



Revised Agenda - Essex County Council, Regular Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025
Time: Closed Meeting: 3:00PM - Special Meeting: 5:00PM - Regular Meeting 6:00PM
Location: Council Chambers, 2nd Floor
360 Fairview Avenue West
Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6
<https://video.isilive.ca/countyofessex/live.html>

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request. Contact Clerk's Office, clerks@countyofessex.ca, 519-776-6441 extension 1353

Pages

***1. Closed Meeting**

A Closed Meeting has been scheduled for 3:00PM

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That Essex County Council move into a Closed Meeting Pursuant to Section 239 (2) (b), (d) (f) and (k) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended for the following reasons:

- A Delegation from the Vokes Leadership Group, under Open Meetings Exception 239 (2)(d) labour relations or employee negotiations;
- Report number 2025-0115-LLS-R04-DMS, under Open Meetings Exception 239(2) (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; (k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board.
- Report number 2025-0115-CAO-R01-SZ, under Open Meetings Exception 239(2) (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That Essex County Council adjourn and rise from the Closed Meeting of Essex County Council for January 15, 2025 at [Time] PM.

2. Moment of Reflection

3. Singing of 'O Canada'

4. Land Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge the land on which the County of Essex is located is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, Odawa and Potawatomie Peoples.

We specifically recognize Caldwell First Nation and other First Nations which have provided significant historical and contemporary contributions to this region.

We also value the contributions of all Original Peoples of Turtle Island, who have been living and working on this land from time immemorial.

5. Recording of Attendance

6. County Warden's Welcome and Remarks

7. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

8. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

10

Minutes of the Meeting of Essex County Council, dated December 4, 2024

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That the minutes of the December 4, 2024 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

(Vote by show of hands)

9. Delegations and Presentations

***9.1 Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital**

Kevin Matte, Director of Outpatient Mental Health Services to make a presentation regarding County Intensive Supportive Housing Program

***9.2 Family Services Windsor Essex**

Bryan Rock, Manager, Community Programs and Ciara Holmes, Acting Executive Director, to make a presentation regarding County Intensive Supportive Housing Program

***9.3 South Essex Community Council**

Tim Friesen and Carolyn Warkentin, Executive Director to make a presentation regarding County Intensive Supportive Housing Program

10. Communications

10.1 Correspondence

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for January 15, 2025, be received and any noted action approved.

(Vote by show of hands)

- | | | |
|---------------|--|----|
| 10.1.1 | Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Letter dated December 12, 2024 RE the proposed
Municipal Accountability Act, 2024 | 26 |
| 10.1.2 | Western Ontario Wardens Caucus (WOWC)
<u>November 2024 Newsletter</u>

<u>December 2024 Newsletter</u> | |
| 10.1.3 | Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island (TWEPI)
<u>W.E. Keep You Informed: Happy Holidays!</u>

<u>W.E. Keep You Informed: Thank You For Celebrating
With Us! PLUS Visitor Guide Sales, Marketing
Opportunities, We're Hiring & MORE!</u> | |
| 10.1.4 | Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AMO <u>Watchfile Newsletter</u>• AMO <u>Policy Updates</u>• AMO <u>Calendar</u> | |
| 10.1.5 | Municipal Engineers Association (MEA)
Letter from MEA announcing the new Board of
Directors for the 2024-2025 term | 28 |

10.1.6	Windsor Essex Chamber of Commerce (WERCC) <u>December 2024 Newsletter</u> <u>WERCC announces New President and Chief Executive Officer</u>	
10.1.7	Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) <u>Making Waves Newsletter</u>	
10.1.8	Windsor Regional Hospital (WRH) Statement from WRH: • RFP Issued for Construction Manager to complete New Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital's First Phase, Including Key Infrastructure and Facilities (Attached) • <u>Ahead of schedule – proposals sought for Phase 1 of Windsor’s New Acute Care Hospital – Windsor Star</u> • <u>Windsor’s Acute Care Hospital Project Ahead of Schedule - CTV</u>	30
10.1.9	Enable Municipalities to Charge Fees for use of Municipal Property by Gas Utilities • City of Guelph • City of Stratford	31
10.1.10	Ontario Deposit Return Program • Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury • City of Stratford	34
10.1.11	Solving the Crisis (Homelessness, Mental Health and Addiction) • City of Stratford • City of Waterloo	36
10.1.12	Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island (TWEPI) <u>W.E. Keep You Informed: Secure Your Space in our 2025 Official Visitor Guide, Kitchener Food & Wine Show Exhibit Opportunity & More</u>	

***10.1.13 ProsperUs**

40

January 14, 2025 - ProsperUs Ontario Budget
Considerations 2025

10.2 Resolutions

There are no resolutions for consideration for January 15, 2025

11. Consent Agenda

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That the recommendation in the Administrative Report listed as item
11.1 on the Consent Agenda for January 15, 2025, be approved.

(Vote electronically)

11.1 Summary of Outstanding Reports for January 15, 2025

42

Report number 2025-0115-LLS-R02-KH, Summary of
Outstanding Reports for January 15, 2025

12. Reports and Questions

12.1 Tri-Party Emergency Response Services Agreement

47

Report number 2025-0115-LLS-R03-DMS, Tri-Party Emergency
Response Services Agreement, dated January 15, 2025 from
David Sundin, Director, Legislative and Legal Services/County
Solicitor

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That Essex County Council receive Report Number 2025-0115-
LLS-R03-DMS – Tri-Party Emergency Response Services
Agreement and authorize the Clerk and the Warden to execute
the Tri-Party Emergency Response Services Agreement.

(Vote Electronically)

- 12.2

County of Essex Delegation at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference

Report number 2025-0115-CAO-R01-SZ County of Essex Delegation at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference, dated January 15, 2025, from Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That Essex County Council receive report number 2025-0115-CAO-R01-SZ, ROMA Delegation as information.

(Vote electronically)

51
- 12.3

Canada Community Building Fund Surplus Allocations 2024

Report number 2025-0115-FIN-R01-MR, Canada Community Building Fund Surplus Allocations 2024, dated January 15, 2025, from Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That Essex County Council approve report number 2025-0115-FIN-R01-MR, CCBF Surplus Allocations 2024 and direct administration to distribute the surplus funds as outlined in Appendix A and authorize By-Law 2025-01 to redistribute administrative surplus funds received through the Canada Community Building Fund.

(Vote electronically)

56
- 12.4

'Contact Council' Email Distribution Group

Report number 2025-0115-LLS-R01-KH DL, 'Contact Council' Email Distribution Group, dated January 15, 2025 from Katherine Hebert, County Clerk and Darrel Laurendeau, Director, Information Technology Services

60

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That Essex County Council receive report number 2025-0115-LLS-R01-KHDL Contact Council Email Distribution Group as information and direct administration to implement the option of their choice.

(Vote electronically)

***12.5 County Intensive Supportive Housing Program**

69

Report number 2025-0115-LLS-R05-DMS, County Intensive Supportive Housing Program, dated January 15, 2025, from David Sundin, Director, Legislative and Legal Services/County Solicitor

(Report amended to include supplementary information.)

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That Essex County Council receive Report Number 2025-0115-LLS-R05 DMS – County Intensive Supportive Housing Program as information; and,

That direction be given to Administration as follows: ***(Whether or not to continue operation of an Intensive Supportive Housing Program in the County by adopting 1 of the following 2 resolutions)***

1) Essex County Council direct Administration to commence a formal procurement process with respect to an Intensive Supportive Housing Program in the County, report back to Council regarding the outcome of same and for further direction, and continue operating the existing County Intensive Supportive Housing Program in the meantime;

or

2) Essex County Council direct Administration to wind up the existing Intensive Supportive Housing Program in the County, and to take such steps and expend such monies as are necessary for same.

(Vote electronically)

13. Unfinished Business

There are no matters of unfinished business for January 15, 2025

14. New Business

14.1 Public Reporting of Closed Meeting

15. Adoption of By-Laws

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That By-laws 2025-01 and 2025-03, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

(Vote electronically)

15.1 By-law Number 2025-01

77

Being a By-law to amend By-law Number 34-2024, authorizing the allocation of Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) funds to the Lower Tier municipalities in the County of Essex, being the Towns of Amherstburg, Essex, Kingsville, LaSalle, and Tecumseh, and the Municipalities of Lakeshore and Leamington, in accordance with Section 5.3 of the Municipal Funding Agreement with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF)

15.2 By-law Number 2025-03

80

Being a By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex for the Special, Regular and Closed Meetings held January 15, 2025.

16. Notice of Motion

17. Adjournment

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That the Essex County Council meeting for January 15, 2025 be adjourned at [time] PM.

(Vote by show of hands)



Essex County Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

360 Fairview Avenue West

Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6

<https://video.isilive.ca/countyofessex/live.html>

- Council:
- Michael Akpata, Deputy Mayor, Town of LaSalle
 - Joe Bachetti, Deputy Warden / Deputy Mayor, Town of Tecumseh
 - Tracey Bailey, Mayor, Municipality of Lakeshore
 - Sherry Bondy, Mayor, Town of Essex
 - Kimberly DeYong, Deputy Mayor, Town of Kingsville
 - Chris Gibb, Deputy Mayor, Town of Amherstburg
 - Hilda MacDonald, Warden / Mayor, Municipality of Leamington
 - Gary McNamara, Mayor, Town of Tecumseh
 - Crystal Meloche, Mayor, Town of LaSalle
 - Michael Prue, Mayor, Town of Amherstburg
 - Dennis Rogers, Mayor, Town of Kingsville
 - Rob Shepley, Deputy Mayor, Town of Essex
 - Larry Verbeke, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Leamington
 - Kirk Walstedt, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Lakeshore
- Administration:
- Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services
 - Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator, Sun Parlor Home
 - Katherine Hebert, County Clerk
 - Justin Lammers, Chief, Essex-Windsor EMS
 - Darrel Laurendeau, Director, Information Technology
 - Don McArthur, Manager, Communication and Organizational Development
 - Kyla Pritiko, Director, Human Resources
 - Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer
 - David Sundin, Director, Legislative and Legal Services
 - Crystal Sylvestre, Coordinator, Legislative and Community Services
 - Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer
 - Michelle Bishop, General Manager, EWSWA

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Dee Blais, Executive Assistant to the CAO
Steffan Brisebois, Manager of Finance and Administration
Heidi McLeod, CMA, CA, Manager of Accounting/Deputy
Treasurer

1. Closed Meeting

A Closed Meeting was held at 4:00 PM on December 4, 2024.

352-2024

Moved By Rob Shepley

Seconded By Chris Gibb

That Essex County Council move into a Closed Meeting pursuant to Section 239 (2) (c), (d), (f) and (k) of the Municipal Act, 2001, to consider the following matters:

1. A Delegation from the Vokes Leadership Group under Open Meetings Exception 239(2)(d) labour relations and employee negotiations;
2. Report number 2024-1204-LCS-R42-DMS under Open Meetings Exception 239(2)(f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
3. Report number 2024-1204-LCS-R45-DMS under Open Meetings Exceptions Section 239 (2):
 - (c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;
 - (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; and
 - (k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board. 2001, c. 25, s. 239 (2); 2017, c. 10, Sched. 1, s. 26.; and
4. Report number 2024-1204-HR-R03-KP, under Open Meetings Exception 239(2)(d) labour relations and employee negotiations.

(Voted by show of hands)

Carried

359-2024

Moved By Chris Gibb

Seconded By Michael Prue

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That Essex County Council adjourn, and rise from the December 4, 2024
Closed Meeting at 4:41 PM

(Voted by show of hands)

Carried

2. Moment of Reflection

3. Singing of 'O Canada'

4. Land Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge the land on which the County of Essex is located is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, Odawa and Potawatomie Peoples.

We specifically recognize Caldwell First Nation and other First Nations which have provided significant historical and contemporary contributions to this region.

We also value the contributions of all Original Peoples of Turtle Island, who have been living and working on this land from time immemorial.

5. Recording of Attendance

Warden MacDonald and members of Council attended the meeting at the County of Essex Administration Building, Council Chambers.

