated to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, Trevor Jones, the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Victor Fedeli, the Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, Nolan Quinn, Lisa Thompson, MPP, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, AMO, and all municipalities in Ontario.

Result: Carried

Please find attached the originating correspondence for your reference.

Respectfully,

Kendra Webster, Legislative & Licensing Coordinator

Municipality of South Huron

kwebster@southhuron.ca

519-235-0310 x. 232

Encl.

cc: Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Victor Fedeli, vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org; the Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, Nolan Quinn, nolan.quinn@pc.ola.org; MPP Lisa Thompson, lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org; Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, admin@cvma-acmv.org; AMO, resolutions@amo.on.ca; and all municipalities in Ontario.



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PAPINEAU-CAMERON

4861 Highway 17, P.O. Box 630, Mattawa ON P0H 1V0
Office: (705) 744-5610 • Fax: (705) 744-0434 • Garage: (705) 744-5072
E-mail: admin@papineaucameron.ca Website: www.papineaucameron.ca

February 26, 2026

The Ontario Veterinary College
50 Stone Road East
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1

RE: Ontario Veterinary College expansion of enrollment capacity

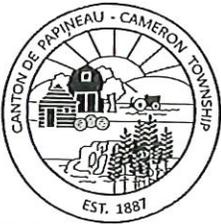
The Council of The Corporation of The Township of Papineau-Cameron met at their Regular Council Meeting on February 24, 2026 and passed the attached resolution 2026-50 that relates to the Ontario Veterinary College's enrollment capacity.

Yours truly,

Venessa Wilson
Administrative Assistant

Encl: Resolution 2026-50, Township of Papineau-Cameron

Cc: The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
The Honorable Victor Fedeli, MPP, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
The Honorable Trevor Jones, MPP, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
The Honorable Nolan Quinn, MPP, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PAPINEAU-CAMERON

4861 Highway 17, P.O. Box 630, Mattawa ON P0H 1V0
 Office: (705) 744-5610 • Fax: (705) 744-0434 • Garage: (705) 744-5072
 Website: www.papineaucameron.ca

DATE: February 24, 2026 **RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 2026-50

MOVED BY: *Shelley Belanger* **SECONDED BY:** *M Chenier*

WHEREAS large animal livestock owners in Northern Ontario have extremely limited access to large animal veterinary services;

AND WHEREAS the cost of large animal veterinary services in Northern Ontario is significantly higher due to long travel distances and the limited number of large animal veterinarians available to service the region;

AND WHEREAS it has come to the attention of the Council of Papineau-Cameron Township that three qualified individuals within our community have applied to the Ontario Veterinary College for large animal veterinary, but were denied admission due to limited enrollment capacity;

THAT the Council of Papineau-Cameron Township formally requests that the Ontario Veterinary College, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association consider expanding enrollment capacity at the Ontario Veterinary College to allow more qualified applicants to pursue certification as large animal veterinarians.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Veterinary College, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the Hon. Victor Fedeli MPP Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, the Hon. Trevor Jones MPP Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Hon. Nolan Quinn MPP Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and Ontario Municipalities for their consideration and support.

CARRIED: *Robert Corriveau*
 (Mayor)

NOT CARRIED: _____
 (Mayor)

Recorded Vote (Upon Request of Councillor _____) Section 246 (1) Municipal Act

RECORDED DIVISION VOTE	YES Signature	NO Signature	ABSTAIN Signature
Mayor Robert Corriveau			
Deputy Mayor Shelley Belanger			
Councillor Keith Dillabough			
Councillor Jason Bélanger			
Councillor Mélanie Chenier			

COPY



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Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

www.southhuron.ca

March 24, 2026

Via email: stan.cho@pc.ola.org

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming

6th Floor

438 University Ave.

Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Dear Hon. Stan Cho,

Re: Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their March 16, 2026 Regular Council Meeting:

125-2026

Moved By: Aaron Neeb

Seconded by: Ted Oke

That South Huron Council supports the February 17, 2026 correspondence of the Township of McNab/Braeside regarding Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy; and

That this supporting resolution and the originating correspondence be circulated to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, Stan Cho, Lisa Thompson, MPP, AMO, and all municipalities in Ontario.

Result: Carried

Please find attached the originating correspondence for your reference.

