

## INFORMATION LIST #11-20 October 20, 2020

The following is a list of information items received up until October 14, 2020

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15	Oct 9	Almonte General Hospital & Fairview Manor	Media Release re: Enriching Life at Fairview Manor	182

**From:** Board Chair <[MPACBoard.Chair@mpac.ca](mailto:MPACBoard.Chair@mpac.ca)>

**Sent:** September-23-20 3:46 PM

Info List # 11-20 Item #1
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Good afternoon Christa,

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for the work you are doing to keep our communities safe and healthy. We recognize the disruptions and challenges the pandemic has caused for our partners and, in consultation with our Municipal Liaison Group, we have continued to review our priorities, strategies and approaches to find new and efficient ways to deliver services and supports to municipalities and property owners.

Our pandemic support plan has three elements: controlling MPAC costs, supporting municipal priorities and finding new ways to deliver services.

### **Controlling costs: 2021 Provincial Municipal Levy**

In light of the challenges posed by COVID-19, MPAC's Board of Directors has approved the corporation's 2021 operating budget with a total municipal levy increase of 0%. This budget reflects our understanding of the financial challenges faced by municipalities and the need for us to continue to deliver on our service commitments.

Like many businesses, MPAC responded to the uncertainty created by COVID-19 by putting hiring on hold and stopping travel, resulting in cost savings. We have strictly managed our cash flow and have worked to identify efficiencies and cost reductions to maintain our budget at the current level for 2021. That means the total levy amount is the same as 2020, without any reduction to service levels.

Municipal billing partners can expect to receive more details about their individual 2021 levy, which is determined by a formula based on costs, your assessment base and number of properties within each municipality, later this year. Municipalities can contact their Account Manager with inquiries in the interim.

### **Supporting priorities: extended timeline to capture 2020 new construction and additions, renovations**

We know that funding from new construction, additions and renovations are a critical stream of new revenue for municipalities, and more so now than ever as municipalities manage the impacts of the pandemic. In response to a suggestion by our Municipal Liaison Group, we have identified opportunities to speed up our processes in order to deliver approximately \$1-billion in additional new assessment for municipalities this year.

### **New ways to deliver services: easier, faster access to assessment data**

While the pandemic may have fueled disruptions in our communities and businesses, it has also taught us the importance of flexibility and decisiveness in decision-making. We want to support you with insightful data and analysis as you navigate the future.

We are developing the next iteration of Municipal Connect, our data-sharing tool with municipalities, in-house and have accelerated the project to meet the needs of municipalities. The new system will create the foundation for a highly collaborative, transformational tool that improves the user experience to make information easier to access. It will also enable the opportunity to expand the ways municipalities can use MPAC's data and support municipal governments into the future.

We know that the challenges we face from the pandemic will not end overnight and we are committed to continuing to look for new ways to serve you better.

Thank you for your dedication and work in our communities.

Alan Spacek  
Chair, MPAC Board of Directors  
Nicole McNeill  
President and Chief Administrative Officer, MPAC

## **[UCDSB Observes Orange Shirt Day and the Legacy of Residential Schools](#)**

**September 30, 2020 (Brockville, ON)** – Staff and students across the [Upper Canada District School Board](#) (UCDSB) are dressed in orange today, September 30, to honour and recognize the injustices that happened in residential schools and how the actions impacted so many young children, their families and their communities.

Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters is an annual event held each year on September 30. It is a chance for classrooms to have meaningful discussions about the harmful effects of residential schools and the legacy they have left behind.

In addition to wearing orange and having classroom discussions or activities, some classes are participating in a free half-day virtual event being hosted by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

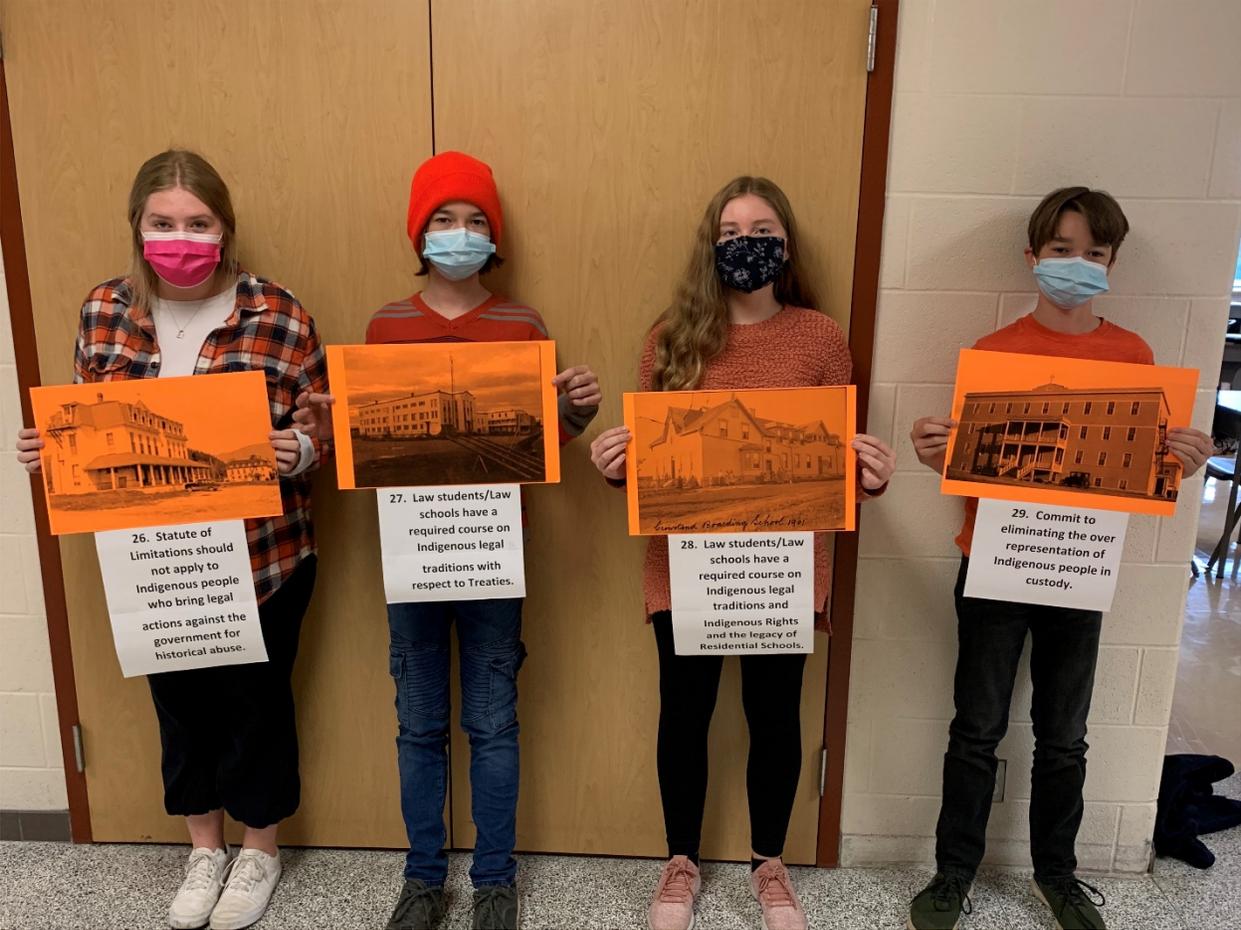
“In the UCDSB, we are committed honouring truth and reconciliation and bringing awareness to why days like Orange Shirt Day matter,” says Gail Brant-Terry, UCDSB Principal of Indigenous Education. “Orange Shirt Day is one of the many ways we support and teach Indigenous Education in our school district.”

This special recognition day was created in 2013 and inspired by [residential school survivor Phyllis Webstad](#), who had her new orange shirt taken from her on the first day of school at the St. Joseph Mission Residential School.

**PHOTO** - Students from Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute hold pictures of residential schools with attributed Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action Recommendations.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Gail Brant-Terry  
Principal of Indigenous Education  
(613) 485-0159  
[gail.brant-terry@ucdsb.on.ca](mailto:gail.brant-terry@ucdsb.on.ca)



26. Statute of Limitations should not apply to Indigenous people who bring legal actions against the government for historical abuse.



27. Law students/Law schools have a required course on Indigenous legal traditions with respect to Treaties.



28. Law students/Law schools have a required course on Indigenous legal traditions and Indigenous Rights and the legacy of Residential Schools.



29. Commit to eliminating the over representation of Indigenous people in custody.



October 1, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Room 281  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1A1

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Premier:

I am writing today to follow-up on our conversation about the recent car rally that took place in our Town.

The Town of Wasaga Beach was thankful for the efforts of the officers from the Huronia West OPP Detachment, the OPP Traffic Safety Division, as well as officers from York and Peel regions who joined forces this past weekend to address an unauthorized car rally in Wasaga Beach.

Over the weekend, officers worked around the clock to ensure the safety of residents, visitors, and businesses during extremely trying circumstances and I applaud them for their amazing work. The event disrupted people's enjoyment of their property and put people's safety at risk. This is not acceptable and it must stop. The arrogant and selfish behavior shown over the weekend is costing all Ontarians financially due to the resources required to deal with these impromptu community invasions.

Not everyone here this past weekend was inconsiderate. However, it puts a dark cloud over true car enthusiasts and events such as show and shines that can be great family entertainment and are welcomed in communities. I have heard from true car enthusiasts who do not want to be lumped in with this group.

Kudos to Police Services for implementing "Project Drift" and "Project E.R.A.S.E." which are addressing concerns regarding stunt driving and high-speed chases.