6. County Warden's Welcome and Remarks

Warden MacDonald expressed gratitude to all members of the community that are working and volunteering to brighten the holiday season across Essex County. The Warden commended County of Essex staff for their efforts to support charities and participate in local parades and community events.

7. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

7.1. Michael Akpata, OPP Annual Billing Statement Increase

I'm the OIC of Campus Police at the University of Windsor. I have obligations to the Windsor Police Service Board, as well under the CSPA.

7.2. Michael Akpata, Next Generation 911 and Contracting for PSAP Services

I'm the OIC of Campus Police at the University of Windsor. I have obligations to the Windsor Police Service Board, as well under the CSPA.

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7.3. Michael Akpata, By-law Number 2024-55

I'm the OIC of Campus Police at the University of Windsor. I have obligations to the Windsor Police Service Board, as well under the CSPA.

8. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

360-2024

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Chris Gibb

That the minutes of the November 20, 2024, meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

(Voted by show of hands)

Carried

9. Delegations and Presentations

361-2024

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That Michelle Bishop, General Manager, and Steffan Brisebois, Manager, Finance and Administration, Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority, be permitted to make a presentation to County Council, regarding the 2025 EWSWA Budget.

(Voted by show of hands)

Carried

9.1. Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority

Michelle Bishop, General Manager, and Steffan Brisebois, Manager, Finance and Administration, Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority, provided a presentation to County Council regarding the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority 2025 Budget

Michelle Bishop outlined the purpose and approval process for the EWSWA budget noting that the budget must be approved by both the City of Windsor and County of Essex Councils.

The proposed budget included a 4.1% increase in municipal assessments, amounting to \$615,410, and a Green Bin Program budget of \$3,743,400, which supported the program's launch in fall 2025. Municipal waste tonnage was projected to decrease due to

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the new program, with the associated cost reductions partially offsetting the budget increase.

Michelle highlighted that the EWSWA Board approved the 2025 Operational Plan and Budget on November 5, 2024. The plan included incremental increases in municipal waste management fees, aligned with the Authority's long-term objective of achieving a balanced budget by 2027. The Green Bin Program would operate on a full cost-recovery model to ensure sustainable funding for expanded services.

Kirk Walstedt, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Lakeshore left the meeting at 6:28 pm.

362-2024

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That the Council of the County of Essex approve the 2025 Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority budget and 4.1% increase to the 2024 total municipal assessment of \$15,009,970 based on a fixed cost allocation calculated on population and a Total Waste Management Fee of \$43.00 per tonne fee for refuse delivered for disposal. The overall 2025 assessment to the City of Windsor and the County of Essex municipalities will be \$15,519,170.

That the Council of the County of Essex approve the 2025 Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority Green Bin Program budget representing a total cost of \$3,743,400, with the costs to be assessed to the City of Windsor and the County of Essex.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (13): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, and Larry Verbeke

Carried

9.2. Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee (ECAAC)

Members of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee (ECAAC) provided Council with an overview of the Committee's efforts throughout 2024.

***(Corresponding report: Consent Agenda item 11.3
Accessibility Initiatives Annual Compliance Review)***

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363-2024

Moved By Tracey Bailey

Seconded By Michael Prue

That the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee members, be permitted to make a presentation to Council.

(Voted by show of hands)

Carried

Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee (ECAAC) Vice-Chair Debbie Alexander, along with members Sherri Currie, Rachel Jewell and Diana Kirkbride provided Council with an overview of the ECAAC's activities and advocacy efforts throughout 2024.

ECAAC Council representative, Kimberly DeYong, expressed gratitude to staff and Council for their continued support of the Committee's work.

10. Communications

10.1. Correspondence

364-2024

Moved By Dennis Rogers

Seconded By Chris Gibb

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for December 4, 2024, be received and any noted action approved.

(Voted by show of hands)

(Michael Akpata did not vote due to Conflict on item 10.1.7.)

Carried

10.1.1 Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI)

[Making Waves Newsletter](#)

10.1.2 Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island (TWEPI)

[W.E. Keep You Informed: Holiday Social Time, We're Hiring, FREE Marketing Opportunities + MORE!](#)

10.1.3 Fair Share of Provincial and Federal Government Financial Support

- Township of Essa

10.1.4 Amend the Ontario Building Code to include Affordable Housing

- Township of Papineau-Cameron
- Municipality of Wawa

10.1.5 Promptly Resume Property Assessment Cycle

- Municipality of Callander
- Town of Grimsby
- Municipality of Wawa

10.1.6 Amending the Municipal Elections Act

- Township of North Glengarry
- Town of Tecumseh

10.1.7 OPP Annual Billing Statement Increase

- Township of Clearview

Michael Akpata declared a conflict on this item. (I'm the OIC of Campus Police at the University of Windsor. I have obligations to the Windsor Police Service Board, as well under the CSPA.)

10.1.8 Excess Soil Regulation Amendments

- Township of Puslinch

10.1.9 City of Toronto

Resolution regarding amendments to Part XII of the Highway Traffic Act contained in Bill 212.

10.1.10 Redistribution of Land Transfer Tax and GST

- Township of Wawa

10.2. Resolutions

There were no resolutions for consideration for December 4, 2024

11. Consent Agenda

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365-2024

Moved By Crystal Meloche

Seconded By Michael Akpata

That the recommendations in the Administrative Reports listed as items 11.1 through 11.4 on the Consent Agenda for December 4, 2024, be received and approved.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

11.1.Summary of Outstanding Reports for December 4, 2024

Report number 2024-1204-LCS-R38-KH, Summary of Outstanding Reports for December 4, 2024

11.2.Advancement of Truth and Reconciliation Program

Report number 2024-1204-LCS-R41-DM Advancement of Truth and Reconciliation Program, dated December 4, 2024 from Don McArthur, Manager, Communication and Organizational Development

11.3.Accessibility Initiatives Annual Compliance Review

Report number 2024-1204-LCS-R40-KH, Accessibility Initiatives Annual Compliance Review, dated December 4, 2024 from Katherine Hebert, County Clerk

11.4.Essex County Administration Building: Access Control, Safety and Security

Report number 2024-1204-CAO-R12-SZ, Essex County Administration Building: Access Control, Safety and Security, dated December 4, 2024, from Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer

12. Reports and Questions

12.1.Delegation Policy – Review and Update

Report number 2024-1204-LCS-R43-KH, Delegation Policy – Review and Update, dated December 4, 2024, from Katherine Hebert, County Clerk

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Katherine Hebert presented updates to the Delegation Policy to modernize and align it with current Council procedures and best practices. The updated Policy incorporated recent discussions and accountability goals.

Discussion included discontinuing the practice of voting for scheduled Delegations to present. The Clerk indicated that would be amended in the policy and in Council procedures. It was further discussed and clarified that late Delegations and those not previously approved by the Clerk for the Agenda would continue to require Council's approval to speak based on a 2/3 majority vote.

366-2024

Moved By Crystal Meloche

Seconded By Gary McNamara

That Essex County Council receive report 2024-1204-LCS-R43-KH as amended, Delegation Policy – Review and Update as information and that proposed changes to 1995-004 Delegations at County Council Policy be approved as presented in the Updated Policy attached as Appendix B.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

367-2024

Moved By Joe Bachetti

Seconded By Michael Prue

That Policy 1995-004 reflect a 5-minute time limit for Delegations.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (6): Joe Bachetti, Sherry Bondy, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Michael Prue, and Larry Verbeke

Opposed (8): Michael Akpata, Tracey Bailey, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Crystal Meloche, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, and Kirk Walstedt

Lost

12.2.Accountability and Transparency Policy Review and New Closed Meeting Policy

Report number 2024-1204-LCS-R39-KH, Accountability and Transparency Policy Review and New Closed Meeting Policy, dated December 4, 2024 from Katherine Hebert, County Clerk

Katherine Hebert presented updates to the County's Accountability and Transparency Policy and introduced a new Closed Meeting Policy to enhance governance and public trust. The proposed changes modernized the language of the Accountability and Transparency Policy to align it with current Council practices and improve its logical structure.

The new Closed Meeting Policy provided clear guidelines for conducting meetings in closed session, ensuring alignment with legislative requirements and best practices emphasizing proper notice, meaningful public resolutions and transparency.

368-2024

Moved By Sherry Bondy

Seconded By Gary McNamara

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-1204-LCS-R39-KH, Accountability and Transparency Policy Review and Update and New Closed Meeting Policy;

That amendments to the Accountability and Transparency Policy be adopted as presented; and

That the Closed Meeting Policy be approved and that the associated by-law be adopted.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

12.3.Funding of Conferences Held Locally Policy – Review and Update

Report number 2024-1204-LCS-R42-KH, Funding of Conferences Held Locally Policy – Review and Update, dated December 4, 2024 from Katherine Hebert, County Clerk

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Katherine Hebert explained the changes and updates to the County's Request for Funding of Conferences Held Locally Policy, which aim to modernize the criteria and align it with current fiscal realities and the County's Strategic Plan. Initially approved in 1995, the policy had seen limited requests for funding. The proposed updates included increasing funding thresholds and qualifying exhibitor booths as an eligible expense.

369-2024

Moved By Crystal Meloche

Seconded By Larry Verbeke

That Essex County receive report number 2024-1204-LCS-R42-KH, Funding of Conferences Held Locally Policy – Review and Update and that amendments to the Funding of Conferences Held Locally Policy be adopted as presented; and,

That the request for funding for an exhibitor booth and promotional materials for the Conference of the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), which is to be held locally in June of 2025, be approved.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

12.4.Next Generation 911 and Contracting for PSAP Services

Report Number 2024-1204-LCS-R44-DMS Next Generation 911 and Contracting for PSAP Services, dated December 4, 2024, from David Sundin, Director, Legislative and Legal Services/County Solicitor

Michael Akpata declared a conflict on this item. – "I'm the OIC of Campus Police at the University of Windsor. I have obligations to the Windsor Police Service Board, as well under the CSPA."

David Sundin provided information for County Council regarding a contract for Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) services. Since the 1990s, the County has contracted with service providers, including Bell Canada and the OPP, for 911 infrastructure and dispatch services. The most recent PSAP agreement, with the OPP, dated back to 2020 where Council had confirmed its intent to

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continue these contracts for local municipalities in 2023. With the upcoming transition to an internet protocol-based 911 system in March 2025, Sundin recommended that the County renew its agreement with the OPP for Dispatch Services.

370-2024

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That County Council receive Report Number 2024-1204-LCS-R44-DMS, Next Generation 911 and Contracting for PSAP Services as information; and

That the Warden and the Clerk be authorized to execute an Agreement with the OPP substantially in the form appended to this Report, and further that By-law 2024-55 be approved at the appropriate time confirming same.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (13): Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Conflict (1): Michael Akpata

Carried

12.5.2025 Asset Management Plan (AMP) Proposed Level of Service Discussion

Report number 2024-1204-FIN-R24-HM 2025 Asset Management Plan (AMP) Proposed Level of Service Discussion, dated December 4, 2024 from Heidi McLeod, Manager, Accounting, Administration/Deputy Treasurer

Heidi McLeod outlined the proposed Levels of Service (LOS) for core and non-core infrastructure assets. The report emphasized the importance of maintaining current service levels across various departments, including roads, bridges, stormwater management, Sun Parlor Home, EMS, and the Essex County Library.

The proposed level of service focuses on preventive maintenance, rehabilitation, and gradual increases in capital reinvestment to maintain the County's infrastructure in good condition, ensuring long-term sustainability and minimizing future costs.

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371-2024

Moved By Chris Gibb

Seconded By Michael Akpata

That Essex County Council approve report number 2024-1204-FIN-HM, 2025 Asset Management Plan (AMP) Proposed Levels of Service Discussion as information and direct Administration to align Proposed Levels of Service with current levels identified in the Discussion section for each department.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

13. Unfinished Business

There were no items of Unfinished Business for December 4, 2024

14. New Business

14.1. Public Reporting of Closed Meeting

A Closed Meeting of Essex County Council was held at 4:00 PM, prior to the regular Council meeting this evening, pursuant to Section 239 (2) (c), (d), (f) and (k) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended for the following reasons:

(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;

(d) labour relations or employee negotiations;

(f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

(k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board.