Respectfully,

Kendra Webster, Legislative & Licensing Coordinator

Municipality of South Huron

kwebster@southhuron.ca

519-235-0310 x. 232

Encl.

cc: MPP Lisa Thompson, lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org; AMO, resolutions@amo.on.ca ; and all municipalities in Ontario.



TOWNSHIP OF
McNab/Braeside

Regular Council Meeting Resolution Form

Date: February 17, 2026 No: RESOLUTION - 56-2026
 Moved by Councillor Kevin Rosien Disposition: CARRIED
 Seconded by Deputy Mayor Scott Brum Item No: 14.2

Description: Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS Ontario municipalities are legislated to preserve records of enduring and historical value, and community archives play a critical role in fulfilling this responsibility, particularly in rural and smaller municipalities; and

WHEREAS The Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) is the only provincial operating grant available to grassroots, non-profit heritage organizations, including community archives and historical societies across Ontario; and

WHEREAS The maximum annual HODG grant of \$1,545 per organization has remained effectively unchanged for more than 15 years, resulting in a significant erosion of its real value due to inflation, such that its current purchasing power is approximately two-thirds of what it was in 2010; and

WHEREAS Rising operating costs related to insurance, utilities, records preservation, digitization, accessibility, and volunteer coordination have increased financial pressure on heritage organizations, often requiring municipalities to absorb additional costs to ensure continuity of service; and

WHEREAS Strengthening HODG would represent a modest but high-impact provincial investment that would help stabilize community archives, reduce pressure on municipal budgets, and safeguard Ontario's public records and local heritage for future generations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council formally support a review and modernization of the Heritage Organization Development Grant, including restoring its real purchasing power through inflationary adjustment and exploring options for increased or multi-year operating stability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT This resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, local Members of Provincial Parliament, AMO, and Ontario municipalities for consideration and support.

MAYOR

Recorded Vote Requested by:	_____	
	Yea	Nay
Mayor Lori Hoddinott	_____	_____
Deputy Mayor Scott Brum	_____	_____
Councillor Kevin Rosien	_____	_____
Councillor Robert Campbell	_____	_____
Councillor Jill Campbell	_____	_____

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: _____
 Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s),
 abstained from discussion and did not vote

Community Notice: Statutory Public Meeting

Town Official Plan Update

In accordance with the provisions of the *Planning Act*, this is to advise that a statutory public meeting has been scheduled by the Town of Milton's Development Services Department for an Official Plan update.

Meeting details

Members of the public are invited to attend to share their comments. You can attend the meeting online or in person.

Date: Monday, April 13, 2026

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers, Milton Town Hall, 150 Mary Street, Milton

A decision about the application will not be made by Milton Council at this meeting.

Application details

- The Town of Milton is undertaking a comprehensive review and update of the Official Plan. The new Plan presents the vision for long-term development and policies to achieve this vision. The Plan clearly facilitates growth to shape neighbourhoods, while being flexible to respond to future emerging opportunities.
- Through the proposed updates to the Official Plan, the Town will achieve conformity with Provincial policy direction and be responsive to updated growth trends.

View the [Report](#) to Council on or after Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

Get involved

The community is invited to attend and participate in the statutory public meeting. This meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting with members of the public having the opportunity to participate in-person at Town Hall or virtually. Currently, members of the public are encouraged to continue to view the meeting by watching the live stream. Should you wish to delegate to a Council meeting please complete the online [delegation form](#) by 12:00 noon on **Thursday, April 9, 2026**.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of Milton Council on the proposed official plan amendment, you must make a written request to the Town Clerk, 150 Mary St., Milton ON L9T 6Z5 or [by email](#). For a copy of the documents, contact the [Development Services Department](#).

The Town of Milton is dedicated to meeting the needs of all members of the public. For documents in an alternative format such as braille, large print, electronic or plain language, contact the [Town Clerk](#).

Contact

Any questions or concerns relating to this application, including information about appeal rights, contact [Gail Anderson](#), Senior Planner, Policy and Urban Planning.

Legal notices required under the *Planning Act*

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of Milton Council to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Milton before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to Milton Council before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

Personal information is collected under the authority of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P. 13 and may be contained in an appendix to a staff report, published in the meeting agenda, delegation list and/or the minutes of the public meeting and made part of the public record. The Town of Milton collects this information to make informed decisions on the relevant issues and to notify interested parties of Council's decisions. It may also be used to serve notice of Ontario Land Tribunal hearing. Names and addresses contained in submitted correspondence and other information will be available to the public, unless the individual expressly requests the Town to remove their personal information. The disclosure of this information is governed by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.M. 56. Questions about this collection and disclosure should be directed to the Planner listed above.