I believe mayors and councils of every municipality in Ontario must support the Premier and Provincial Government in developing tougher laws with larger financial penalties than currently exist when dealing with unauthorized car rallies and participants. Another municipality may be invaded next.

Our Provincial Government must take the lead in increasing penalties and fines. Every municipality should be reviewing their by-laws to ensure that measures are in place to allow the OPP to act on their behalf when events such as these unauthorized car rallies take over a community or parking lot. For example, Wasaga Beach authorized the OPP to enforce no trespassing laws this past weekend to ensure safety of the town's property and the community. This allows the OPP to consider damage to the town's property as mischief and is considered a criminal offence.

While common sense needs to be used by officers when dealing with every day regular people not associated with rallies or street racing, some potential infractions that could benefit from **significantly** higher fines when dealing with these situations and act as a deterrent could be:

- **Licence Plates** must be on the front and back of a vehicle - current fine for not adhering to this is \$85.00/\$110.00.

Increase in fine is suggested. In the event of rallies such as the one in Wasaga Beach, there was lots of camera footage of inappropriate behavior. It is harder to identify vehicles with only one plate. Two properly installed license plates would assist in recording the cars not adhering to the law to allow charges.

- **Loud/Unnecessary Noise/Improper Exhaust** (also missing muffler) - current fine \$85.00/\$110.00.

Increase in fine is suggested. In the event of rallies such as the one in Wasaga Beach, part of the enjoyment for participants is to have loud cars. A larger fine will be a deterrent.

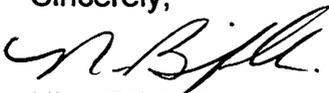
- **Prohibited Nitrous Oxide Fuel Systems** are putting the driver, passenger, others on the road and emergency responders in accident situations in added danger and needs to result in a significant financial fine. Currently there is no set fine. Permanent confiscation of the vehicle followed by destruction of the vehicle would make the message clear and be a deterrent.
- **Insurance** Police require the authority to not just confirm with an insurance agency that a vehicle is insured but they need to be permitted to advise the company that modifications have occurred to a vehicle that they have insured on behalf of an owner. If insurance is hard to get for these modified vehicles or too costly, it is yet another deterrent. Tougher convictions are required for people caught attempting insurance fraud associated with these events.
- **Impoundment** Currently a vehicle can be impounded for 1 week. This needs to increase with all costs being born by the vehicle owner. Impounding it for a greater length of time (1-2 months) would be inconvenient, expensive and be a significant deterrent.
- **Border Crossing Prevention** Street racers or law breakers from other Provinces or Countries need to be banned from crossing into Ontario for a period. If breached a large fine will be a deterrent.
- **Automatic License Suspensions** for a significant period of time for those endangering the public by street racing, performing stunts or any other activity that may cause injury to a bystander.

- **Municipal Authority to Close our Borders** In the event a municipality is made aware of such an event being planned for their community, consideration needs to be given to the municipal council having the authority to close their borders with OPP assistance to turn away anyone who is not a resident or property owner.
- **Access to Hospital Information when Dealing with a Crime** We were told that at these events people “take care of their own.” If someone is hurt they drop them off at the hospital for care. Under the current rules it is my understanding that officers are not permitted to know if a hospital patient is someone they are looking for in an active investigation/situation. The Police could spend hours or days looking for someone who is actually sitting in the hospital. This rule may need to change in several situations to avoid unnecessary time being spent by officers which also costs the taxpayers of Ontario.
- **Other considerations**
  - With this growing trend, should there be more access for officer training and equipment to deal with these situations.
  - This could happen to any municipality without notice and suggest that a municipal awareness program including the public may be beneficial.
  - Tougher convictions for people associated with the promotion of these events (i.e.: administrators of social media sites) as well as industries found to be associated with assisting these events such as tow companies and auto modification shops.
  - Authority provided to the OPP to do an “Air Drop” on the spot of any video footage captured by attendees’ cell phones that would aid in possible investigations.

I feel that serious consideration needs to be given to deterring these types of events province-wide. We don’t want to just push them out of our community so they can land in another community causing the same disruption, disrespect and cost to the tax payer. It is only through penalties that cause severe financial hardship that we can deter these unsanctioned and dangerous events from happening in our communities.

In closing, I want to again commend you for the great leadership during these difficult times and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Nina Bifulchi  
Mayor  
Town of Wasaga Beach

- c. Sylvia Jones, Solicitor-General  
Doug Downey, Attorney General  
Thomas Carrique, OPP Commissioner  
Dwight Peer, OPP Chief Superintendent  
Philip Browne, OPP Commander  
Derek Banks, OPP Sergeant  
Kevin Winiarski, OPP Sergeant  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
All Mayors of Ontario  
Wasaga Beach Town Council Members

# The Federal Gas Tax Fund in 2019



# Letter from the AMO President



In 2019, the federal Gas Tax Fund was once again a significant source of infrastructure funding for communities all across Ontario – and in fact it was twice as impactful as it usually is.

That’s because in March of 2019, the federal government announced a one-time doubling of the Fund. This “top-up” funding meant that Ontario’s municipalities received more than \$1.6 billion in federal Gas Tax funding in 2019.

This major commitment from the federal government allowed municipalities to move forward on hundreds of local infrastructure projects, many of which would have been delayed without the additional funding.

This annual report showcases some of the projects that benefited from the top-up funding, and outlines how important investing in municipal infrastructure is to building better communities and improving quality of life across Canada.

As the voice of Ontario’s municipalities, AMO represents almost one in three Canadians. We are proud of our work in administering the federal Gas Tax Fund. Local governments are responsible for so much of the infrastructure that people use every day. From clean drinking water and recreational facilities, to safe roads and bridges – municipalities are at the heart of delivering these services, along with many more.

Clearly, funding provided by the federal Gas Tax Fund is absolutely essential for municipalities to be able to keep providing these vital services. And the knowledge that the Fund is a permanent and predictable source of income for local infrastructure means that municipalities can plan their work and uphold their commitments to residents.

This annual report contains information on the benefits each project has brought to the community, showing how no matter where you live in Ontario, the federal Gas Tax Fund has had a positive impact.

In 2020 the federal government expedited the release of federal Gas Tax funding, distributing the full amount in June rather than in two installments as in previous years. This ensured important projects could continue even as the world was in the grip of uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. This report makes it very clear how important the predictability of this funding is to the people of Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Graydon Smith'.

Graydon Smith - AMO President

# In 2019, municipalities invested federal Gas Tax funds in:



**Energy-efficient systems**  
saving over 21 GWh of  
energy each year

enough to power  
2,300 houses a year



**Over 3,200  
lane-km  
of local roads**

enough to drive  
from Kenora  
to Halifax

**About 77 km of bike lanes,  
trails, and sidewalks**

opening opportunities  
to explore Ontario



**15 km of watermains  
and 28 km of sewers**

impacting over 33,000 residents



**Arenas,  
playgrounds  
and parks**

serving over  
2.2 million Ontarians



**17  
public  
transit  
systems**

collectively serving  
over 5.1 million  
Ontarians

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This report describes how Ontario’s communities invested and benefited from the federal Gas Tax Fund in 2019. The report is split into two parts. Part I summarizes investments, benefits, and AMO’s approach to the administration of the Fund. [Part II](#) provides detailed financial information, compliance statements, and descriptions of projects supported by the Fund.

Both parts of this report are available at [www.gastaxatwork.ca](http://www.gastaxatwork.ca).



# The Federal Gas Tax Fund

## About the Fund

The federal Gas Tax Fund provides permanent and stable federal funding for local infrastructure projects. Canadian municipalities receive over \$2 billion from the Fund each year.

Funds can be invested in the construction, enhancement or renewal of local infrastructure, used to improve long-term plans and asset management systems, shared with other communities to achieve common goals, or banked to support future projects. The Fund is flexible; local governments decide how funds can be best directed to address local priorities.

Municipalities can spread investments of the Fund over several project categories to boost productivity and economic growth, create a cleaner environment, and build stronger cities and communities – key national objectives of the Fund. Eligible project categories are listed below.<sup>1</sup>

Productivity and Economic Growth	Clean Environment	Strong Cities and Communities
 Broadband Connectivity	 Brownfield Redevelopment	 Capacity Building
 Local and Regional Airports	 Community Energy Systems	 Culture
 Local Roads and Bridges	 Drinking Water	 Disaster Mitigation
 Public Transit	 Solid Waste	 Recreation
 Short-Line Rail	 Wastewater	 Sport
 Short-Sea Shipping		 Tourism

<sup>1</sup> Highways are also eligible under the federal Gas Tax Fund – but are not listed in the table above because highways are provincially owned and maintained in Ontario.



## The Federal Gas Tax Fund in Ontario

Federal Gas Tax funds are distributed to provinces, territories and First Nations on a per-capita basis.<sup>2</sup> Ontario's communities received \$5.5 billion between 2014 and 2019.<sup>3</sup> An additional \$3.4 billion will be transferred between 2020 and 2023.<sup>4</sup>

Administration of the Fund in Ontario is governed by the [Administrative Agreement on the Federal Gas Tax Fund](#). Under the Administrative Agreement, AMO distributes funds to all municipalities in Ontario except for the City of Toronto, which receives funding directly from the Government of Canada. The Government of Ontario delivers funds to unincorporated areas of the province.<sup>5</sup>

AMO flows funds directly to municipalities upon receipt from the Government of Canada.<sup>6</sup> Funds are distributed on a per-capita basis, with funding split 50/50 between upper- and lower-tier municipalities in two-tier systems. Municipal allocations can be found at [www.gastaxatwork.ca/about-the-fund/allocations](http://www.gastaxatwork.ca/about-the-fund/allocations).