Council received legal advice related to report number 2024-1204-LCS-R42-DMS, and provided direction to Administration regarding the indemnification of Members of Council.

Council also provided administration with direction and instruction to pursue negotiations related to the purchase of the "Additional

Essex County Council Meeting Minutes - December 4, 2024

Required Lands” (as defined in Report 2024-1204-LCS-R45-DMS) on behalf of the County.

372-2024

Moved By Sherry Bondy

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That Essex County Council authorize the purchase of the property described in the Report as the “Additional Required Lands”, and authorize the Warden and the Clerk to execute an Agreement of Purchase and Sale related to same, along with such further and other documents as are reasonably required to complete the purchase of the Additional Required Lands.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

Further, Council considered a report with regard to a labour relations and employee negotiations matter as outlined in report 2024-1204-HR-R03-KP. As a result of discussions and deliberations, the following recommendation was before Council:

373-2024

Moved By Crystal Meloche

Seconded By Chris Gibb

That Essex County Council approve a 2% inflationary salary increase for all non-union employees of the County effective January 1, 2025, for the year 2025.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

The Closed Meeting concluded at 4:41

15. Adoption of By-Laws

Essex County Council Meeting Minutes - December 4, 2024

374-2024

Moved By Kirk Walstedt

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That By-laws 2024-54 through 2024-58, having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (13): Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Crystal Meloche, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Kirk Walstedt

Conflict (1): Michael Akpata

Carried

15.1.By-law Number 2024-54

Being a by-law to adopt 2024-17 Closed Meeting Policy for the Corporation of the County of Essex

15.2.By-law Number 2024-55

Being a By-law to Authorize the Execution of an Agreement for the Provision of Primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Services Between the Corporation of the County of Essex and His Majesty the King in Right of Ontario, as represented by the Minister of the Solicitor General on behalf of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)

Michael Akpata declared a conflict on this item. – "I'm the OIC of Campus Police at the University of Windsor. I have obligations to the Windsor Police Service Board, as well under the CSPA."

15.3.By-law Number 2024-56

Being a by-law to appoint a Deputy Clerk for the Corporation of the County of Essex, being Crystal Sylvestre

15.4.By-law Number 2024-57

A By-law to Authorize the Borrowing of Money to Meet Current Expenditures of The Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex for 2025

15.5.By-law Number 2024-58

Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular and Closed Meetings of Essex County Council, for December 4, 2024

16. Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion for December 4, 2024 brought forward.

17. Adjournment

375-2024

Moved By Kimberly DeYong

Seconded By Chris Gibb

That the Essex County Council meeting for December 4, 2024 be adjourned at 7:46 PM.

(Voted by show of hands)

Carried

Hilda MacDonald,
Warden, County of Essex

Katherine J. Hebert
County Clerk

Date Signed

**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



234-2024-5801

December 12, 2024

Dear Head of Council,

I am pleased to inform you of the introduction of the proposed Municipal Accountability Act, 2024 on December 12, 2024, which, if passed, would make changes to the *Municipal Act, 2001* and *City of Toronto Act, 2006* to strengthen the municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner framework.

I appreciate the valuable feedback we have received from municipalities and share your commitment to safe and respectful workplaces. The proposed changes, if passed, would:

- enable the creation of a standard municipal code of conduct and standard municipal integrity commissioner investigation processes to help ensure consistency across all Ontario municipalities;
- create a role for the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario in municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner matters, including providing training to municipal integrity commissioners; and
- establish a mechanism to remove and disqualify members of council and certain local boards for a period of four years for the most serious code of conduct violations following a recommendation from the local integrity commissioner, a concurring report from the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario, and a unanimous vote of council.

In the coming months, I will want to hear your feedback on the Bill as well as other matters regarding local accountability regimes. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference, where we will have the opportunity to discuss these changes and other matters of importance to your communities.

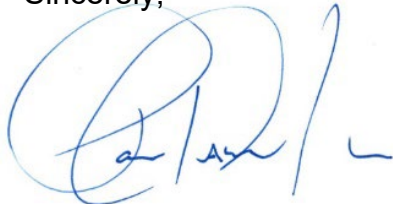
If passed, important work to develop the regulations to support this new framework would lie ahead, and I remain committed to engaging with you throughout that process. Our intention is to have these changes in effect for the new term of councils beginning in Fall 2026 to ensure there is adequate opportunity for local implementation.

-2-

For more information on these amendments, please see the [news release](#). To share your comments on the proposed legislation, please see a posting on the [Regulatory Registry](#) that will be open for comments for 60 days.

If you have any questions regarding these new provisions, please contact your local [Municipal Services Office](#) with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Sincerely,



Hon. Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: Jessica Lippert, Chief of Staff
 Owen Macri, Deputy Chief of Staff
 Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister
 Caspar Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division
 Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Services Division
 Municipal Clerks and CAOs



Office of the Executive Director
1525 Cornwall Road
Oakville ON
L6J 0B2

dan.cozzi@municipalengineers.on.ca

MEA APPOINTS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT 2024 AGM

The Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) is a non-profit association representing the interests of over 1,200 professional engineers in Ontario who are employed in the municipal engineering and public works sectors at Ontario municipalities and provincial agencies, as well as consulting engineering firms acting as the engineer-of-record for Ontario municipalities.

MEA's many pursuits include being the co-proponent for the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) process. Together with the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario, MEA administers Ontario Provincial Standards for Municipalities (OPS MUNI); many of our members participate in committees that establish standards and specifications used province wide. MEA offers training courses for both MCEA and OPS as well as hosting an conference providing technical training sessions.

The MEA is the preferred venue for Ontario municipalities to recruit professional municipal engineers and technologists/technicians through our online employment advertising platform.

MEA provides an annual bursary program to students entering the first year of an accredited university engineering program. Since 2008, the MEA has awarded \$200,000 in bursaries.

The MEA held its 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Delta Ottawa City Centre Hotel on November 21, 2024. At the AGM, a new Board was elected. We are pleased to present the new Board for the 2024/2025 term (see attachment).

Please share this with members of your organization. Should you have any questions about the MEA or the new Board, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan', is positioned above a horizontal line.

D.M. (Dan) Cozzi, P. Eng.
Executive Director
Municipal Engineers Association

Attachment:
MEA Board of Directors and Staff 2024-2025



2024-2025 MEA Board of Directors & Staff



**Taylor Crinklaw, P. Eng.,
President**
Director – Infrac. & Dev. Services
City of Stratford
tcrinklaw@stratford.ca



**Penelope Palmer, P. Eng.
First Vice-President**
Mgr, Business Improvement & Stds.
City of Toronto
Penelope.palmer@toronto.ca



**Scott Hamilton, P. Eng.
Second Vice-President**
Commissioner of Public Works
City of Burlington
Scott.Hamilton@burlington.on.ca



**Benjamin de Haan, P. Eng.
Secretary-Treasurer**
Director -Transportation Serv.
United Counties of SDG
b_dehaan@sdgcounties.ca



**Matthew N. Miedema, P.Eng.
Past-President**
Project Engineer
City of Thunder Bay
matthew.miedema@thunderbay.ca



**Paul Acquaaah, P. Eng.
Board Director**
Mgr of Engineering
York Region
Paul.acquaah@york.ca



**Tara Blasioli, P. Eng.
Board Director**
Mgr – Adisöke Library Project
City of Ottawa
Tara.Blasoli@ottawa.ca



**Joe de Koning, P. Eng.
Board Director**
Manager of Roads
County of Wellington
joedk@wellington.ca



**Ashley Rammeloo, P., Eng
Board Director**
Dir. Water/Wastewater/Stormwater
City of London
arammelo@London.ca



**Imran Khalid, P. Eng.
Board Director**
Director of Public Works
Huron County
ikhalid@huroncounty.ca



**Dan Cozzi, P. Eng.
Executive Director**
MEA
dan.cozzi@municipalengineers.on.ca



**Rishabh Sharma, M. Eng.
Technical Services Coord.**
MEA
rsharma@municipalengineers.on.ca



**Paul Knowles, P. Eng.
MCEA Advisor**
MEA
paul.knowles@municipalengineers.on.ca



**Arup Mukherjee, P. Eng.
OPS Instructor**
MEA
arup@arkim.ca



**Kate Crouse
Admin Support**
MEA
support@municipalengineers.on.ca



STATEMENT FROM WINDSOR REGIONAL HOSPITAL

December 21, 2024

For Immediate Release

RFP Issued for Construction Manager to complete New Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital's First Phase, Including Key Infrastructure and Facilities

A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been issued for a Construction Manager to complete and deliver the first phase of the New Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital, including a parking garage, an education, learning and administration building, and site works that will ensure required infrastructure is in place to support construction and provide onsite parking and workspace in future phases. Earlier this year, another RFP was issued for a Design Team to complete drawings for the build. A separate tendering process will be initiated at a later stage to complete the remainder of the project scope.

As this is an ongoing process, no further details will be shared until the contracts for a Design Team and Construction Manager are in place.

WRH is on track to have shovels in the ground for the new state-of-the-art acute care hospital by 2026, if not sooner. This milestone demonstrates progress in making the community's vision for the largest healthcare infrastructure investment ever in the region's history a reality.

-30-

Allison Johnson, Manager, Communications and Community Engagement
New Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital Project
519-995-0577 (cell) / Allison.Johnson@wrh.on.ca



November 29, 2024

Sent via email to: premier@ontario.ca; minister.mah@ontario.ca;
MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca

Premier of Ontario

Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

The Honourable Paul Calandra

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

The Honourable Stephen Lecce

Minister of Energy and Electrification
10th Floor, 77 Grenville Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C1

**RE: Guelph City Council Resolution to Enable Municipalities to Charge Fees
for use of Municipal Property by Gas Utilities**

Dear Premier Ford, Minister Calandra and Minister Lecce,

Guelph City Council at its meeting held on November 26, 2024 passed a resolution regarding the ability of municipalities to charge gas utilities for their use of municipal property, which included the following motions:

1. That Council request the Province of Ontario to amend section 9 of Regulation 584/06 under the Municipal Act, 2001, to permit municipalities to charge fair fees to for-profit gas utilities for their use of public property, as municipalities do in most other provinces.
2. That Council direct staff, to the satisfaction of the DCAO of IDE, to negotiate a Franchise Agreement with the gas distribution company that:
 - a. will allow the City of Guelph to charge fees for use of public property if and when Ontario Regulation 584/06 is amended to allow such charges,
 - b. will ensure that the City of Guelph is not liable to pay for any gas infrastructure relocations needed due to conflicts with municipal infrastructure, and
 - c. will ensure future charges for use of municipal property is not passed on to Guelph customers of the gas distribution company.
3. That the City of Guelph supports, in principle, the Bill 219, "No Free Ride for Fossil Fuels Act, 2024" tabled November 4, 2024 by Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner.

City Hall
1 Carden St
Guelph, ON
Canada
N1H 3A1

T 519-822-1260
TTY 519-826-9771

guelph.ca

Across most of Canada, municipalities charge for-profit gas utilities fees for the use of municipal property. This revenue supports municipalities in managing abandoned gas distribution infrastructure and any conflicts with municipal infrastructure without increasing the financial burden on property taxpayers. However, in Ontario, Section 9 of *O.Reg. 584/06* under the *Municipal Act, 2001* prohibits municipalities from charging for-profit gas utilities these fees. If the charging of these fees is permitted, revenues would provide much needed funding towards essential City services and programs, and support the City in funding any future work associated with gas distribution infrastructure.

As Guelph seeks to renew its Franchise Agreement, which sets out the conditions for the use of municipal property by the gas distribution company, there is an opportunity to review the compensation framework for municipalities across Ontario. Many sectors and individuals are increasingly transitioning away from natural gas in favour of cleaner and carbon-free technologies, and Guelph Council believes municipalities should not be locked in to long-term agreements which limit the ability of municipalities to receive fair compensation from for-profit gas distribution companies.

As such, Guelph City Council requests the Province of Ontario amend section 9 of *O.Reg. 584/06* under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, to permit municipalities to charge fees to for-profit gas utilities for their use of public property. Additionally, Guelph City Council would like to express its support, in principle, for Bill 219 – the *No Free Ride for Fossil Fuels Act, 2024*, which would enshrine the right of municipalities to charge fees under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, and the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*.