Jill Hogan, Commissioner
Town of Milton Development Services Department
150 Mary Street, Milton, Ontario L9T 6Z5

Date published: March 24, 2026

March 23, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL

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

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
minister.fin@ontario.ca

The Honourable Graham McGregor, MPP
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
graham.mcgregor@pc.ola.org

RE: Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Proposal to include \$10M per year in the 2026 provincial budget for Heritage Helping Housing (HHH) grant funding

At the March 23, 2026, Regular Council meeting for the Town of Saugeen Shores, the attached motion was passed endorsing the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Proposal to include \$10M per year in the 2026 provincial budget for Heritage Helping Housing (HHH) grant funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hailey Leigh-Mossley".

Hailey Leigh-Mossley
Deputy Clerk
Encl.

cc. MPP Lisa Thompson
All Ontario Municipalities

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF SAUGEEN SHORES

MOVED BY: C. Grace

RESOLUTION NO: 096-2026

SECONDED BY: M. Myatt

DATE: March 23, 2026

Whereas older buildings have inherent sustainability and provide economic, environmental and social benefits for Ontario communities; and,

Whereas re-use of existing buildings reduces the need for increased infrastructure that accompanies new builds such as sewer and water services, new roads and sidewalks; and,

Whereas re-use of existing building can reduce construction waste and extend the life expectancy of landfills; and,

Whereas keeping older buildings helps a community remain visually richer and enhances identity while building its tourism brand and appeal; and,

Whereas creating a new, application-based, matching grant program of \$10M/year, modelled on an existing Alberta program would incentivize owners and smaller developers to keep, fix and reuse heritage buildings to create new housing; and,

Whereas such a grant program would provide an alternative to the Ontario heritage property tax relief program, which has limited impact on developers and reduces municipal revenues; and,

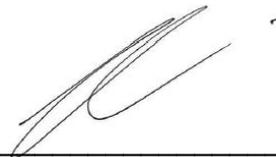
Whereas such a grant program would provide a simpler and more direct way for heritage building owners to fund renovations or conservation; and,

Whereas Ontario developers surveyed by the National Trust for Canada in 2014 ranked a heritage-revolving fund as their top incentive to encourage heritage development if:

- the grants are simple to apply for and to administer; and,
- the fund is large enough to meet at least 33% of the demand so that applicants have a reasonable chance of recovering the cost and effort of applying.

Therefore, be it Resolved That the Council of the Town of Saugeen Shores endorse the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Proposal to include \$10M per year in the 2026 provincial budget for Heritage Helping Housing (HHH) grant funding, and that this resolution be sent to the Premier, Minister of Finance, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, and MPP Lisa Thompson, and be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario.

- Carried
- Carried, as amended
- Defeated
- Deferred
- Referred
- Tabled
- Withdrawn



Mayor



Sent Via Email

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto ON, M7A 1A1.

**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**

Corporate Services
Department –
Legislative Services
Division

605 Rossland Rd. E.
Level 1
PO Box 623
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3
Canada

905-668-7711
1-800-372-1102

durham.ca

**Alexander Harras
M.P.A.
Director of
Legislative Services
& Regional Clerk**

Dear Premier Ford:

RE: Correspondence from Mike Bradley, Mayor, City of Sarnia to The Premier of Ontario regarding Requesting the Province to consider giving municipal councils more authority to adjust Police Service Budget Proposals to reduce Municipal Financial Vulnerability, Our File: A00

Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on March 25, 2026, adopted the following resolution:

That Council Correspondence CC 08 from Mike Bradley, Mayor, City of Sarnia to The Premier of Ontario regarding requesting the province to consider giving municipal councils more authority to adjust police service budget proposals to reduce municipal financial vulnerability be received for information and endorsed.

Please find enclosed a copy of the Correspondence for your information.