Predictable, up-front funding from the federal Gas Tax Fund allows local governments to plan for the long term, target funding to local priorities, and get projects moving quickly. The Ontario model recognizes that municipalities are a duly elected, accountable and transparent order of government. AMO's success in administering the program results in municipalities receiving funds in a timely fashion.

Each municipality's use of federal Gas Tax funds is governed by a [Municipal Funding Agreement for the Transfer of Federal Gas Tax Funds](#).

Under the Municipal Funding Agreement, municipalities can use funds to:

- Cover the full cost of an eligible project;
- Support an eligible project that benefits from other funding sources;
- Save and/or invest for future eligible projects;
- Finance long-term debt incurred for eligible projects;
- Accrue interest for subsequent application toward eligible projects;
- Develop and implement asset management plans; and
- Collaborate with other municipalities or non-municipal entities to fund an eligible project.

AMO works with municipalities to ensure that they comply with the *Municipal Funding Agreement*. See the Risk Management and Compliance section of this report for more information.

### Municipal Top-Up

The federal government transferred an additional \$2.2 billion to communities across Canada through the federal Gas Tax Fund in 2019 – doubling 2019's distribution and accelerating critical local infrastructure projects. See narratives scattered throughout this report to learn more about how the top-up is helping municipalities in Ontario meet urgent needs.

<sup>2</sup> The federal Gas Tax Fund is allocated to provinces, territories and First Nations on a per-capita basis, but provides a base funding amount – equal to 0.75% of total annual funding – to Prince Edward Island and each territory.

<sup>3</sup> This amount includes the additional \$819.4 million released through Budget 2019 – effectively doubling 2019's distribution of the Fund.

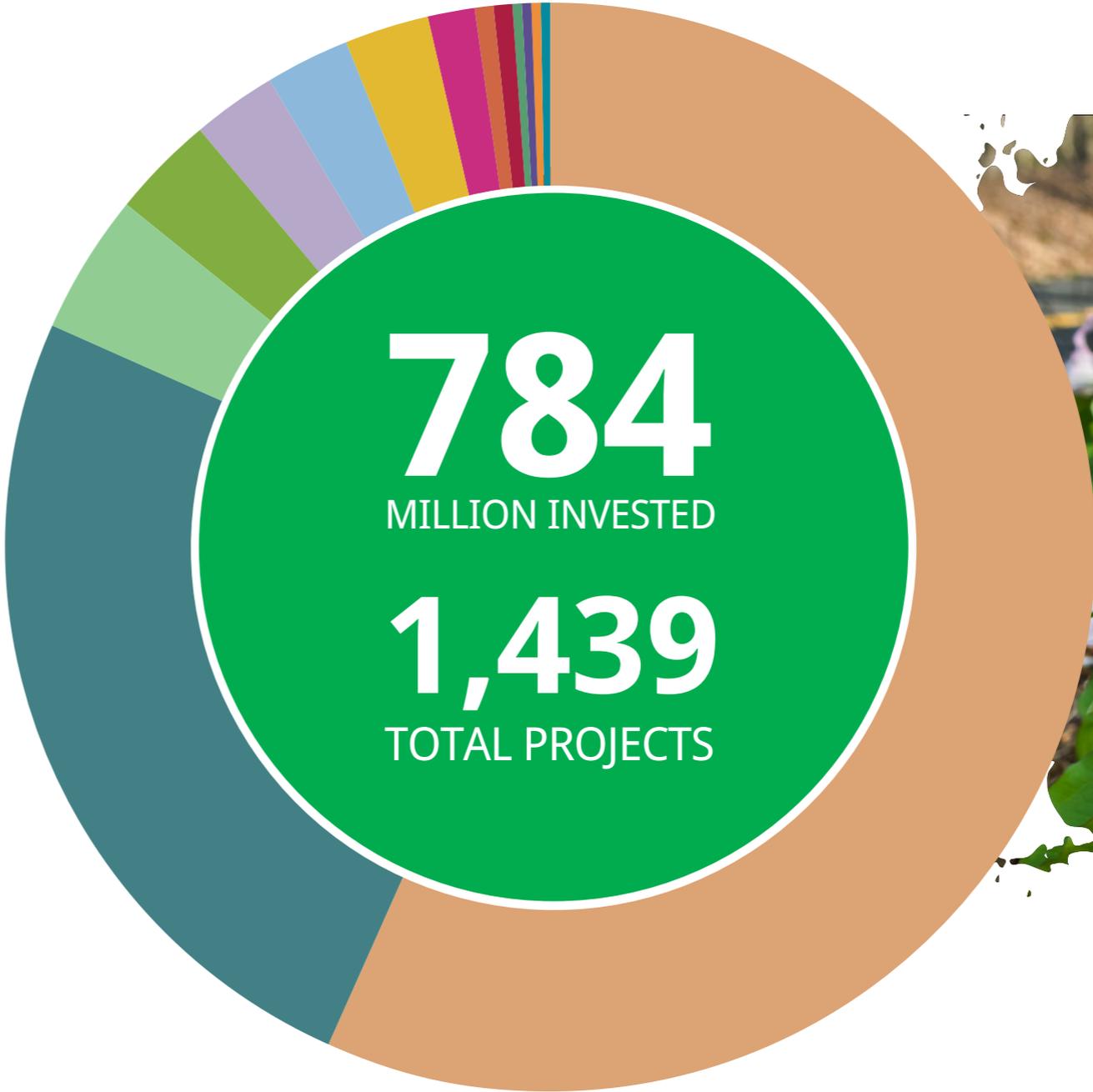
<sup>4</sup> The Administrative Agreement (see next paragraph) came into effect in 2014 and expires in 2023.

<sup>5</sup> All subsequent references to communities, municipalities and local governments in this report are exclusive of the City of Toronto unless otherwise noted.

<sup>6</sup> AMO distributed approximately \$4.4 billion between 2014 and 2019 (including additional funding released through Budget 2019) and will distribute an additional \$2.7 billion between 2020 and 2023.

# Investment in 2019

	Local Roads and Bridges	\$445.9M
	Public Transit	\$196.5M
	Solid Waste	\$31.9M
	Recreation	\$23.6M
	Wastewater	\$20.6M
	Drinking Water	\$20.2M
	Community Energy Systems	\$19.6M
	Culture	\$9.3M
	Capacity-Building	\$5.1M
	Disaster Mitigation	\$4.8M
	Broadband Connectivity	\$2.4M
	Regional and Local Airports	\$2.4M
	Tourism	\$0.8M
	Sports	\$0.7M



# Lakeshore Drive Improvements in Barrie

This project has improved the natural environment and enhanced a key community and economic area in the City of Barrie. Previously, culverts at Lakeshore Drive were unable to cope with even minor storms, resulting in frequent flooding. Federal Gas Tax funding was invested in the construction of much larger concrete box culverts to safely accommodate significant storms.

The new culverts were constructed as part of a larger project to restore Bunker's Creek and Dymont's Creek to a natural open channel, relocate Lakeshore Drive and create additional waterfront park space. Barrie's waterfront is a community gathering place, home to charity fun runs, festivals, family picnics and more.



Wastewater

A thriving community hub is benefiting from improved flood protection and an enhanced natural environment.

## City of Barrie

Population: 141,434

2019 Federal Gas Tax Allocation: \$17,410,050

# Small Water System Pump Replacement in Temagami

Top-up funding helped the Municipality of Temagami replace and upgrade pumps in the backwash system at a water treatment facility – accelerating the completion of an urgent investment required to continue the distribution of clean water.

The Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) identified the need for this investment several years ago, and work was initially slated for 2017. But with a population of 802, the municipality hadn't raised enough through water rates to finance the project.

Temagami added a 15% capital levy to their rates in 2019 and was finally able to tackle the project in 2019 thanks to the levy and the top-up funds.



Drinking Water

The continued supply of clean water has been secured by upgraded pumps at a water treatment facility.

## Municipality of Temagami

Population: 802

2019 Federal Gas Tax Allocation: \$103,166

# Investments of the Federal Gas Tax Fund

Safe and reliable infrastructure is critical to all Canadians

From the water we drink, to the internet we use, to the roads we travel – these assets impact many aspects of our lives. Keeping this infrastructure up to date is a significant undertaking, for which municipalities are largely responsible. Municipalities primarily use federal Gas Tax Funds to ensure their assets are in a state of good repair, which is no surprise given the overwhelming need in this area. In order to maintain and upgrade these infrastructure assets, investments from all levels of government are required.

Ontario has 444 municipal governments, each with its own needs and circumstances. Some are expanding to meet the demands of a growing population, while others are managing existing assets on a shrinking tax base. All communities, however, are adapting to the many changes that 2020 has brought, while continuing to adapt to climate change and extreme weather.

The federal Gas Tax Fund is a direct, permanent source of funding for municipal infrastructure that is designed to meet the needs of communities of all types, locations and sizes. In 2019, communities across the country received a one-time doubling of their annual allocation. The next few pages explain how municipalities used the Fund, and this additional funding, in 2019. The subsequent section, Benefits of the Federal Gas Tax Fund, describes how this investment benefits our communities.



## Allocations in 2019

Communities across Canada received \$4.4 billion from the federal Gas Tax Fund in 2019 – an increase of \$2.2 billion over 2018’s distribution. The increase was due to the one-time doubling of the Fund announced in Budget 2019.