Sincerely,

Intergovernmental Services on behalf of Guelph City Council

Chief Administrative Office

Intergovernmental.relations@guelph.ca

City Hall, 1 Carden Street, Guelph ON N1H 3A1

519-822-1260 x5602

TTY: 519-826-9771

CC: Mike Schreiner, Member of Provincial Parliament for Guelph;
Ontario's Big City Mayors
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities



City of Stratford, Corporate Services Department

Clerk's Office

City Hall, P. O. Box 818, Stratford, Ontario N5A 6W1

Tel: 519-271-0250, extension 5237

Email: clerks@stratford.ca

Website: www.stratford.ca

December 18, 2024

Sent via email: InterGovernmental.Relations@guelph.ca

Intergovernmental Services

Chief Administrative Office

The City of Guelph

City Hall, 1 Carden Street,

Guelph ON N1H 3A1

Re: Resolution Enabling Municipalities to Charge Fees for use of Municipal Property by Gas Utilites

We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated November 29, 2024, regarding the above-mentioned matter.

The said correspondence was provided to Stratford City Council for their consideration as part of the December 16, 2024, Council meeting Consent Agenda (CA-2024-207). At the meeting, Council adopted the following resolution:

THAT CA-2024-207, being a resolution from the City of Guelph regarding Enabling Municipalities to Charge Fees for use of Municipal Property by Gas Utilities, be endorsed.

Sincerely,

T. Dafoe

Tatiana Dafoe, Clerk

/mf

cc: Hon. Paul Calandra, Ontario Minister Municipal Affairs and Housing of Ontario
Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Electrification of Ontario
Matthew Rae, Member of Provincial Parliament, Perth - Wellington
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario municipalities



Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
100 Dissette Street, Unit 4, P.O. Box 100
Bradford, Ontario, Canada L3Z 2A7

Phone: 905-775-5366
jleduc@townofbwg.com
www.townofbwg.com

September 20, 2024

BY E-MAIL

Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Khanjin:

Ontario Deposit Return Program

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to formally address the recent discussions surrounding the Ontario Deposit Return Program, particularly regarding our community residents asking us about the recycling of nonalcoholic beverage plastics.

Whereas the Ontario Deposit Return Program has successfully incentivized the recycling of alcoholic beverage containers, resulting in the removal of over 204,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, we recognize the potential for similar success with nonalcoholic beverages.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks highlighted in their June 2023 letter that they are considering the adoption of a deposit-and-return system for nonalcoholic beverages. This initiative presents a unique opportunity to further promote recycling, reduce litter, and encourage sustainable practices among consumers.

Therefore, I am proud to announce that our Council endorses the expansion of the Ontario Deposit Return Program to include nonalcoholic beverage containers. We believe that this expansion will not only enhance environmental stewardship but also foster a culture of sustainability within our community.

We encourage all stakeholders to support this initiative and work collaboratively towards its implementation. Together, we can make a significant impact on our environment and set a positive example for future generations.

Yours truly,

Mayor James Leduc
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

CC:

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Hon. Caroline Mulroney, Member of Provincial Parliament for York-Simcoe
MPP Sandy Shaw, Opposition Environment, Conservation and Parks Critic
Ontario's Municipal Councils and Conservation Authorities



City of Stratford, Corporate Services Department

Clerk's Office

City Hall, P. O. Box 818, Stratford, Ontario N5A 6W1

Tel: 519-271-0250, extension 5237

Email: clerks@stratford.ca

Website: www.stratford.ca

December 24, 2024

Sent via email – KMckenna@townofbwg.com

Karin McKenna,
Committee Coordinator & Accessibility Coordinator
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

Re: Resolution Regarding the Ontario Deposit Return Program

We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated September 20, 2024, regarding the above-mentioned matter.

The said correspondence was provided to Stratford City Council for their information as part of the October 28, 2024, Council meeting Consent Agenda (CA-2024-176). Council adopted the following resolution:

THAT CA-2024-176, being a resolution from the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury regarding the Ontario Deposit Return Program, be endorsed.

Sincerely,

T. Dafoe

Tatiana Dafoe Clerk

/mf

cc: Hon. Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario municipalities



City of Stratford, Corporate Services Department

Clerk's Office

City Hall, P. O. Box 818, Stratford, Ontario N5A 6W1

Tel: 519-271-0250, extension 5237

Email: clerks@stratford.ca

Website: www.stratford.ca

January 3, 2025

Sent via email – regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca

William Short,
City Clerk
Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Re: Resolution Regarding Solving the Crisis

We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated September 26, 2024, regarding the above-mentioned matter.

The said correspondence was provided to Stratford City Council for their information as part of the October 15, 2024, Council meeting Consent Agenda (CA-2024-171). Council adopted the following resolution:

THAT CA-2024-171, being a resolution from the Regional Municipality of Waterloo regarding Solve the Crisis, be endorsed.

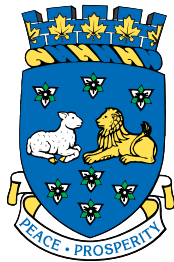
Sincerely,

T. Dafoe

Tatiana Dafoe Clerk

/mf

cc: Right Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada
Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Hon Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario municipalities



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

150 Frederick Street, 2nd Floor
Kitchener ON N2G 4J3 Canada
Telephone: 519-575-4400
TTY: 519-575-4608
Fax: 519-575-4481
www.regionofwaterloo.ca

September 26, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Solve the Crisis

Please be advised that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo at their regular meeting held on September 25, 2024, approved the following motion:

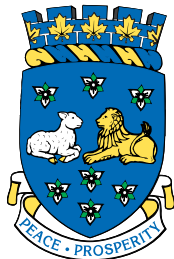
Whereas there is a humanitarian crisis in cities, large and small, urban and rural, across Ontario. We need immediate action at all levels of government, starting with the Province; and

Whereas the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow with 3432 drug related deaths in Ontario in 2023 as well as with an estimated 234,000 Ontarians experiencing homelessness and over 1400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities in 2023; and

Whereas the province has provided additional funding for mental health, addictions and homelessness programs, including the recently announced Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs, it does not adequately address the growing crisis and the financial and social impact on municipalities and regions across the province; and

Whereas municipalities and regions are stepping up and working with community partners to put in place community-specific solutions to address this crisis, but municipalities and regions lack the expertise, capacity, or resources to address these increasingly complex health care and housing issues alone; and

Whereas this is primarily a health issue that falls under provincial jurisdiction and municipalities and regions should not be using the property tax base to fund these programs; and



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

150 Frederick Street, 2nd Floor
Kitchener ON N2G 4J3 Canada
Telephone: 519-575-4400
TTY: 519-575-4608
Fax: 519-575-4481
www.regionofwaterloo.ca

Whereas there is no provincial Minister focused on this crisis leading to unanswered questions that span over a dozen ministries, and a lack of support to manage the increasing needs of those who are unhoused.

Now Therefore be it resolved that the Region of Waterloo supports the Solve the Crisis Campaign;

And calls on provincial and federal governments to commit to immediate action to solve the Humanitarian Crisis that Ontario is facing as the numbers of unhoused individuals and those suffering with mental health & addictions grows exponentially;

AND that the province officially makes Homelessness a Health Priority;

AND appoints a responsible Minister and Ministry with the appropriate funding and powers as a single point of contact to address the full spectrum of housing needs as well as mental health, addictions and wrap around supports;

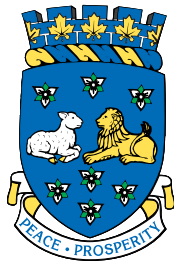
AND request that the provincial government strike a task force with broad sector representatives including municipalities, regions, healthcare, first responders, community services, the business community and the tourism industry to develop a *Made in Ontario Action Plan*;

AND that this provincial task force reviews current programs developed by municipalities, regions and community partners that have proven successful in our communities, to ensure that solutions can be implemented quickly and effectively to tackle this crisis.

AND provides the adequate, sufficient and sustainable funding to ensure that municipalities have the tools and resources to support individuals suffering with mental health and addictions, including unhoused people and those from vulnerable populations that may be disproportionately impacted;

And that this Council calls on the residents across the Region of Waterloo to join us in appealing to the provincial and federal governments for support by visiting SolveTheCrisis.ca and showing your support;

And further that a copy of this motion be sent to:



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

150 Frederick Street, 2nd Floor
Kitchener ON N2G 4J3 Canada
Telephone: 519-575-4400
TTY: 519-575-4608
Fax: 519-575-4481
www.regionofwaterloo.ca

- **The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada**
- **The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario**
- **The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health**
- **The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing**
- **The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services**
- **The Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions**
- **Local and area MPs, MPPs and Heads of Council**
- **The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario's Big City Mayors and Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario**

Please accept this letter for information purposes only. If you have any questions please contact Regional Councillor Dorothy McCabe Dorothy.McCabe@waterloo.ca

Please forward any written responses to this letter to William Short, Director, Council & Administrative Services/Regional Clerk
regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W Short", is positioned below the "Yours sincerely," text.

William Short, Director Council and Administrative Services/Regional Clerk

cc: Region of Waterloo Councillor Dorothy McCabe Dorothy.McCabe@waterloo.ca

Dear Ministers,

On behalf of the [ProsperUS](#) council, we write to you with a sense of urgency seeking your support and collaboration to address the growing crisis that is affecting children and youth in our Windsor-Essex Community. Over the past three years, our community has witnessed and experienced the alarming increase of children and youth with severe diagnoses and complex needs who are coming into the care of the child welfare system, often, despite the absence of child protection concerns as defined within the Child, Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA) standards and definitions.

To be specific, we and our partner the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society (WECAS) are most concerned with the increase of unlicensed placement utilization due to a province wide shortage of licensed options. Usage of this last resort option has grown in Windsor-Essex from 4 in 2022, to 30 in 2023, and to 24 in 2024, marking a 500% net increase.

Cognisant that this is a province wide trend and with reference to the growing body of data and literature on the issue to which your Ministries have access, we understand that “upstream” contributing factors that impact families include diminishing resources and capacity across all critical social services sectors (i.e. education, health, developmental and mental health services, housing and others). For example, for families with children and youth with Autism and complex medical needs, multi-year waitlists and the lack or denial of specialized therapeutic services, respite services, specialized Outside Paid Resource (OPR) homes and live-in treatment placements has a compounding effect on their ability to manage daily challenges. This is especially so in situations where mental health needs manifest into aggression and self-harming behaviours as they take an emotional, physical and financial toll on the entire family unit.

Seeing this as primarily a systems level issue, it is unacceptable to us that some families are left with little choice but to surrender their children to CAS as they break under the pressure of systemic failures.

Our council—a collective impact partnership comprised of 40+ system leading organizations—has seen and supported the efforts of the WECAS as they have tried to adapt to this unprecedented reality. However, it must be recognized that the provision of highly intensive, specialized, and continuous care that is needed for many of these children and youth goes well beyond the scope of their mandate. For the same reasons, it is also unreasonable to expect foster and kinship arrangements to meet these needs.

While WECAS is doing its best under the circumstance by providing housing and supervision to children and youth in unlicensed placements on a 24-hour 7 day a week basis, they are not an appropriate stand-in for specialized treatments and in-home environments. While this crisis persists, and without adequate government intervention, children, youth and their families will continue to endure trauma and detrimental long-term outcomes.

As such our collective membership puts forth the following recommendations to your respective Ministries:

1. **Increased Funding for Specialized Care Programs:** Allocate additional resources to programs that provide comprehensive support for children and youth with multiple diagnoses or challenges across various service sectors and dimensions (i.e. education,

behavioural, emotional, mental health and developmental needs) inclusive of those with complex special needs. This includes funding for specialized care-settings, 1:1 support in the classroom, therapeutic services, and respite care for families. While local community partners like Hotel Dieu Health Care, Maryvale Children's Mental Health Treatment Centre and Family Respite Services are tremendous partners, the demand for their services is profound. Additional facilities, program spaces, treatment beds, and respite service offerings are desperately needed in our region.