Alexander Harras

Alexander Harras, M.P.A.
Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk
AH/nb

c: Hon. Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General
Hon. R. Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. P. Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Heads of Council for Municipalities across Ontario
B. Bailey, MPP Sarnia-Lambton
E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
N. Pincombe, Commissioner of Finance
A. Burgess, Director, Communication and Engagement

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact Legislative Services at clerks@durham.ca or at 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	February 26, 2026 9:29 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

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

February 19, 2026

Re: Mayoral Authority and Municipal Police Budget Sustainability

Dear Premier Ford,

I am writing to express concern regarding the province's current position that limits a mayor and council's ability to meaningfully reduce or amend police service budget proposals once they have advanced through local police governance structures.

Municipal leaders across Ontario are operating within an increasingly constrained fiscal environment. Escalating administrative costs, combined with sustained growth in police budgets, are placing significant pressure on municipal finances. Without the tools to influence or moderate these expenditures, municipalities are left financially vulnerable, undermining long-term stability and responsible budget planning.

Mayors and members of council are accountable to residents for overall municipal fiscal health. However, under the province's current interpretation, they lack sufficient authority to address one of the fastest-growing areas of local spending. This creates a clear imbalance in accountability, where elected leadership bears responsibility for budget outcomes without the ability to manage risk, respond to local conditions, or ensure alignment with broader municipal priorities.

You have recently noted that education costs have become unsustainable, and the Minister of Finance has expressed similar concerns regarding health care expenditures. Policing costs present the same challenge, with the added constraint that mayors are now unable to intervene. This limits a municipality's capacity to balance competing service demands, invest in preventative and social supports, and respond flexibly to emerging community priorities, including housing. Over time, this approach risks crowding out essential services and capital projects while placing increased pressure on taxpayers.

In Sarnia, veto authority was used for the first time, and only with respect to capital funding. The operational police budget, which has increased by 40% over the past four years, was left untouched. The mayoral veto removed a proposed \$5 million capital item that would have committed the municipality to a long-term financial obligation estimated to reach \$120 million. Allowing such exposure without intervention would have been fiscally irresponsible and inconsistent with the principles of responsible municipal governance. The existing building was reported to be suitable for upgrades and maintenance at a cost of approximately \$5 million; however, the Sarnia Police Board and Chief have insisted that the Cadillac of all buildings is required. Proceeding with this option would saddle the taxpayers with substantial long-term debt and sustained tax increases for decades to come.

After 21 years of carrying municipal debt, the City of Sarnia has just recently achieved the distinction of being one of the few debt-free cities in Ontario. Under the current framework, renewed debt will become unavoidable, with financial impacts extending to future generations.

While this issue may not yet have arisen in every municipality responsible for funding and overseeing its own police service, the experience in Sarnia illustrates a challenge that other mayors may reasonably face in future budget years. As policing and capital costs continue to escalate, circumstances will emerge where elected municipal leaders are required to intervene to protect long-term fiscal sustainability. This is a critical issue that warrants careful reconsideration. I have therefore copied Heads of Council for municipalities across Ontario to unite in encouraging an approach that better aligns accountability with decision-making and supports more sustainable municipal governance across Ontario.

Given the practical implications for municipal budget deliberations and fiscal planning, I believe this matter should be addressed in advance of the next municipal council taking office. I respectfully urge the province to engage with municipalities on this issue and to explore legislative or policy adjustments that would provide local elected leaders with the tools necessary to manage fiscal pressures responsibly, transparently, and in the best interests of their communities.

I appreciate your attention to this issue and look forward to the province's consideration of next steps.

Sincerely,



Mike Bradley
Mayor, City of Sarnia

Cc: The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General
The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Heads of council for municipalities across Ontario
Bob Bailey, MPP for Sarnia-Lambton
Sarnia City Council

Encl.: [CBC News February 18, 2026 - Province tells Ontario mayors they can't use 'strong powers' on police budgets | CBC News](#)

[CTV News February 18, 2026 - Sarnia Police Board weighing options in efforts to build new headquarters](#)

London

Province tells Ontario mayors they can't use 'strong powers' on police budgets

Finance expert says province needs to review fiscal relationship with municipalities to keep up with costs

Isha Bhargava - CBC News - Posted: Feb 18, 2026 5:00 AM EST | Last Updated: February 18



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Estimated 5 minutes



A file photo of a police officer walking in downtown Hamilton, Ont. (Bobby Hristova/CBC)

The Ontario government is reminding municipal leaders that they cannot use their provincially granted "strong mayor powers" to challenge or limit police budgets.

This comes two months after Sarnia's mayor vetoed his city's police budget request of \$5 million for a new police headquarters, in what's led to an ongoing battle over the city's police funding.