Ontario’s share of the Fund came to \$1.6 billion in 2019. AMO delivered nearly \$1.3 billion to municipalities across the province. Municipal allocations in 2019 are listed in [Part II](#) of this report.

Due to operational efficiencies in administering the Fund, AMO distributed an additional \$12 million to communities from its reserves in 2019. This distribution is included in the allocations listed in [Part II](#). Surplus administrative funds are generally distributed every five years.

Communities carried an additional \$832 million in funding forward from 2018. Municipalities therefore had \$2.1 billion in federal Gas Tax funding available for investment in 2019.

## Investment in 2019

Ontario’s municipalities invested nearly \$784 million from the federal Gas Tax Fund in 2019.<sup>7</sup> Investments supported 1,439 local infrastructure and capacity-building projects worth a total of \$8.5 billion. To put this in perspective, municipal investment in infrastructure from all sources of funding totalled \$7.8 billion in 2018 (the latest year for which data is available).<sup>8</sup> Funds left unused at the end of 2019 were held in municipal reserves to earn interest for future investments, and were largely allocated to ongoing or future projects.

Detailed project information is available in [Part II](#) of this Report. Benefits generated by these projects are summarized in [Appendix A](#).

Federal Gas Tax funds can be invested across 17 project categories, giving municipal governments the flexibility that they need to meet unique local needs. Investments made in 2019 spanned all but three of these categories – brownfield redevelopment, short-line rail, and short-sea shipping – indicating the diversity of infrastructure needs in communities across Ontario.

Transportation infrastructure was the primary beneficiary of federal Gas Tax investment in 2019. Investments in roads, bridges, and public transit infrastructure collectively comprised 82% of 2019’s federal Gas Tax expenditures.<sup>9</sup> This focus on transportation infrastructure was expected; Ontario’s municipalities own over 140,000 km of roads and 15,000 bridges and large culverts – most of which were built over 50 years ago.

<sup>7</sup> Financial information shown on this page was compiled from annual reports submitted to AMO by municipal staff. All but three communities had submitted an annual report to AMO by the time of compilation (August 21, 2020).

<sup>8</sup> Municipalities (excluding Toronto) reported capital investment of \$7.8 billion in their 2018 Financial Information Returns, 2018 being the most recent year for which nearly complete information is available (two municipalities had not submitted their Returns by the time of publication).

Municipal capital investment is calculated by summing additions and betterments to tangible capital assets (schedule 51A, line 9910, column 3), construction in progress (schedule 51C, line 9910, column 2), and contributed (less donated) capital assets (schedule 53, line 1031, column 1), then subtracting capitalized construction in progress (schedule 51C, line 9910, column 3). See <https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/fir/Welcome.htm> for more information.

<sup>9</sup> This number notably does not include investments made by the City of Toronto – which has historically invested the entirety of its federal Gas Tax allocation in public transit through the Toronto Transit Commission – or Local Roads Boards receiving funds through the Government of Ontario. Taking these recipients into account would increase the share of Ontario’s federal Gas Tax funding dedicated to transportation infrastructure.

# Rehabilitation of John Street in Sundridge

The small, rural community of the Village of Sundridge is benefiting from the investment of federal Gas Tax funding in the rehabilitation of a busy main street.

The rehabilitation of John Street has had a substantial impact on the community – both in economic growth and the strength of the community. John Street is home to the only grocery store in the village, as well as the only bank and hardware store. These businesses are vital to the economy and the community. Part of the rehabilitation included widening the street to allow for a new sidewalk.



Local Roads  
and Bridges

Rehabilitating a busy main street has improved access for the community and boosted the local economy.



## Village of Sundridge

Population: 961

2019 Federal Gas Tax Allocation: \$122,221

## Sidewalk and Trail Construction in Richmond Hill

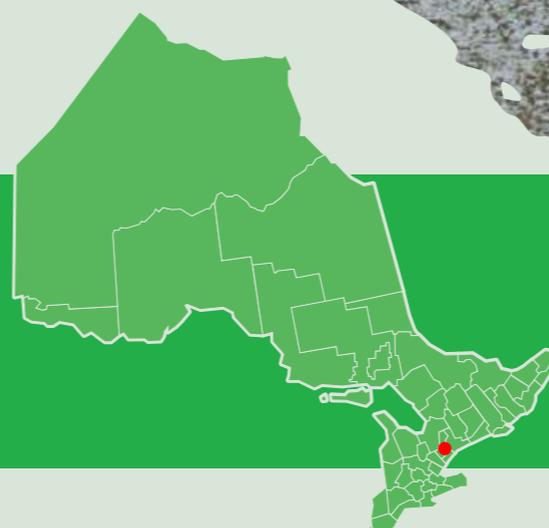
The City of Richmond Hill has seen the number of cyclists more than double since construction of this new 2.25 km sidewalk and multi-use trail. Federal Gas Tax funds were invested in the creation of this route, which forms part of 18 km of recreational and commuter trails that also form part of the Lake to Lake Cycling Route and Walking Trail.

The multi-use path allows recreational users and commuters to share off-road space, and provides cyclists with physically separated bike lanes that allow for more direct trips. It provides commuters with an active transportation option directly linked to the City's largest business park, promoting a cleaner environment and benefiting local businesses.



Local Roads  
and Bridges

More people are enjoying an active, healthy lifestyle thanks to a new recreational trail and sidewalk.



### City of Richmond Hill

Population: 195,022

2019 Federal Gas Tax Allocation: \$11,935,955

## Investment of 2019's Top-up Funding

Top-up funding released in 2019 is expediting and kickstarting infrastructure projects across Ontario. The additional funding allows municipalities to tackle projects that had been long delayed for lack of funds, invest in innovative new assets, undertake larger-scale projects, accelerate timelines and complete additional projects. Examples of some of the projects that municipalities have already completed using top-up funds are scattered throughout this report.

A significant amount of top-up funds were nevertheless held in municipal reserves and carried into 2020 at the end of 2019. The delay between the distribution of funds and their expenditure is partially a matter of timing. Municipal councils typically approve capital budgets in the winter preceding the construction season. Top-up funds were distributed in the summer. Some communities will therefore take at least a year to plan for the investment of top-up funds.

The delay is also, in part, a desirable consequence of effective asset management. Municipal staff plan infrastructure investments years in advance of construction, taking into account the condition of assets, council's priorities, community demands for service, and other factors. This planning process can be lengthy – and is critical to effectively target limited resources to long-term needs.

## Leveraging Funds

Federal Gas Tax funds are intended to complement – without replacing or displacing – other sources of funding for local infrastructure. Many municipalities therefore leverage the Fund by combining federal Gas Tax funds with other sources of capital financing to stretch each federal Gas Tax dollar even further. For every \$100 of federal Gas Tax funds invested in projects completed between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019, municipalities invested an additional \$91 from other funding sources.<sup>10</sup>

Of course, municipalities also invested heavily in infrastructure projects that were not supported by the Fund – and this investment has increased drastically since the Fund was established. Between 2000 and 2004, municipal capital expenditures averaged \$3.9 billion per year. But over the five-year period preceding this report, municipalities invested \$7.6 billion per year in infrastructure.<sup>11</sup>

This increased investment is critical to seal the infrastructure investment gap. The gap reflects the unfunded investment required to replace infrastructure that has exceeded its intended life, meet annual lifecycle costs, and accommodate growth. Some municipalities have implemented capital levies and turned to other revenue sources to ensure the continued and sustainable delivery of local services. Federal Gas Tax funding complements these efforts and provides critical support for small communities with limited fiscal capacity.

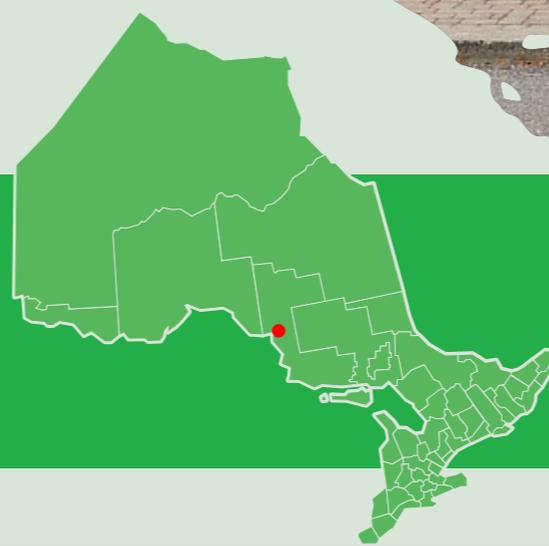
<sup>10</sup> The City of Ottawa completed a \$2.1 billion light rail project in 2019 with \$74.5 million in federal Gas Tax funding. This long-running project began in 2011 and is unrepresentative of the typical project financed by the Fund in 2019. The project was therefore ignored when calculating leveraging above. Inclusion of the project would increase the leveraged amount to \$279 from other funding sources per \$100 from the federal Gas Tax Fund.

<sup>11</sup> Under the terms and conditions of the Administrative Agreement, the municipal sector is required to invest federal Gas Tax funds incrementally (i.e., as a complement to – rather than as a replacement or displacement of – other sources of funding for local infrastructure). Average annual municipal infrastructure investment over the life of the Administrative Agreement (i.e., 2014-2023) is compared to average annual municipal infrastructure investment over the five-year period preceding the establishment of the Fund (i.e., 2000-2004) to confirm that the sector is meeting this requirement. The growth in average annual municipal infrastructure investment suggests that it is.