2. **Development of Family Support Services:** Establish and expand support services that assist families in managing the challenges of caring for children and youth with complex needs. This could include intensive in-home care, counseling services for parents and kin, caregiver trauma-informed training, peer support programs for families and financial support.
3. **Integration of Services for Prevention:** Promote the integration of health services by establishing a clinical case manager for all children and youth with complex needs to ensure ongoing planning is in place to support diagnosis and treatment to prevent the need for more intensive and expensive modalities of care. This would improve communication and collaboration between health professionals, social workers, and support organizations and in turn support the reduction of costs attributed to short-term last resort solutions. For instance, a provincial survey completed by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies found that over a three-year time span boarding costs for children and youth requiring an unlicensed placement have skyrocketed from \$5.6 million to \$43.6 million. Locally, the cost of unlicensed placements in the 2024 fiscal year (April to September) has been approximately \$3.4 million.
4. **Recruitment, Training and Resources for Professionals:** Our region needs enhanced funding to support recruitment efforts for respite support workers. Additionally, training and resources for healthcare providers, social workers, and educators to enhance their ability to develop adequate intervention or treatment plans for children with complex needs and their families effectively is needed.

By taking these steps, we can work together to ensure that children with complex needs remain with their families whenever possible and receive the support they require to thrive. We believe that with the right resources and programs in place, we can make a significant positive impact on the lives of these children and their families.

Thank you for considering this important matter. We are hopeful that, with your leadership, we can develop a more inclusive and supportive system for all children in Ontario.

Sincerely,

V. Houston

Vicki Houston, Director, Greater Essex County District School Board, Co-Chair, ProsperUs



Summary of Outstanding Reports

Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Report #: 2025-0115-LLS-R02-KH

Purpose

To provide County Council with a summary of outstanding reports and an estimated timeline for reporting back to Council on such matters.

In accordance with Procedure By-law 2024-26, Section 11.13.2., items listed have been requested by Council, by resolution during the current term of Council.

Summary Table

Meeting Date	Direction/Motion	Status/Action Taken	Anticipated Report/Completion
2024-04-03	099-2024 Moved by Gary McNamara Seconded by Chris Gibb That Essex County Council direct Administration to consult with ERCA on the feasibility of reviewing and enhancing the Clean Water Green Spaces Program with an aim at achieving an accelerated rate of natural restoration in the County and provide a report back to Council; And, further that Essex County Council direct Administration to bring back a report and draft by-law/policy to meet the obligations of Section 270(1)7 of the Municipal Act with regard to the protection and enhancement of tree canopy.	In-Progress Rebecca Belanger (Further consultation required amending the expected completion date.)	TBD

Katherine Hebert, Clerk

Corporation of the County of Essex, Main Floor, Suite 201, 360 Fairview Ave. W., Essex, ON N8M 1Y6

Phone: 519-776-6441, ext. 1353, Email: khebert@countyofessex.ca

Meeting Date	Direction/Motion	Status/Action Taken	Anticipated Report/Completion
2024-08-14	212-2024 Moved by Chris Gibb Seconded by Michael Prue That Administration of the County of Essex complete a review of traffic and pedestrian conditions at and near the intersection of County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road; and, That the County of Essex consider a reduction in the posted speed limit along County Road 20 from Lowes Side Road and southerly approximately 500 metres; and, That the County of Essex consider installing signage indicating pedestrians crossing at the County Rd 20 at Lowes Side Rd intersection; and, That the Administration communicate with the Town of Amherstburg, Infrastructure Services department as part of the review.	Assigned Allan Botham	2025-04-16
2024-09-18	251-2024 Moved By Crystal Meloche Seconded By Sherry Bondy That Essex County Council direct administration to bring a report to council in advance of the annual AMO conference advising County Council on delegations with Ministers at the annual conference and materials be provided to Council.	Assigned Sandra Zwiers	2025-07-16
2024-09-18	253-2024 Moved By Michael Prue Seconded By Chris Gibb That County Administration prepare a report to review the rate of speed on County Road 46 at the intersection of County Road 19 Moved by Joe Bachetti Seconded by Gary McNamara <i>Pursuant to section 13.4.4 of the</i>	Assigned Allan Botham	2025-03-19

Meeting Date	Direction/Motion	Status/Action Taken	Anticipated Report/Completion
	<i>Procedure By-law, a Postponement of the matter, until such a time as the Administrative Report requested under resolution 253-2024 is presented for Council as follows:</i> That the rate of speed on County Rd 46 be reduced to 60km/hr leading into the intersection at County Rd 19; and, That signs be posted in both directions to notify drivers of the rate of speed.		
2024-10-02	Direction/Discussion by Admin on Agenda Item 12.1 – Road Safety Management Program The network screening is expected to be completed by November 2024, with design work for safety improvements potentially beginning in 2025. A report will be brought to Council in Spring outlining the analysis.	Assigned Jerry Behl	2025-04-16
2024-10-16	287-2024 Moved By Michael Prue Seconded By Rob Shepley That Essex County Council direct administration to communicate the termination of the contract in reference to 2024-1016-LCS-R33-JDF with the effective termination date being March 31, 2025, and; That Administration pursue options for the alternative contract providers and report back to Council.	In-Progress David Sundin & Jeanie Diamond Francis (Note: Communication of termination effective March 31, 2025 has been completed and a report RE alternatives is pending.)	2025-01-15
2024-10-16	284-2024 Moved By Kirk Walstedt Seconded By Sherry Bondy That Essex County Council receive and support the correspondence and	Assigned Jerry Behl	2025-05-07

Meeting Date	Direction/Motion	Status/Action Taken	Anticipated Report/Completion
	resolution from the Municipality of Lakeshore regarding Renaud Line and County Road 42. <i>[Resolution #306-09-2024 from Lakeshore: Be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Lakeshore request that the County of Essex complete a traffic review for the corner of Renaud Line Rd. and County Rd. 42;</i> <i>And that the follow-up report include data over the past 5 years relating to accidents, traffic volumes, and recommended improvements to improve traffic flows and safety.]</i>		
2024-11-06	306-2024 Moved By: Sherry Bondy Seconded By: Rob Shepley That Essex County Council ask administration to bring a report back on the feasibility of creating a distribution list for all members of county council that aligns with our strategic plan in working together as a team for our residents. Whereas the distribution list shall include the Clerk and CAO so members of the public are able to share opinions and provide feedback to council as a whole.	Assigned Darrel Laurendeau and Katherine Hebert	2025-01-15

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report number 2025-0115-LLS-R02-KH, Summary of Outstanding Reports as information.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Hebert

Katherine Hebert, Clerk

Concurred With,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer



Administrative Report

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: David Sundin, BA (Hons), LL.B., Director, Legislative and Legal Services/County Solicitor

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Subject: Tri-Party Emergency Response Services Agreement

Report #: 2025-0115-LLS-R03-DMS

Purpose

The purpose of this Administrative Report (the "**Report**") is to provide County Council with information related to a proposed Tri-Party Emergency Response Services Agreement (the "**Agreement**") and to obtain County Council's authorization for the Clerk and the Warden to execute the said Agreement on behalf of the County.

Background

The *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.9 (the "**EMCPA**") imposes certain obligations on the Province and on Municipalities with respect to emergencies.

For the purposes of the *EMCPA* and this Report:

- an "emergency" means a situation or an impending situation that constitutes a danger of major proportions that could result in serious harm to persons or substantial damage to property and that is caused by the forces of nature, a disease or other health risk, an accident or an act whether intentional or otherwise ("**Emergency**"); and
- "necessary good, services, and resources" includes food, water, electricity, fossil fuels, clothing, equipment, transportation, and medical services and supplies ("**Services**").

The *EMCPA* includes the following key provisions for municipalities to consider:

- *2.1(1) Every municipality shall develop and implement an emergency management program and the council of the municipality shall by by-law adopt the emergency management program.*

- *3(1) Every municipality shall formulate an emergency plan governing the provision of necessary services during an emergency and the procedures under and the manner in which employees of the municipality and other persons will respond to the emergency and the council of the municipality shall by by-law adopt the emergency plan.*

The County has for a number of years paid funds to have the Canadian Red Cross Society (the "**Red Cross**") on standby to provide the Services in the event of an Emergency. Prior to 2024, the City of Windsor (the "**City**") contracted with the Red Cross for the provision of Services in the event of an Emergency for both the City and the County, with the City then charging a portion of the cost back to the County.

Discussion

In 2023 I became aware that the City had been contracting on the County's behalf for a number of years for the services of the Red Cross, and then charging the County's share back to it, despite there being no authorization for the City to do so.

The discovery of this longstanding practice, together with an understanding that should an Emergency impact either the City or the County there is the clear potential for both being affected, resulted in the County commencing negotiations with the City and the Red Cross for a Tri-Party Agreement.

It was anticipated that the Agreement would be ready for execution in early 2024. However, due to a number of delays in approvals being granted by others, finalizing the Agreement and obtaining the authority to execute the Agreement has been delayed until now. The Parties have agreed to assign an effective date of January 1, 2024, and to govern themselves as if the Agreement had been executed on or about that date. The Agreement will terminate on December 31, 2026.

Entering into the Agreement supports both the County's obligations under the *EMCPA* and furthers the County's strategic goals of Working as Team Essex County and becoming a Regional Powerhouse.

Financial Implications

The financial implications of entering into the Agreement is the same as in previous years, i.e. the County is obligated to provide payment of its share of the annual costs of having the Red Cross on standby to provide Services during an Emergency. During the course of this Agreement, based on population, the County is obligated to pay 45.6% of the annual \$48,000.00

cost, which equals the sum of \$21,888.00. There will be further financial implications should an Emergency be declared and the Red Cross is asked by the County to respond and provide the Services.

The sum of \$21,888.00 for 2024 has been accrued and will be paid upon execution of the Agreement. The amounts required for 2025 and 2026, will be budgeted for and paid following the Red Cross invoicing the County for same in each of those years.

Continuing to pay the Red Cross to be on standby to provide the Services in the event of an Emergency is more cost effective than the County acquiring all the various supplies required to provide the Services itself. Further, after acquiring supplies, the County may have to replace them prior to the supplies ever being used, as most of the required supplies have a limited shelf life.

Consultations

Various consultations were held with members of Administration for the City of Windsor and the Red Cross in drafting the Agreement.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Working as Team Essex County	Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence	Building a Regional Powerhouse
☒ Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation ☒ Focusing "Team Essex County" for Results ☒ Advocating for Essex County's Fair Share	☐ Being an Employer with Impact ☒ A Government Working for the People ☐ Promoting Transparency and Awareness	☐ Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners ☒ Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County ☐ Harmonizing Action for Growth ☐ Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

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Administrative Report
January 15, 2025
Tri-Party Emergency Response Services Agreement

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive Report Number 2025-0115-LLS-R03-DMS – Tri-Party Emergency Response Services Agreement and authorize the Clerk and the Warden to execute the Tri-Party Emergency Response Services Agreement.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,
David M. Sundin

David Sundin, BA (Hons), LL.B., Director, Legislative and Legal Services/County Solicitor

Concurred With,
Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix	Title
N/A	



Administrative Report

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Subject: County of Essex Delegation at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference

Report #: 2025-0115-CAO-R01-SZ

Purpose

To provide County Council with delegation application information for the upcoming Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference that will be held in Toronto, Ontario from January 19 to January 21, 2025.

Background

The deadline for making delegation applications for the ROMA Conference was November 27, 2024.

The Senior Leadership Team, in consultation with the Warden, discussed and identified initiatives requiring advocacy that were rooted in the County's Strategic Plan and appropriate for delegation at ROMA. Refinements were made and applications were submitted by the deadline.

Subsequently and through to the timing of this report, work is underway to finalize supporting materials, including briefing notes and infographics.

The Warden and CAO will lead the delegation with subject matter experts, ensuring an impactful, well-organized presentation. Following the conference, County Council will be provided with a summary of delegation efforts, including issues raised and materials shared, to publicly report on the County's advocacy at ROMA.