In a letter sent to mayors and police board chairs in January, the province reiterated that municipalities are required to provide police boards with "sufficient funding" to comply with the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA).

"The Head of Council's strong mayor budget powers do not include the power to limit police service board budget increases or veto estimates submitted by police service boards," Solicitor General Michael Kerzner and Municipal Affairs Minister Rob Flack wrote in their Jan. 12 letter.

"Although municipalities are not required to adopt the board's estimates as submitted, they cannot approve or reject specific line items within the estimates."

- **Less than half of 'strong mayors' were using powers before Ontario expanded system: reports**

Municipal budgets include estimates of amounts required during the year and includes various boards, the letter explains. A police service board must submit their operating and capital costs to municipalities, which then establish the service's overall budget.

Premier Doug Ford's government created the strong mayor system in 2022 and it now applies to 216 mayors. The powers give the leaders control over appointments, the ability to hire and fire most city staff, vetoes over some council votes and the ability to pass some bylaws with support of only a third of council support.

'We can't chop public safety' says Premier

When asked by CBC about the issue of strong mayor powers relating to police budgets on Tuesday, Ford said investments in public safety need to be a top priority.

"We can't chop safety and protecting communities," Ford told reporters. "We need to make sure our priority is keeping our community safe because right now people don't feel safe. So we have to continue investing in our police, give them the tools they need to keep our community safe."

Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley disagrees arguing the legislation prevents municipalities from balancing the needs of police and taxpayers. He said Sarnia police has received a 45 per cent operational increase over the last four years, and he only vetoed one capital spending item which the city cannot afford this year.



Sarnia's Mayor Mike Bradley says police budget increases in recent years have led to spending cuts in other city projects. (Facebook)

"The province has just wiped out our ability to control spending in our own communities. In most cases [police budgets] run from 30 to 40 per cent of the

municipal budget, so what the Ford government is saying is that councils and mayors cannot touch it," he said.

"So the message is, police boards who are unaccountable, can now just set the budget and the taxpayers have to pay. That's a pretty shocking statement from Queens Park."

Bradley argues he has supported increasing police budgets for frontline services, which have been substantial over the years and have led the city to cut back on spending for other projects.

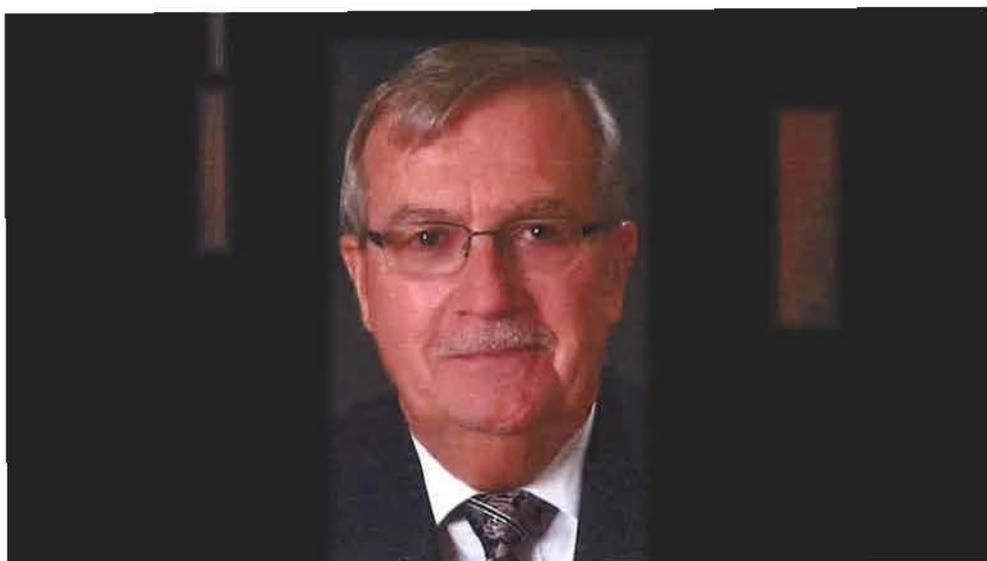
In its letter, the province clarifies that there are dispute resolution mechanisms under the CPSA, namely arbitration, when a council disagrees with a police board's budget request.