# Elevator Replacement in Wawa Community Centre

The elevator in the Municipality of Wawa's Community Centre has required more frequent repairs in recent years, impacting the accessibility of areas of the important facility. By investing federal Gas Tax funding in the purchase and installation of a vertical platform lift suitable for wheelchairs, the Municipality has ensured Wawa Community Centre can be safely and comfortably used by all members of the community.

Wawa Community Centre is used for a wide range of activities including hockey, dance classes, fitness classes, curling, figure skating and summer youth programs. It is also home to events such as the Wawa Fish Derby and the Winter Carnival.



Recreation

All visitors can safely and comfortably access the popular community centre thanks to a new elevator.

## Municipality of Wawa

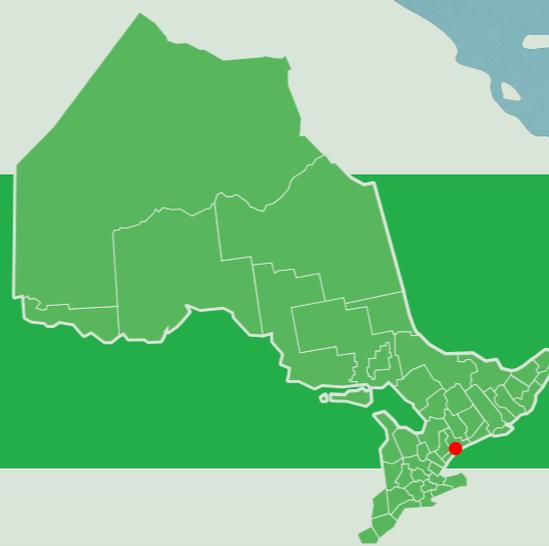
Population: 2,905

2019 Federal Gas Tax Allocation: \$369,296

# Energy-Efficient Equipment Upgrades in Oshawa

Two key municipal recreational facilities in the City of Oshawa have been given energy-efficient upgrades thanks to the federal Gas Tax Fund. First, the Civic Recreation Complex benefited from the replacement and integration of boilers, dehumidification units, lighting control and connection to the building automation systems.

And at the Northview Community Centre – a shared recreation facility with youth and seniors’ groups – the lighting system was upgraded to reflect the latest environmental LED technology, and a high efficiency tankless hot water system was installed.



Community Energy Systems

Recreational facilities have been improved for users with a series of energy-efficient upgrades.

## City of Oshawa

Population: 159,458

2019 Federal Gas Tax Allocation: \$9,691,229

## Trends from 2014 to 2019

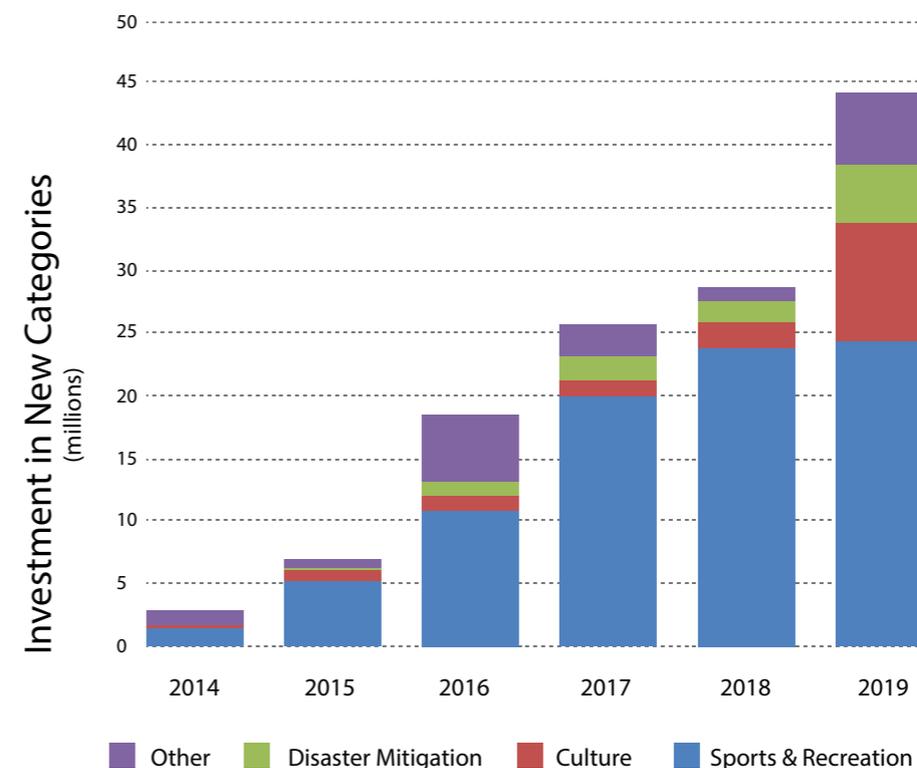
Municipalities have consistently targeted federal Gas Tax funds to transportation infrastructure. Of the \$3.8 billion that municipalities invested over the 2014 to 2019 period, 80% was invested in roads, bridges and public transit infrastructure.<sup>12</sup> This share has been remarkably consistent from year to year, indicating the recurring demand for investment in these assets.

Roads, bridges and public transit infrastructure have been eligible for federal Gas Tax investment since the Fund was established in 2005. Investments in capacity-building programs, community energy systems, drinking water systems, wastewater systems, and solid waste infrastructure have also been eligible since this time. Remaining project categories were introduced with the renewal of the Fund under the *Administrative Agreement* in 2014.

Investments in project categories introduced in 2014 have grown more than tenfold over the 2014 to 2019 period – from \$3 million to \$44 million. Growth was initially driven by investment in sports and recreation infrastructure as communities seized the opportunity to renovate arenas and expand recreation centres to deliver better services to residents. Municipalities invested over \$24 million in sports and recreation infrastructure in 2019 – up from less than \$2 million in 2014.

Investments in sports and recreation infrastructure stabilized around 2018, but a few large investments in cultural infrastructure (e.g., community centres and theatres) continued to push investment in new categories higher. Municipalities invested over \$9 million in cultural infrastructure in 2019.

Several communities have additionally invested funds in break walls and shoreline protection measures in recent years. These investments were partially in response to disastrous levels of flooding experienced across the province – 23 municipalities declared emergencies due to flooding in 2019 alone – and partially in preparation for further flooding brought on by climate change.



<sup>12</sup> The federal Gas Tax Fund was established in 2005, but the Administrative Agreement – which establishes the requirement to produce this report – governs the use of the Fund from 2014 through to 2023. Trends are therefore discussed only as far back as 2014. See AMO’s website on the federal Gas Tax Fund, [www.gastaxatwork.ca](http://www.gastaxatwork.ca), for information regarding the use of the Fund since 2005.

# Breakwall Reconstruction in Blind River

Matinenda Landing boat launch is the Town of Blind River's only access point for people who have cottages on Lake Matinenda. A breakwall – critical to protect the boat launch's structure – was in need of repair, but the work had been postponed for several years due to a lack of available funds. In 2019, the Town experienced unusually high water levels on Lake Matinenda, and the need for the breakwall to be reconstructed became urgent.

With the federal government providing a top-up to the federal Gas Tax Fund in 2019, municipalities in Ontario received over \$800 million in additional funding. Blind River was one of many communities that used the funding to accelerate an urgent project using this one-time top-up, and the breakwall was reconstructed without the municipality having to delay other vital infrastructure projects.



Disaster Mitigation

Urgent work to protect an important boat launch structure was completed following repeated delays.

## Town of Blind River

Population: 3,472

2019 Federal Gas Tax Allocation: \$440,943

# Breakwall Construction in James

A retaining wall on approximately 90 m of the Montreal River shoreline was failing and in need of urgent replacement. The retaining wall was built in the 1960s and had deteriorated so badly that it created a significant liability issue for the Township of James.

The 2019 federal Gas Tax Fund top-up allowed the failing wall to be replaced by a more modern, permanent solution. The work has reduced the risk of flooding and property damage. Residents and visitors can now walk along the breakwall safely and enjoy the beautiful scenery.



Disaster Mitigation

Properties are protected from flooding following the construction of a new riverside breakwall.

## Township of James

Population: 420

2019 Federal Gas Tax Allocation: \$52,995

# Benefits of the Federal Gas Tax Fund

## Tangible Benefits

Investing the federal Gas Tax Fund boosts productivity and economic growth, creates a cleaner environment, and helps build stronger cities and communities. Municipalities track and report the benefits generated by federal Gas Tax projects to demonstrate the value of these investments to the community.

## Measuring Benefits

AMO, in consultation with municipalities and with the approval of the Fund's Oversight Committee, developed a series of output and outcome indicators to measure the benefits of each infrastructure project. Municipalities began reporting benefits generated by federal Gas Tax investments under these new indicators in the 2016 reporting year. Municipalities now report benefits annually. Benefits are reported for each infrastructure project once construction is complete.<sup>13</sup>

## Benefits Generated in 2019

Municipalities completed 847 infrastructure projects with help from the federal Gas Tax Fund in 2019. These projects involved the rehabilitation of roadways, installation of energy-saving retrofits, upgrade of recreation facilities, and more. Benefits generated by projects completed in 2019 are summarized in [Appendix A](#).



<sup>13</sup> Outputs can typically be reported accurately immediately after construction – but many outcomes generally cannot. When resurfacing a road, for example, a community can easily assess the length of road resurfaced (the output) – but perhaps not the impact on traffic flow or usage of the road (the outcomes).