Discussion

In late November, 2024, Administration applied to delegate to three Ministries:

- 1) Ministry of Transportation (MTO)

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer
Corporation of the County of Essex, 360 Fairview Ave. W., Essex, ON N8M 1Y6
Phone: 519-776-6441, ext. 1350; Email: szwiers@countyofessex.ca

- Attendees: Warden MacDonald, CAO Zwiers, Project Manager Daniel Baggio;
- 2) Ministry of Infrastructure (MOI)
- Attendees: Warden MacDonald, CAO Zwiers, Director of Infrastructure & Planning Services Botham, Mayor McNamara (Tecumseh), CAO Misek-Evans (Tecumseh); and
- 3) Ministry of Health (MOH)
- Attendees: Warden MacDonald, CAO Zwiers, Chief Lammers.

As of the writing of this report, confirmation has been received (with dates/times/locations to be determined) from all three Ministries, (MTO, MOI and MOH). Administration will be working closely with Ministry representatives to schedule the sessions over the coming days.

MTO – Roads to Prosperity

The County of Essex is requesting provincial support for urgent infrastructure upgrades to accommodate the transformative growth occurring in the Windsor-Essex region. Key projects, including a \$5-billion electric vehicle battery plant, a new regional hospital, and a new international border crossing, will generate thousands of jobs and fuel substantial residential, commercial, and industrial growth. However, without significant upgrades to critical infrastructure, such as the construction of grade-separated interchanges on County Road 22 at County Road 19 and Lesperance Road, the region faces potential traffic congestion and disruptions that could undermine these opportunities.

Essex County is prepared to contribute \$45 million towards the estimated \$105 million cost of each interchange project and is ready to begin preparatory work in 2025. However, due to financial constraints, the County requires substantial provincial assistance to advance these projects. The interchanges are vital to ensuring smooth traffic flow, supporting the region's economic development, and enabling the construction of up to 13,000 new homes in the area. This investment is crucial to realizing the full economic potential of Windsor-Essex and advancing Ontario's broader growth goals.

MOI – MHIP County Road 19/22 (Joint with Tecumseh)

The County of Essex and the Town of Tecumseh are requesting a joint delegation to advocate for funding support through the Housing-Enabling Core Servicing Stream (HECS). This funding would enable critical transportation infrastructure improvements along County Road 19 (Manning

Road), which is vital to unlocking new housing opportunities and supporting substantial population growth in the region.

The proposed project includes expanding Manning Road to a four-lane urban roadway with enhanced stormwater management, intersection improvements, and active transportation features. These upgrades will support the development of the Manning Road Secondary Plan Area (MRSPA), enabling the construction of 3,300 homes within five years while improving traffic flow, safety, and stormwater resiliency. With projected population growth of up to 115,000 people and increasing demand for affordable housing, this high-priority project aligns with the County's Official Plan and Ontario's goal of building 1.5 million homes by 2031.

MOH – Answering the Call

Essex-Windsor EMS is requesting that the Ministry of Health transfer the operational responsibility for the Windsor Central Ambulance Communications Centre (CACC) to the County of Essex, allowing Essex-Windsor EMS to manage day-to-day decision-making under a performance agreement with the Ministry. This move would enable more agile and responsive dispatching, leveraging the region's successful community paramedicine programs to improve patient care and outcomes. With the region's growing population and increasing ambulance call volumes, simply adding more resources such as ambulances and paramedics is neither financially feasible nor operationally sustainable. Instead, a more integrated approach to deploying existing resources is necessary to meet the demands of Windsor-Essex, which is facing a chronic shortage of paramedics and rising costs for ambulance services.

By taking control of the CACC, Essex-Windsor EMS could improve operational efficiency, reduce response times, and enhance coordination with regional health partners. This model has proven successful in other Ontario regions like Niagara, Ottawa, and Toronto, and has been identified as the preferred solution by expert consultants working with Essex-Windsor EMS. The transfer of responsibility would allow for a more streamlined, real-time deployment of resources, including community paramedics, to ensure patients receive the right care when and where they need it. This would also support the broader goal of reducing unnecessary emergency room visits and optimizing the overall healthcare system in the region.

Financial Implications

Preparing for delegations at the ROMA Conference requires the resources of a number of departments: the operational department most impacted by the advocacy issue, the Communications Department, the CAO's office and the

Warden. The Corporation is fortunate to have in-house expertise to manage the process and develop and create the deliverables. The cost of this work is absorbed in the daily running of the business.

The opportunity to advocate before a Minister is considered a privilege and while no financial commitments are secured from the Province during delegations, these opportunities open the door to the potential for new programs and financial supports from the Province, which can work to reduce pressures on the Corporation’s tax base.

Consultations

- Warden MacDonald
- Senior Leadership Team
- Administration of the Town of Tecumseh

Strategic Plan Alignment

Working as Team Essex County	Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence	Building a Regional Powerhouse
☒ Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation ☒ Focusing “Team Essex County” for Results ☒ Advocating for Essex County’s Fair Share	☐ Being an Employer with Impact ☒ A Government Working for the People ☒ Promoting Transparency and Awareness	☒ Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners ☒ Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County ☒ Harmonizing Action for Growth ☐ Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

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Administrative Report
January 15, 2025
ROMA Delegations

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report number 2025-0115-CAO-R01-SZ, ROMA Delegation as information.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra Zwiers
Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix	Title
N/A	N/A



Administrative Report

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Melissa Ryan, CPA, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Subject: Canada Community Building Fund Surplus Allocations 2024

Report #: 2025-0115-FIN-R01-MR

Purpose

To advise County Council of funds received from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) regarding a one- time payment of administrative surplus funds from the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) and the redistribution of these funds to the local municipalities in accordance with the local agreement to share CCBF funds on an 80/20 percentage basis (Local/ County) versus the provincially prescribed 50/50 percentage allocation.

Background

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has announced the release of \$10.5 million in surplus administration funds from the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF). These funds, accumulated due to AMO's efficient administration of the program at a cost of less than 0.5% of its allocation, are being distributed to municipalities across Ontario, excluding the City of Toronto, which administers its own funds. This surplus reflects AMO's success in managing the fund while ensuring that more dollars are directed toward local infrastructure.

Municipalities will receive approximately \$0.99 per capita. For two-tier municipalities, the funds will be shared equally between upper- and lower-tier governments.

The surplus funds are subject to the terms and conditions of the Municipal Funding Agreement and should be treated in the same manner as regular CCBF payments. These additional resources offer municipalities an

opportunity to address priority infrastructure needs or other local initiatives aligned with the fund's objectives.

Discussion

In accordance with County Council's prescribed method of cost sharing of CCBF dollars, 80% Local municipal and 20% County, \$35,876 of the County's surplus allocation is being redistributed to the local municipalities (Appendix A).

The one- time allocation of surplus administration funds carries the same terms and conditions of the CCBF Agreement and therefore, should be utilized and reported in the same fashion as the regular fund payments.

Financial Implications

The receipt of surplus administrative funds was not anticipated in the 2024 budget. Due to timing of receipt, well past the planning and execution period for eligible capital works, the County's 20% share of the funds will be transferred to reserve for application against qualifying projects in 2025.

Consultations

- Hoa Du, Financial Analyst

Strategic Plan Alignment

Working as Team Essex County	Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence	Building a Regional Powerhouse
☐ Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation ☐ Focusing “Team Essex County” for Results ☐ Advocating for Essex County’s Fair Share	☐ Being an Employer with Impact ☐ A Government Working for the People ☒ Promoting Transparency and Awareness	☒ Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners ☒ Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County ☐ Harmonizing Action for Growth ☐ Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

Recommendation

That Essex County Council approve report number 2025-0115-FIN-R01-MR, CCBF Surplus Allocations 2024 and direct administration to distribute the surplus funds as outlined in Appendix A and authorize By-Law 2025-01 to redistribute administrative surplus funds received through the Canada Community Building Fund.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Ryan

Melissa Ryan, CPA, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Concurred With,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

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Administrative Report
January 15, 2025
CCBF Surplus Allocations

Appendix	Title
Appendix A	Administrative Surplus Fund Redistribution Schedule



Administrative Report

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Darrel Laurendeau, Director, Information Technology Services; and,
Katherine Hebert, County Clerk

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Subject: Contact Council Email Distribution Group

Report #: 2025-0115-LLS-R01-KH DL

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to identify options for a consolidated communication method for members of the public to contact all of the Members of County Council with a single electronic communication.

Background

Currently, Members of County Council utilize their email addresses from their respective local municipalities, which are linked on the County's webpage in each Member's profile. The County's website does not have a form or a link that would allow a single email to be sent to all Members at one time. If a person were to email more than one Member of Council, re-typing, or copying and pasting the individual email addresses into a single email would be required. There is no distribution list that distributes the email to each Member of Council.

Discussion

Technical Options

The following discussion is based on the fundamental assumption that members of the public would continue to be able to contact a single Member of Council should they choose to do so.

Darrel Laurendeau, Director, Information Technology
Katherine Hebert, County Clerk
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Phone: 519-776-6441, ext. 1502; Email: DLaurendeau@countyofessex.ca

The following are some technical options that could be employed to accommodate the need for members of the public to send a communication to all Members of Council at one time:

- 1) Status Quo** – Members of the Public are able to email any combination of Members of Council, by completing the recipient field of the email. There are security concerns, however, as 'senders' could intentionally, or mistakenly include malicious links or attachments in the email. Individual systems may or may not be able to detect potential links should they be included. Email recipients have to exercise caution when opening email, links, associated attachments.
- 2) Distribution List to Local Municipality Email Addresses** – This option will create an email that will be sent to a distribution list at the countyofessex.ca email that will email all Members of County Council to their local municipal email address. The list will be created and managed by the County's IT department. The list will contain the regular Members of County Council, the CAO and the County Clerk. There are security concerns for Distribution Lists, in addition to the security concerns in Option 1 above. Distribution lists, especially those that are public, are prime targets for threat actors as the number of potential targets in one email links to multiple emails therefore increasing the likelihood of success. Additionally, distribution lists with multiple domains, as in this example, increase the scale of a threat as eight (8) domains will be included in the distribution list. A successful threat attempt has the ability to compromise all eight domain environments. As part of this of this option, the County Clerk will be included in the distribution list for auditing purposes.
- 3) Distribution List to County of Essex Email Addresses** – In this option, an email distribution list will be set up similar to Option 2 above, but with the email going to all Members of County Council, the CAO and the County Clerk via their County email addresses. Security risks are reduced as the County email system will be the only one exposed to the emails from the distribution list. The distribution list, being public, will still be an attractive target for threat actors. Members of County Council will also be subject to participating in regular, mandatory anti-phishing and email security training, which is standard to all County email users.
- 4) Contact County Council - Website Form** – In this option the County would have a fillable contact form for members of the public to communicate with all Members of County Council. The form will allow for uploads of documents so that supplementary files and information can be attached as necessary. The "sender" will then receive a

verification email that their submission was sent successfully, will be scanned for viruses and circulated to County Council Members (as appropriate). The content of the submission will be scanned for potential threats, including, but not limited to, links, pictures, attachments, etc., and then a notification will be provided to Members of County Council, the CAO and the Clerk that a submission has been made. The Clerk will then review the submission to ensure any matter requiring the attention of County Administration is communicated through the proper channels, and that misdirected correspondence be addressed with the "sender" in a timely and helpful fashion. Should a response from County Council be required, the Warden will communicate the response. This option provides protection of all systems as the content is quarantined for review. Additionally, this process will prevent an illegal meeting or an accidental in-camera meeting from being created (which is a concern for Options 1, 2, and 3 above.)

- 5) Email the Clerk** – The final option is that the County Clerk is set up as the contact for email communications intended to be received by all of Council. The Clerk will review and communicate the correspondence and report it to Council and the CAO accordingly. With this option, the security concerns are present with the email being a vulnerability similar to Options 1, 2, and 3. It does, however, limit the exposure, with only one (1) person receiving the correspondence.

In creating these options, the practices of the other Upper Tier Municipalities were investigated and it was found that two (2) Upper Tier Municipalities have the option to contact the group as a whole. However, each of the two (2) handle how these emails are received from the public differently. It is our understanding that communications to the Council for Leeds & Grenville United Counties is sent to a "reception" email address, while communications to the Council of Lennox & Addington County is to the Clerk's email. The process of how the email is then handled for further communication is unknown.