Municipalities limited in challenging police budgets

However, proving a case against the police can be difficult for municipal councils who don't often have the capacity or technical knowledge to offer a challenge, said Nigel Bellchamber, a London, Ont., consultant specializing in municipal finances.

"It's a high bar that the municipality has to meet in order to succeed in an arbitration," he said, noting that municipalities are tasked with funding a variety of services whose costs outpace inflation.

"As a result, there are some significant challenges and tough decisions being made as to prioritizing capital expenditures in municipal budgets. So councils and municipal staff, whether you're in a strong mayor situation or not, they're all caught in a very difficult situation."



Nigel Bellchamber is a consultant in London, Ont., who specializes in municipal finances (Nigel Bellchamber/LinkedIn)

Bellchamber said the provincial and municipal fiscal relationship hasn't been properly reviewed in about 25 years and it needs to be revisited to respond to changing economic demands.

London's Mayor Josh Morgan agrees. His council approved a historic \$672-million investment in police spending during the last four-year budget, and while he's satisfied with the results of crime trending lower in the city, ballooning police budgets are a concern for municipalities, he said.

"Obviously when the largest portion of your budget is increasing by a fair amount, that's concerning in multiple ways," said Morgan.

"It's difficult for a municipality to shoulder all of the necessary investments in public safety that we need to make with all of the other things that we're obligated to do, and with the revenue streams we have available to us."

Morgan said it's important for municipalities to partner with provincial and federal governments to seek "broad-based, stable multi-year support for public safety funding."

In London's case, Morgan notes the police returned more than \$2.3 million to city coffers in the budget's first two years.

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Questions of 'strong mayor' veto powers remain after province attempts to clarify police budgets

By [Bryan Bicknell](#)

Published: February 18, 2026 at 5:14PM EST



The provincial government says municipalities can't use strong mayor powers to limit police budgets. CTV's Bryan Bicknell visits local reaction.

The chair of the Sarnia Police Service Board says the board is still weighing options in its bid to build a new police headquarters.

The comments follow a letter from Ontario's Solicitor General to municipalities that mayors cannot use so-called strong mayor powers to challenge police budgets.

"We sent the letter to council requesting that the veto to be vetoed, basically, and that the five million [dollars] be added back into the budget," explained Board Chair Kelly Ash. "We are re-evaluating, looking to see what we can get accomplished with the funds that we do have, while still hoping that council does deliberate over the \$5 million so that we can get started."



Sarnia Police Board Chair Kelly Ash speaks to CTV News via Zoom on Feb. 16, 2025. (Bryon Ireland/CTV News London)

Late last year Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley vetoed the city's police budget request of \$5 million to begin work on a new police headquarters. Bradley insists he's not about to re-open the city budget.

"This idea that police boards now, without any accountability, they're not elected and they don't report to the public and you can't remove them, will now be able to say to any town, 'This is how much money we want each year, and govern yourself accordingly. You're going to have to find money or kill other projects that are really important to your community because we're number one,'" he said.

In London, the police budget has also been a sensitive item.



London City Mayor Josh Morgan speaks to CTV News on Feb. 5, 2026. (Bryon Ireland/CTV News London)

The most recent police budget passed two years ago in the city's four-year budget cycle increased police spending by \$672 million.

The London Police Service has since returned \$2.3 million in a bid to keep municipal property taxes at bay, explains London Mayor Josh Morgan.

"It's a pretty high bar to set for a municipality to not supply the budget, which is why my approach has been to work closely with the police board as a member of the board. And this board has returned dollars for the past two years," Morgan said.

Introduced in 2022 for Ontario's largest urban centres, strong mayor powers were expanded last year to include all 216 Ontario mayors. At least one legal opinion suggests this was when questions of interpretation began to arise.



London (Oni) (Gerrit) Sam Trosow speaks to CTV News in Feb. 18, 2024. (By-wm B. Inell/CTV News London)

London Coun. Sam Trosow is a retired Western University law professor. He believes the strong mayor legislation was rushed.

"I think if it was the intention of the legislature to categorically exempt police services matters from the act they would have or they should have said so. And they probably rushed this through so quickly, maybe they didn't even bother to think about it," he explained.

"But I think that the mayor of Sarnia is within his rights to challenge this part of the budget," Trosow said.



Sarnia Mayor Mike Ridd speaks to CTV News via Zoom on Feb. 18, 2024. (By-wm B. Inell/CTV News London)

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