AMO therefore uses a mixture of outcome indicators that speak to both service levels (e.g., the length of road in a good state of repair) and service impacts (e.g., the number of residents benefitting from the investment). The former can typically be measured shortly after construction; the latter cannot. This approach balances the need for timely reporting against the practical constraints imposed by the data available.

# Progress in Asset Management

## Asset Management and the Fund

Municipalities own and manage local infrastructure to provide essential services that contribute to our quality of life. Asset management is the coordinated activity of municipal staff and elected officials to provide sustainable levels of service to the community.

Under the *Administrative Agreement*, municipalities are required to develop an asset management plan. Municipalities must also use the plan to guide infrastructure planning and investment decisions and to invest federal Gas Tax funds in priority projects.

The federal Gas Tax Fund provides critical support in helping municipalities make progress in the development and implementation of asset management plans. Municipalities have used \$44 million from the Fund to support 237 capacity-building projects focusing on asset management and long-term planning since 2014; 75% of the projects would help communities utilize asset management to identify local priorities for infrastructure investment.

Municipalities are expected to continuously improve and implement their asset management plans according to the requirements of the [Asset Management Planning Regulation](#).

## Municipal Progress in Asset Management

Asset management plans are collected and reviewed in order to assess and report on progress and inform current and future capacity-building initiatives. In 2019, an additional 53 municipalities improved their asset management plans.

While municipalities continue to make progress in asset management, very few municipalities identify priority projects in their plans due to lack of:

- Understanding of asset lifecycle costs, levels of service and risk assessment;
- Financial resources to collect and maintain the required data; and
- Adequate staff resources and training.

257 municipalities completed an optional asset management questionnaire in 2019 to report to AMO that they are improving their internal capacity by investing staff resources in training and educational programs, developing asset management governance structures, policies and strategies, improving quality of asset condition data, utilizing technology through use of financial, analytical and GIS software to gather information for better Council decision-making.

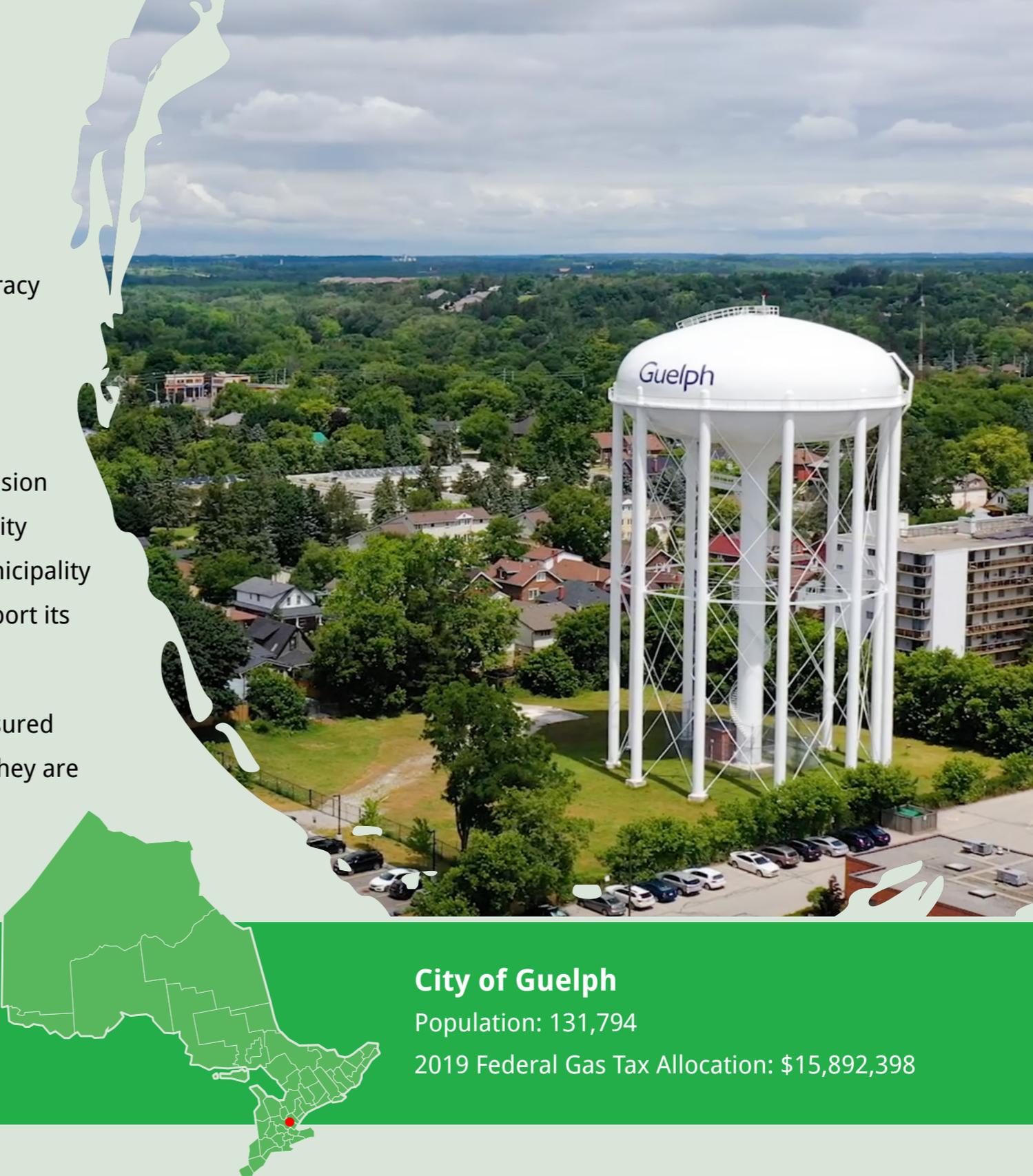
Under the guidance of its asset management working group, AMO will continue to monitor the municipal sector's progress in the development and implementation of asset management plans as required under the *Administrative Agreement*.

# Guelph's Asset Management Decision Support System

By fostering an asset management culture which relies on accuracy and completeness of infrastructure data, the City of Guelph has been able to successfully address community needs in a timely and cost-effective way.

In 2019 the City used federal Gas Tax funds to implement a decision support system used to analyze the impact of funding and priority changes on condition and level of services in real time. The municipality uses the data it collects on costs, risks and service levels to support its budgetary and operational decision-making process.

Guelph describes this approach as a game-changer that has ensured the best outcomes regarding financial sustainability of assets. They are committed to using evidence-based business cases to set priorities for long-term financial planning.



Capacity-building

Long-term financial planning is helping community needs be met in a timely and cost-effective way.

## City of Guelph

Population: 131,794

2019 Federal Gas Tax Allocation: \$15,892,398

## Technical Assistance for Small Municipalities

In 2019, AMO collaborated with Asset Management Ontario to provide hands-on training and [technical assistance](#) to 17 municipalities across the province. Training and assistance involved educating multi-disciplinary staff and elected officials on key concepts to help participating municipalities progress in the implementation of their asset management plans and establishment of a robust asset management system. The program was delivered in partnership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' [Municipal Asset Management Program](#) (MAMP), which is funded by the government of Canada.

Building on the success of the pilot project, AMO will continue to facilitate technical assistance activities in 2020-21 for an additional 33 municipalities with diverse challenges and training needs. AMO's involvement in this initiative leveraged existing support directed at ensuring sector progress in asset management and helped AMO support other associations and organizations (like local communities of practices) more effectively. With MAMP support and successes, there is also stronger advocacy at the federal level.

Municipalities that participated in the technical assistance project were able to successfully demonstrate progress in various competencies like policy and governance and planning and decision-making. Some of the participants were profiled in [AMO's video series](#) on asset management success stories featuring the role of elected officials in fostering a culture of collaboration and long-term thinking across their municipalities.

## Online Training for Elected Officials

For a municipality to be successful in asset management, it is critical that both Council and staff are engaged and understand the benefits of asset management. Elected officials are the stewards of public infrastructure and set strategic direction on the allocation of financial resources that affect the quality and delivery of services provided to their communities.

In 2019, AMO launched a new introductory online course on asset management for elected officials. The course provides fundamental information on asset management, clarity on the role of Council, and guidance on the information that Council requires from municipal staff to adopt asset management as a decision-making tool for infrastructure investments. For more information, visit [www.gastaxatwork.ca/asset-management/asset-management-elected-officials](http://www.gastaxatwork.ca/asset-management/asset-management-elected-officials).

# Fulton Street Pump Station Modifications in Halton

The Region of Halton created a 600 m pipeline connecting the newly constructed Fulton Street Pumping Station to the existing regional wastewater collection. Connection of the pipeline allows wastewater from the Town of Milton to be diverted to the Mid-Halton Wastewater Treatment Plant. Diverting this wastewater to the Mid-Halton site meant that the Milton Wastewater Treatment Plant was no longer required. It has since been closed, eliminating the associated operating costs.

The closure of the Milton Wastewater Treatment Plant will positively contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and hydro consumption in treating wastewater. Federal Gas Tax funds were invested in this important work.



Wastewater

A new wastewater pipeline has led to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and hydro consumption.

## Region of Halton

Population: 548,435

2019 Federal Gas Tax Allocation: \$32,913,683

# Rehabilitation of Lakeshore Drive in Madawaska Valley

The Township of Madawaska Valley invested federal Gas Tax funds in improving access to its waterfront area. Lakeshore Drive’s road surface was replaced, and landscaping around the construction area has greatly improved access to much of the community’s recreational attractions.