Legislative Considerations

Since January 1, 2018, the *Municipal Act, 2001* has included the following definition of "meeting" under s. 238(1):

"meeting" means any regular, special or other meeting of a council, of a local board or of a committee of either of them, where:

(a) a quorum of members is present, and

(b) members discuss or otherwise deal with any matter in a way that materially advances the business or decision-making of the council, local board or committee.

Meetings conducted informally over email (phone, text or in-person), are subject to the open meetings rule. Members may be considered "present" when they come together electronically to discuss and advance the business of the County. Discussions are considered to be a meeting, if a quorum of members are present, and business or decision-making is materially advanced.

Members of County Council are subject to the By-laws, Policies and Code of Conduct for Council Members, and Members of Local Boards and thus are cognizant of the implications of conducting informal meetings of any kind.

Given the above, whether the status quo is maintained, or should Council select another option for communication of emails to Council as a whole, Council must be very careful in communicating with one another about the email, or replying back to the email.

All electronic means of communication have an inherent risk that enough Members of Council will be included in a communication to trigger quorum. Regardless of the communication method chosen, Members of Council should refrain from "replying all" and/or including additional Members of Council such that quorum would be reached. Finally, the Warden, as the head of Council, is the one who properly should reply to any emails to all of Council. The exception to this is if the Warden delegates a response to another member of Council or Administration.

Clerk & Records Management

In order to address the risks identified in this Report, it is recommended that the Clerk be part of any option, exclusive of Option 1 – Status Quo. The Clerk will monitor all correspondence to ensure that matters requiring intervention by County Administration are addressed, and that compliance with legislative obligations are met.

Email correspondence is considered an official corporate record. All records are subject to the retention periods and handling as set out in the Records Management Program policies and are filed within the County's Electronic Documents and Records Management (EDRM) system.

Further, any option other than Option 1 – Status Quo, will have implications under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, ("**MFIPPA**"), should a request for records be received, and a search of emails be in order. Currently, members of County Council are receiving email at their local municipal email addresses, and those emails are not

within the control or custody of the County. As such, those emails are not subject to a records search initiated through the County, unless they are on a thread which includes an email recipient from the County domain.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications to execute any of the options listed in this report. Each of the options, with the exception of Option 1 – Status Quo, will require a component of County Administration’s time to set up, manage and review/maintain; including creating a form on the webpage.

Consultations

- Donald McArthur, Manager Communication and Organizational Development
- David Sundin, Director Legislative & Legal Services

Strategic Plan Alignment

Working as Team Essex County	Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence	Building a Regional Powerhouse
☐ Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation ☐ Focusing “Team Essex County” for Results ☐ Advocating for Essex County’s Fair Share	☐ Being an Employer with Impact ☒ A Government Working for the People ☒ Promoting Transparency and Awareness	☐ Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners ☐ Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County ☐ Harmonizing Action for Growth ☐ Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

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Administrative Report

January 15, 2025

Contact County Council – Email Distribution Group Discussion

Recommendation

Option 4 – Contact County Council – Website Form as described above, is favoured as a solution that would satisfy the request of this Council, if it is determined that a change from the status quo is required.

That Essex County Council receive report number 2025-0115-LLS-R01-KHDL Contact Council Email Distribution Group as information and direct administration to implement the option of their choice.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Darrel Laurendeau

Darrel Laurendeau, Director, Information Technology Services

Concurred With,

Katherine Hebert

Katherine Hebert, County Clerk

Concurred With,

David Sundin

David Sundin, BA (Hons), LL.B., Director, Legislative and Legal Services/County Solicitor

Concurred With,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix	Title
Appendix A	What Other Municipalities are Doing for Group Emails

Appendix A: What Are Other Upper-tier Municipalities Doing for Group Emails

County	Individual County Email	Individual Local/Lower-tier	Individual County Forms Contact	Group Contact
Bruce	individual@brucecounty.on.ca	No	No	No
Dufferin	individual@dufferincounty.ca	No	No	No
Elgin	individual@elgin.ca	No	No	No
Essex	No	Yes -individual @LocalMunicipality	No	No
Frontenac	No	Yes -individual @LocalMunicipality	No	No
Grey	individual@greycounty.ca	No	No	No
Haliburton	No	No email Only links to local municipal website and name of member	No	No
Hastings	individual@hastingscounty.ca	No	No	No
Huron	individual@huroncounty.ca	No	No	No
Lambton	No	No	Yes – Individual Upper-tier	No
Lanark	No	Yes -individual @LocalMunicipality	No	No

County	Individual County Email	Individual Local/Lower-tier	Individual County Forms Contact	Group Contact
Leeds & Grenville	No	No	No	all email points to reception@uclg.on.ca
Lennox and Addington	No	No	No	contact is listed as the county clerk. No council email listed on the website.
Middlesex	individual@middlesex.ca	No	No	No
Northumberland –.	No	No	Yes - individual forms contacts for each council member at upper-tier	No
Oxford	No	Yes -individual @LocalMunicipality	No	No
Perth	No	No	Yes - Individual contact for each individual member @ County	No
Peterborough	No	No	– no email at all – links to local municipalities	No
Prescott and Russell, United Counties	No	No	only list warden – can't find any email addresses. Links to local municipalities.	No
Renfrew	No	No	no council email contacts listed at all.	No

County	Individual County Email	Individual Local/Lower-tier	Individual County Forms Contact	Group Contact
<u>Simcoe</u>	No	Yes -individual @LocalMunicipality	No	No
<u>Stormont, Dundas a nd Glengarry</u>	No	Yes -individual @LocalMunicipality	No	No
<u>Wellington</u>	Individual@welling ton.ca	No	No	No



Administrative Report

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: David Sundin, BA (Hons), LL.B., Director, Legislative and Legal Services/County Solicitor

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Subject: County Intensive Supportive Housing Program – Addendum Supplementary

Report #: 2025-0115-LLS-R05-DMS -As Amended

Purpose

The purpose of this Administrative Report (the "**Report**") is to seek direction from County Council as to whether or not the County should continue to have an Intensive Supportive Housing Program in the County.

Background

As Council is well aware, in the 1990s when the Province downloaded certain provincial responsibilities to municipalities, it appointed the City of Windsor (the "**City**") as the Consolidated Regional Service Manager for social services for both the City and the County of Essex (the "**County**"). Since that appointment as the Consolidated Regional Service Manager, the City has been provided with funding from both the provincial and federal governments to provide social services, including programs related to addressing homelessness in both the City and the County.

For many years, the City has provided the County with an allocation of money that fluctuates slightly from year to year for homelessness initiatives. The funding is currently from a provincial funding source known as the Homelessness Prevention Program ("**HPP**"). The HPP allotment from the provincial funds provided to the County for 2025 is currently set at \$2,491,240.

For a number of years, the County has contributed County municipal tax dollars in the sum of \$448,640 to supplement the amount provided by the Province through the City. Further the County has provided County employees as support staff to oversee/manage the HPP funded programs in the County. Finally, effective April 1, 2024, the City and the County entered

into an agreement to formalize the County overseeing/managing HPP funded programs on behalf of the City in the County (the "**Funding Agreement**").

Traditionally, the HPP funds provided by the Province through the City were used to fund what is now known as "Residential Services Homes", which was formerly known as the "Housing with Supports" Program (the "**Traditional Supportive Housing Program**"). The Traditional Supportive Housing Program has been used to provide permanent housing, food services, supervised care, and other supports, to low income individuals who require some assistance with activities of daily living.

The Funding Agreement now provides the County with a set amount of funds for the Traditional Supportive Housing Program along with the operation of a Homelessness Hub in Leamington, the operation of an Emergency Shelter Program in the County, and a dedicated Homelessness Street Outreach Worker.

In 2022, the County and the City each began operating a supportive housing program that was more intense than the Traditional Supportive Housing Program, in that it provided specialized supports to those individuals experiencing homelessness and that are facing complex medical needs and/or mental health and/or addiction issues (the "**Intensive Supportive Housing Program**").

The City, as the Consolidated Regional Service Manager, has decided to fund the City's Intensive Supportive Housing Program (the "**City's Program**") differently than the County's Intensive Supportive Housing Program (the "**County's Program**"). The difference means that the City's Program receives approximately \$200,000 more per year from provincial funds than the County's Program does. That being said, the City's Program is also being sustained through a substantial contribution from the City's municipal tax base. The County's understanding is that approximately 50% of the cost of the City's Program is funded from the City's municipal taxes. Conversely, to date, the County's Program has not received any support from municipal taxes.

The County's Program is currently set to end on March 31, 2025, and will be unable to continue unless there is a commitment from the County to provide municipal tax dollars to subsidize the County's Program and/or a reconsideration by the City as to the amount allocated from the provincial and federal funds available to the Region to support the County's program.

Discussion

In anticipation of the County's Program ending on March 31, 2025, Administration approached a number of the County's community partners and existing providers of the County's Residential Services Homes Program to obtain some insight on the costs to continue providing the County's Program past March 31, 2025. That approach was made through a process known as a Request for Information ("**RFI**"). The RFI process is used to gain information in a non-binding way. Should County Council wish to further explore continuing the County's Program a formal Request for Quote ("**RFQ**") will be required.

Based on the RFI process, it appears that the County would be required to contribute between \$120,000 a year on the low end and \$390,000 a year on the high end, should County Council wish for the County's Program to continue to operate. The precise amount will not be known unless and until a formal RFQ process is completed.

There is the possibility that the amount required from the County to subsidize the County's Program could be reduced if the City provides the County with a larger amount from the provincial and/or federal funds allotted to the Region as a whole, if another funding source becomes available, or if other service providers with funding from other provincial and/or federal sources can assist with the County's Program. However, that is speculative at this point, with all previous attempts to find alternate funding or supports being unsuccessful.

Direction is required from County Council as to whether it is the desire of Council to continue the operation of the County's Program, or to cease the operation of the County's Program.

Supplementary Information – Addendum

Following this Report being provided to Council, Administration learned that on January 9, 2025, AMO published a Report entitled "Municipalities Under Pressure: The Human and Financial Cost of Ontario's Homelessness Crisis" (the "**AMO Report**"). The AMO Report was conducted by HelpSeeker Technologies, in partnership with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario ("**AMO**"), the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association. On January 9, 2025, AMO provided a [press release](#) regarding the AMO Report along with a link to the full [AMO Report](#). Attached to this Report as **Appendix A** is a copy of the Summary of the AMO Report.

Administration wanted to ensure that the very timely and detailed statistics and information contained in the [AMO Report](#), and the related [press release](#)

and AMO Report Summary, was available to Council prior to Council's discussion regarding the contents of this Report.

Financial Implications

Should Council direct Administration to continue the operation of an Intensive Supportive Housing Program in the County, there will be costs, that, through the RFI process, Administration believes will result in an annual obligation of the County of between approximately \$120,000 and \$390,000. However, the precise amount will not be known until a formal procurement process results in a quote being provided that a Proponent is legally obligated to honour.

Should the County Program be continued, Administration recommends funding any transition costs and any further net operating costs of the County Program in 2025 with excess Safe Restart Funds. However, the County will have to be prepared to support the County Program with levy funds in the future, and likely for an extended period of time. Most service providers will expect a multi-year contract before engaging in offering this type of program.

Should Council direct Administration to cease the operation of an Intensive Supportive Housing Program in the County, there will be costs for that as well. Those costs are more difficult to clearly identify. The costs will not likely have a direct impact on the County's municipal levy (other than through the potential for increased calls to EMS), but there will be costs if the people utilizing the current Intensive Supportive Housing Program are left homeless. Anecdotal evidence suggests that homelessness results in increased costs to the shelter system, to the healthcare system, and to emergency services.