Families are enjoying the new outlook on their way to walking paths, the public beach, play structures in the park, and the tennis club, and the new infrastructure is further encouraging healthy, active lifestyles.



Local Roads and Bridges

Residents and visitors are enjoying improved access to a number of recreational waterfront attractions.

## Township of Madawaska Valley

Population: 4,123

2019 Federal Gas Tax Allocation: \$264,002

# Communications: Sharing the Benefits of the Federal Gas Tax Fund

## Communications in 2019

Over a thousand local infrastructure projects across Ontario benefit from the support of the federal Gas Tax Fund every year. The Fund helps municipalities invest in the things that people rely on most and that improve the quality of life in communities – recreation centres, transit, roads and bridges, water systems and more.

Municipalities are expected to share news of the benefits of their local federal Gas Tax projects with parliament, the media, and their residents. AMO works with local governments and with Infrastructure Canada to help municipalities tell their success stories. In 2019, municipalities directed the Fund to 1,439 projects in Ontario.

AMO increasingly uses digital platforms to spread the word about the federal Gas Tax Fund and its positive impact on communities across the province. Traditional news releases also play a part, and AMO also regularly produces video profiles of various projects. AMO maintains a dedicated federal Gas Tax Fund website, [www.gastaxatwork.ca](http://www.gastaxatwork.ca), that is home to an online database of federal Gas Tax project information.

## News Releases and Media Events

Despite the move to online platforms, traditional news releases still have a role to play in spreading the word about the federal Gas Tax Fund. News releases can attract local media coverage, a useful way of communicating construction starts and completion and highlighting local project benefits. In 2019, AMO worked with Infrastructure Canada and local governments to issue news releases on project announcements and to promote the top-up of the Fund.



# Social Media

With nearly all Canadians using the internet, it's clear that the internet and social media are very effective ways to share news about the benefits of the federal Gas Tax Fund. AMO posts regular Gas Tax updates on dedicated [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) channels.



The [@GasTaxInOntario](#) Twitter account was more active in 2019 than in 2018, with a 20% increase in total posts, a 275% increase in video posts, and a 7% increase in published links. Analytics reveal that video posts are most popular. The account also saw a 2.6% increase in followers in 2019.

Twitter Post	Total Engagements	Likes	@Replies	Retweets	Post Link Clicks	Other Post Clicks	Other Engagements
GasTaxInOntario (Tue 8/20/2019 2:35 pm UTC) The @City_of_Vaughan's Civic Centre Resource Library is a captivating space that serves 20,000+ people each month. It's a	135	18	1	10	-	106	0
GasTaxInOntario (Wed 3/20/2019 3:19 pm UTC) #YourBudget2019 includes a one-time \$2.2 billion top-up to the #federalGTF! Ontario's share is around \$820 million. Municipalities	105	10	2	9	4	80	0
GasTaxInOntario (Thu 7/18/2019 3:59 pm UTC) This week @AMOPolicy transferred almost \$1 billion in federal Gas Tax funding to #Ontario municipalities. The #FederalGTF	86	11	0	3	7	65	0



In 2019, AMO launched an Instagram account to showcase the federal Gas Tax in Ontario. While this is still a relatively new account, statistics show that videos shared on the [@federalgastaxontario](#) account are often more popular than photos.



## Videos

Video is an extremely effective way to promote a message, with social media users often unwilling to dedicate time to reading reports or articles. AMO produces video profiles of projects funded by the federal Gas Tax Fund. These are hosted on [YouTube](#), and can also be embedded directly on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), as well as shared with municipalities for use on their own online platforms. The videos are also included in project profile articles hosted on the [www.gastaxatwork.ca](http://www.gastaxatwork.ca) website.

AMO produced five Gas Tax videos in 2019.

- Central Huron's New Storm Drain
- Vaughan's Civic Centre Resource Library
- Brampton's Investment in Public Transit
- North Perth's Steve Kerr Memorial Complex
- 2019 Gas Tax Awards

The videos were viewed 814 times directly on YouTube. On Twitter, the videos were viewed 4,081 times in total.



## Gas Tax At Work

AMO's dedicated [Gas Tax At Work](#) website features a mapping tool with information about exactly where and how the Fund is invested in Ontario's communities. In 2018, AMO began working on a complete website overhaul, including updating the mapping tool and giving the site an entirely new look and feel. The new site launched in spring 2019, and includes regular updates in the form of project profiles, a blog, and news releases.

The website also hosts Annual Reports and a large amount of useful information on the Fund. After launching in the spring, the website attracted 13,500 views up to the end of 2019.

## Education

As an administrator of the Fund, AMO works directly with municipal governments to ensure that reporting and other requirements are met. AMO communicates program information through email, the WatchFile (AMO's weekly e-newsletter), at municipal education forums, by producing informational videos and through social media. Program information is always available on AMO's federal Gas Tax website, [www.gastaxatwork.ca](http://www.gastaxatwork.ca) and our online reporting system includes detailed instructions.

AMO delivered a workshop on asset management and provided an update on the Fund at the 2019 AMO Conference in Ottawa, a gathering of roughly 2,400 municipal elected officials and staff. The workshop focused on the role of asset management as a decision-making tool for councils to help with identifying infrastructure priorities. Information about the federal Gas Tax Fund was also presented at the Municipal Finance Officers' Association (MFOA) and the Rural Ontario Municipal Administrators (ROMA) conferences in 2019.



# Broadband Infrastructure Installation in Pickering

The City of Pickering invested federal Gas Tax funds in providing broadband infrastructure for a new business and housing development, Seaton Lands. Conduit and fiber optic cable was laid along the road as part of the work.

More than 300 households in the new development benefited from the broadband investment, with almost 10,000 more homes due to be built on the site by 2023. These new homes will also benefit from this project, as will commercial and business properties included in the plans for part of Seaton Lands.



Broadband  
Connectivity

Businesses and thousands of homes will benefit from investment in broadband infrastructure.



## City of Pickering

Population: 91,771

2019 Federal Gas Tax Allocation: \$5,662,465

## Installation of a Rink Cover in The North Shore

The Township of The North Shore's outdoor ice rink was built in the early 1990s, but had become difficult to maintain in the changing seasons. As well as problems with the ice surface, the change room facilities were in need of upgrades.

The new ice rink cover has made the ice surface easier to manage, and has allowed the area to be used in the summer for a range of activities including roller skating, markets and fairs. The top-up fund allowed for new energy-efficient LED lighting to be installed, improving energy efficiency at the facility. And the change rooms also now benefit from better insulation, heating and lighting.



Recreation

A new rink cover has improved a well-used facility and made it suitable for additional events.



**Township of The North Shore**

Population: 497

2019 Federal Gas Tax Allocation: \$63,182

## Gas Tax Awards

The AMO Federal Gas Tax Awards celebrate projects that demonstrate excellence in the use of the federal Gas Tax Fund and honour the communities that administer them. Between 2008 – when the Awards were established – and 2019, 29 municipalities received an award or honourable mention, representing communities of all sizes across Ontario. Applicants are evaluated by AMO’s Awards Committee, which considers the extent to which projects:

**Advance national objectives** - by boosting productivity and economic growth, promoting a cleaner environment, or strengthening the community;

**Support long-term planning** – by building capacity for planning and asset management, addressing long-term needs, or generating long-lasting benefits;

**Address local needs** – by creating wide-ranging community benefits that meet the diverse needs of multiple residents and businesses; and

**Demonstrate excellence** – in design or execution, by adopting an innovating, efficient or effective approach to address local needs and achieve outcomes.



## Region of Niagara's Trunk Sewer Rehabilitation

At the AMO Conference in August 2020 – held online for the first time due to the COVID-19 pandemic – AMO Past President Jamie McGarvey announced Niagara Region as the Gas Tax Award winner. The Hon. Catherine McKenna, Canada's Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, also recognized the project's innovation in her address to the Conference.

Niagara Region used an innovative engineering approach when replacing 2,300 m of trunk sanitary sewer in the City of Niagara Falls. Faced with a report that recommended immediate rehabilitation of the sewer, the Region was determined to keep costs down while minimizing disruption and any risk to the environment.

Federal Gas Tax funding was invested in the project, which utilized a trenchless method over the traditional open cut construction method, because of the overwhelming social, economic, environmental, and cost-savings benefits of using this technology. Thanks to this approach, the City's tourism sector was largely unaffected and the risk of sewage spills and flooding was avoided.

The project was featured in a [video](#) unveiled at the Gas Tax Awards ceremony, as part of the AMO Annual Conference.



AMO's annual Gas Tax Award is such a wonderful way to showcase the great work being done across the province. It really highlights the value and the impact of the federal Gas Tax Fund. Congratulations to this year's winner, Niagara Region. You combined innovation and environmentally-friendly engineering and supported long-term planning with your sewer pipeline project. And you did a great job keeping the impact on the busy Niagara Falls tourism sector minimal. Very impressive work.

*The Hon. Catherine McKenna, Canada's Minister of Infrastructure and Communities*

Since 2008 we have recognized projects that demonstrate excellence in the use of federal Gas Tax funds. This year, we had a dozen entries from all over the province, from municipalities both large and small. I know that the committee had a hard time choosing the winner. Congratulations to Niagara Region on their success.