Consultations

In drafting this Report, consultations were held with:

- Jeanie Diamond-Francis, Manager, Community Services
- Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer, and
- Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer

Strategic Plan Alignment

Working as Team Essex County	Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence	Building a Regional Powerhouse
☒ Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation ☒ Focusing “Team Essex County” for Results ☒ Advocating for Essex County’s Fair Share	☐ Being an Employer with Impact ☒ A Government Working for the People ☐ Promoting Transparency and Awareness	☐ Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners ☒ Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County ☐ Harmonizing Action for Growth ☐ Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive Report Number 2025-0115-LLS-R05 DMS – County Intensive Supportive Housing Program as information and provide direction to Administration as to whether or not to continue operation of an Intensive Supportive Housing Program in the County by adopting 1 of the following 2 resolutions:

- (1) Essex County Council directs Administration to commence a formal procurement process with respect to an Intensive Supportive Housing Program in the County, report back to Council regarding the outcome of same and for further direction, and continue operating the existing County Intensive Supportive Housing Program in the meantime; or
- (2) Essex County Council directs Administration to wind up the existing Intensive Supportive Housing Program in the County, and to take such steps and expend such monies as are necessary for same.

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Administrative Report
January 15, 2025
County Intensive Supportive Housing Program

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

David M. Sundin

David Sundin, BA (Hons), LL.B., Director, Legislative and Legal Services/County Solicitor

Concurred With,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix	Title
A	Municipalities Under Pressure: The Human and Financial Cost of Ontario’s Homelessness Crisis – Report Summary

Municipalities Under Pressure:

The Growing Human and Financial Cost of Ontario's Homelessness Crisis

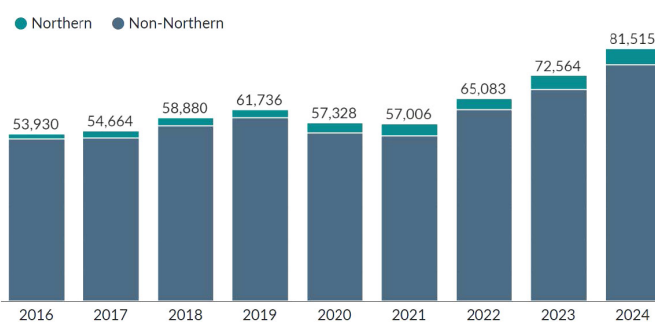
Ontario is at a tipping point in its homelessness crisis. A new study reveals the unprecedented and growing costs to individuals, families, communities, and governments. It also charts a collective path forward.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has partnered with the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) and HelpSeeker Technologies on the most ambitious study of homelessness conducted across Ontario.

The homelessness crisis in Ontario is severe and getting worse.

- More than 80,000 Ontarians were known to be homeless in 2024, a number that has grown by more than 25% since 2022.
- More than half of this total are chronically homeless, characterized by prolonged or repeated episodes. This is a critical indicator of the breakdown in the homeless response system.

People Experiencing Homelessness



The vast majority of homeless individuals live in urban centres in southern Ontario, but homelessness is increasing fastest in rural and northern communities.

- In rural communities, homelessness has grown by more than 150% since 2016, compared to an average of about 50% across all communities.
- In Northern Ontario, homelessness has risen by an estimated 204% since 2016, more than four times faster than in southern Ontario over the same time period.

Different groups of people are disproportionately impacted by homelessness.

- While the majority of those experiencing homelessness are adults, **nearly one quarter of chronically homeless Ontarians are children (0-15) or youth (16-24).**
- Refugee homelessness has grown more than 600% in four years, while the number of chronically homeless immigrants has doubled in the same time period.

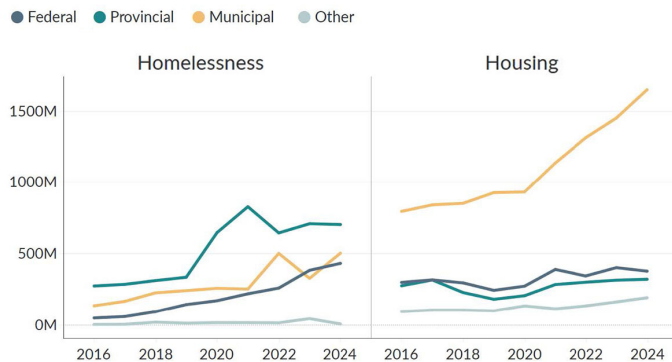
Almost 50 per cent of the chronic homeless population in some communities are Indigenous, reflecting the enduring effects of colonialism.

All orders of government have a responsibility to work together in the spirit of reconciliation to commit meaningful resources to advance homelessness solutions that are co-developed and led by Indigenous People, recognizing the majority of Indigenous people live in urban and rural communities.

Municipalities have stepped in to address homelessness in their communities despite homelessness in their communities despite limited resources. The provincial and federal governments have not done their part.

- Municipal spending on homelessness and housing programs has sky-rocketed since 2020, **growing to more than \$2.1 billion in 2024.**

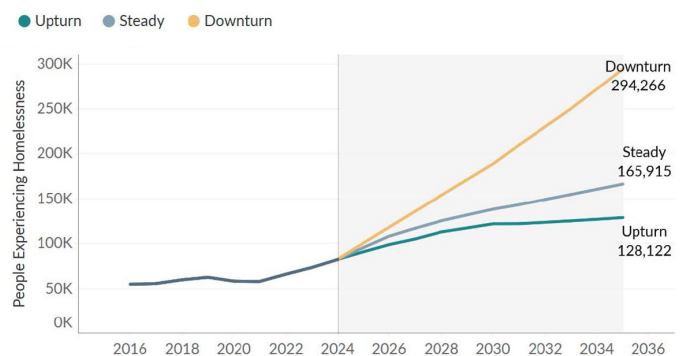
Government Spending on Homelessness and Housing in Ontario



The situation will only get worse if we don't take action.

- Without additional action, homelessness will continue to increase.
- **Even under a steady economic scenario, homelessness in Ontario could double over the next 10 years** and could grow to almost 300,000 people in an economic downturn.

People Experiencing Homelessness Projections: All Ontario



The scale and scope of homelessness described in this report should be unacceptable in Ontario.

To end chronic homelessness, we need a fundamentally new approach that prioritizes long-term housing solutions over temporary emergency measures and enforcement-based responses.

- To end chronic homelessness, the report modelling showed that an additional **\$11 billion over 10 years**, would re-focus investments into capital, increase focus on prevention, and create more than 75,000 new affordable and supportive housing units*. This approach would prevent people from becoming chronically homeless by creating stable exits from homelessness.
- To tackle the **immediate priority of ensuring all encampment residents are appropriately housed, we need an additional investment of \$2 billion over eight years** to greatly increase the capacity of support services and supportive, transitional and community housing, and to move people into stable housing.

Through collective and strategic action, we can make our communities safer, improve quality of life, reduce costs and improve local economies.

Recent provincial investments in homelessness are appreciated but inadequate:

- \$50 million for affordable housing is 3% of what municipalities alone spent on housing in 2024.
- \$20 million in additional shelter funding is 2% of the total spending on shelters in Ontario in 2024.
- \$378 million for HART hubs is an important investment in health services however, the 375 supportive housing beds is only 6% of the additional capacity needed to end encampments.

*Numbers reflect provincial average costs. Unit costs for individual municipalities will vary based on unique circumstances.



The Corporation of the County of Essex

By-Law Number 2025-01

A By-law to amend By-law Number 34-2024, authorizing the allocation of Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) funds to the Lower Tier municipalities in the County of Essex, being the Towns of Amherstburg, Essex, Kingsville, LaSalle, and Tecumseh, and the Municipalities of Lakeshore and Leamington, in accordance with Section 5.3 of the Municipal Funding Agreement with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF).

Whereas By-law Number 34-2024, being a by-law to authorize the allocation of funds from the Canada Community-Building Fund (the "**CCBF**") to the lower tier municipalities in the County of Essex in accordance with Section 5.3 of the Municipal Funding Agreement with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario ("**AMO**"), was adopted by the Council for the County of Essex on July 17, 2024;

And Whereas Schedule "A" of By-law Number 34-2024, allocating the CCBF funds for 2024 to the lower-tier municipalities requires revision, due to additional one-time surplus administration funding being received for 2024;

Now Therefore the Council for the Corporation of the County of Essex hereby enacts as follows:

1. **That** the allocation of Funds to the Eligible Recipients in accordance with Section 5.3 of the Municipal Funding Agreement, more specifically on the basis set out in the revised Schedule "A", be and is hereby authorized.
2. **That** the Eligible Recipients will receive the amount specified in accordance with the revised Schedule "A", for the 2024 Fiscal Year.
3. **This** By-law shall come into force and take effect after the final passing.

By-Law Number 2025-01

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Read a first, second and third time and Finally Passed this Fifteenth day of January, 2025.

Hilda MacDonald, Warden

Katherine J. Hebert, Clerk

Clerk's Certificate

I, Katherine J. Hebert, Clerk of the Corporation of the County of Essex, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy, of **By-law Number 2025-01** passed by the Council of the said Corporation on this **Fifteenth day of January, 2025.**

Katherine J. Hebert, Clerk
Corporation of the County of Essex

2024 Federal Gas Tax Distribution Schedule

2024				
Municipality	Original Cost Share	Allocation	Revised Cost Share (2021 Census)	Distribution
County	6,067,000	20.00%	2,426,800	- 3,640,200
Amherstburg	739,597	9.75%	1,183,356	443,758
Essex	667,034	8.80%	1,067,254	400,220
Kingsville	695,424	9.17%	1,112,678	417,254
Lakeshore	1,270,495	16.75%	2,032,792	762,297
LaSalle	1,028,752	13.57%	1,646,004	617,251
Leamington	933,143	12.30%	1,493,028	559,886
Tecumseh	732,555	9.66%	1,172,088	439,533
Sub-Total Local	6,067,000	80.00%	9,707,200	3,640,200
Total	12,134,000	100.00%	12,134,000	-

2024 Admin Surplus				
Admin Surplus	Allocation	Revised Cost Share	Distribution	
89,691	20.00%	35,876	-	53,815
10,838	9.75%	17,494		6,656
10,093	8.80%	15,778		5,685
10,648	9.17%	16,449		5,801
18,089	16.75%	30,051		11,962
14,911	13.57%	24,333		9,422
13,634	12.30%	22,072		8,438
11,477	9.66%	17,327		5,850
89,690	80.00%	143,505		53,815
179,381	100.00%	179,381		-



The Corporation of the County of Essex

By-Law Number 2025-03

A By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex for the Special, Regular and Closed Meetings held January 15, 2025.

Whereas pursuant to Section 5(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, c.25 as amended, the powers of a municipality shall be exercised by its Council;

And whereas pursuant to Section 5(3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c.25 as amended, a municipal power, including a municipality's capacity, rights, powers, and privileges pursuant to Section 8 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c.25 as amended, shall be exercised by By-law, unless the municipality is specifically authorized to do otherwise;

And whereas it is deemed expedient that the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex, at these meetings be confirmed and adopted by By-law;

Now therefore the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex hereby enacts as follows:

- 1) That the actions of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex in respect of all recommendations in reports of committees, all motions and resolutions and all other action passed and taken by the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex, documents, and transactions entered into during the Special, Regular and Closed Meetings held January 15, 2025, is hereby adopted and confirmed as if the same were expressly embodied in this By-law;
- 2) That the Warden and proper officials of the Corporation of the County of Essex are hereby authorized and directed to do all the things necessary to give effect to the action of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex during the said Special, Regular and Closed Meetings held January 15, 2025, referred to in Section 1 of this By-law; and

By-Law Number 2025-03

Page 2

- 3) That the Warden and the Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute all documents necessary to the action taken by the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex during the said Special, Regular and Closed Meetings held January 15, 2025 referred to in Section 1 of this By-law and to affix the Corporate Seal of the Corporation of the County of Essex to all such documents.

This By-law shall come into force and take effect after the final passing thereof.

Read a first, second and third time and Finally Passed this Fifteenth day of January, 2025.

Hilda MacDonald, Warden

Katherine J. Hebert, Clerk

Clerk's Certificate

I, Katherine J. Hebert, Clerk of the Corporation of the County of Essex, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy, of **By-law Number 2025-03** passed by the Council of the said Corporation on this **Fifteenth day of January, 2025.**

Katherine Hebert, Clerk
Corporation of the County of Essex