*Jamie McGarvey, AMO Past President*

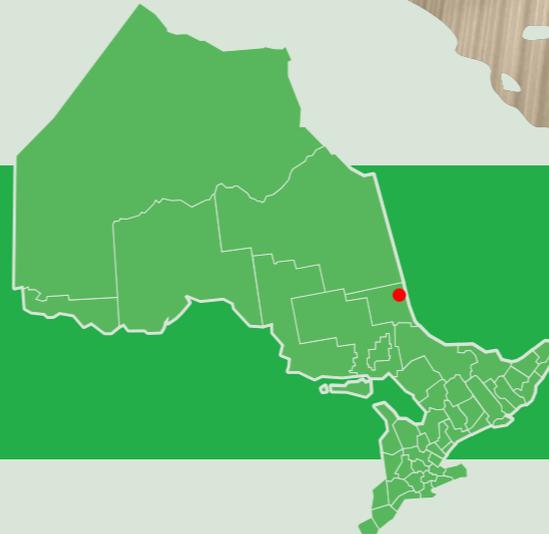
It's great to get recognition for the innovation that went into this project. The federal Gas Tax Fund played a very big role in making this happen.

*Jim Bradley, Regional Chair  
Niagara Region*

## Energy-Saving Retrofits in Harris

The Township of Harris invested federal Gas Tax funds in a project that has increased energy efficiency in a key building in the community. The Township's municipal hall is now fitted with a new, energy-efficient furnace.

Also, the energy-efficient upgrades extended to the municipal hall's garage, where upgraded insulation was installed and old wooden doors were replaced with modern alternatives. These upgrades have resulted in a reduction of approximately 40% in annual energy used to heat the Hall, benefiting the environment and allowing the Township to reduce their operating costs.



Community Energy Systems

Annual energy costs have been reduced by 40% at a key municipal building following upgrade work.

### Township of Harris

Population: 545

2019 Federal Gas Tax Allocation: \$67,003

# Risk Management and Compliance

## AMO's Risk Management Framework

The *Administrative Agreement* establishes terms and conditions on the use of federal Gas Tax funds. AMO uses a risk-based approach that minimizes municipal administrative costs and recognizes municipalities as a mature order of government to monitor compliance with these requirements. The approach is defined by AMO's risk management framework.

The framework combines policies, plans, processes and education. These components collectively state AMO's goals and objectives pertaining to risk management, describe responsibilities and procedures for managing risk, and guide the development of training materials for municipal staff managing federal Gas Tax funds. The framework is reviewed annually. Components evolve as the framework matures.

## Assessing Risk

Municipalities complete a questionnaire when reporting their use of federal Gas Tax funds to AMO. The questionnaire asks if specific financial policies and standard operating procedures relevant to administration of the Fund have been implemented. Sample policies and procedures are available to municipalities through AMO's online federal Gas Tax reporting tool. Responses to the risk management questionnaire are used to assess compliance risks and target AMO's efforts to manage risks. See [Part II](#) of this report for a copy of the 2019 questionnaire.

## Monitoring Compliance

At least 10% of municipalities receiving federal Gas Tax funds through AMO are selected each year for a compliance audit. Municipalities are randomly selected by AMO's auditor, BDO Canada LLP, in accordance with established selection criteria. Audits are completed by BDO Canada LLP or Baker Tilly KDN LLP.

Compliance audits confirm that terms and conditions on municipalities' use of federal Gas Tax funds, as set out in the *Municipal Funding Agreement*, are met. Auditors additionally attest to the accuracy of responses to the questionnaire described above. Summaries of the compliance audits completed for the 44 municipalities selected in 2019 are available in [Part II](#) of this report.

## AMO's Compliance Audit

The *Administrative Agreement* also establishes terms and conditions for AMO's administration of the Fund. A compliance audit is conducted each year to confirm that AMO has fulfilled these requirements.

The compliance audit for the year ending December 31, 2019 was completed by BDO Canada LLP. The audit confirms that AMO has complied with terms and conditions set out in the *Administrative Agreement*. A copy of the audit is included in [Part II](#) of this report.

# Runway Rehabilitation in North Bay

YYB North Bay Jack Garland Airport is an important regional economic development asset and important logistical and engineering support hub that requires reliable and consistent air service.

The City of North Bay invested federal Gas Tax funds in the rehabilitation of the 4,500 foot crosswind runway, which will help retain existing agreements with carriers while also allowing for future expansion. The airport attracts industrial and commercial investments to the region and also serves routes to winter vacation destinations.



Regional and Local Airports

Existing agreements with key airline carriers have been secured thanks to the rehabilitation of a runway.

## City of North Bay

Population: 51,553

2019 Federal Gas Tax Allocation: \$6,609,171

## Arena Roof Surface Replacement in Wellesley

Wellesley Arena in the Township of Wellesley is a busy community facility, home to an ice rink, fitness centre, skate park, meeting rooms and more. The arena is more than 40 years old and has had ongoing problems with its roof. Federal Gas Tax funding was invested in replacing the roof, including coating and removal of interior low-e ceiling and insulation.

If this work was not done, Council would have had to close the facility due to structural concerns identified by two independent engineering firms. The roof was leaking and the weight of the insulation, which was by now absorbing large amounts of water, was deemed a hazard.



Recreation

The life of a busy community asset has been extended thanks to vital improvements to its roof.



### Township of Wellesley

Population: 11,260

2019 Federal Gas Tax Allocation: \$689,160

# Appendix A: Project Results Reported in 2019

## Investment in Completed Projects

Municipalities completed 847 infrastructure projects in 2019. The table below illustrates the distribution of these projects – and the funds that supported them – across project categories.<sup>14</sup>

Project Category	Completed Projects	Cumulative Federal Gas Tax Investment	Cumulative Project Costs
 Broadband Connectivity	3	\$ 2,250,711	\$ 2,880,437
 Brownfield Redevelopment	1	541,290	5,000,000
 Community Energy Systems	43	21,074,659	48,142,294
 Culture	13	6,909,619	26,419,001
 Disaster Mitigation	4	456,647	2,913,100
 Local Roads and Bridges	620	476,075,542	949,759,128
 Public Transit	24	492,408,375	2,771,758,205
 Recreation	41	13,027,739	26,627,857
 Regional and Local Airports	5	4,372,310	11,344,412
 Solid Waste	7	19,457,286	25,650,803
 Sports	4	898,035	1,580,834
 Tourism	3	1,415,168	2,196,663
 Wastewater	35	35,210,967	84,780,011
 Water	44	28,471,734	92,709,184
<b>Total</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>\$ 1,102,570,081</b>	<b>\$ 4,051,761,927</b>

<sup>14</sup> Cumulative federal Gas Tax investment is shown to the end of December 31, 2019 – but financing is ongoing for 54 of the 847 projects that completed construction in 2019.

<sup>15</sup> Quantitative results were not available for 44 of the 847 infrastructure projects that completed construction in 2019.



## Project Results

Municipalities report results achieved by infrastructure projects supported by the federal Gas Tax Fund when construction is completed. Results achieved by the 847 infrastructure projects that completed construction in 2019 are described in the tables below.<sup>15</sup>

 <b>Broadband Connectivity</b>	Projects	Total
Number of businesses positively affected	2	2,011
Number of households with improved broadband access (≥10 Mbps)	2	7,590

 <b>Brownfield Redevelopment</b>	Projects	Total
Area remediated, decontaminated or redeveloped (ha)	1	5,524
Volume of contaminated soil removed (m³)	1	5,260

 <b>Community Energy Systems</b>	Projects	Total
Number of buildings retrofitted	25	83
Number of buildings built with energy-efficient materials or systems	1	1
Number of LED street lights installed	4	16,126
Number of new or upgraded municipal electric vehicle charging stations	1	23
Number of new or upgraded solar power systems in municipal buildings	2	5
Increase in annual energy generation (MWh)	2	493
Reduction in annual energy consumption (GWh)	29	21
Reduction in annual fossil fuel consumption (ML)	4	153
Reduction in annual greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e)	3	356

 <b>Culture</b>	Projects	Total
Number of new, renovated or upgraded arts facilities	1	1
Number of new, renovated or upgraded libraries	3	3
Number of new, renovated or upgraded memorial buildings or structures	1	1
Number of renovated heritage sites or buildings	3	3
Increase in number of cultural events held annually	3	118
Increase in annual number of residents participating in cultural activities	4	25,609
Increase in annual number of visitors to the community	5	32,274
Number of businesses positively affected	7	539

 <b>Solid Waste</b>	Projects	Total
Number of new garbage or recycling trucks	1	1
Number of new blue bins	1	417
Number of new landfill facilities	1	1
Number of rehabilitated or expanded landfill facilities	3	3
Increase in number of households participating in recycling collection	1	61
Increase in total waste collected, disposed in landfills, incinerated and diverted from landfills annually (tonnes)	1	3,531

 <b>Disaster Mitigation</b>	Projects	Total
Reduction in area at risk of damage from natural catastrophes (ha)	4	2
Reduction in projected annual emergency response cost	2	\$45,300

 <b>Drinking Water</b>	Projects	Total
Length of new watermains (km)	5	2
Length of rehabilitated or replaced watermains (km)	20	13
Increase in capacity of water storage tanks and reservoirs (ML)	2	33
Reduction in annual number of watermain breaks	16	125
Increase in number of properties connected to fire hydrants and/or with fire protection	5	288
Number of residents with access to new, rehabilitated or replaced water distribution pipes	22	15,290
Reduction in number of annual adverse water quality test results	3	8
Volume of drinking water treated to a higher standard (ML)	4	5,314

 <b>Public Transit</b>	Projects	Total
Number of new conventional buses	6	387
Number of new para transit vehicles	3	22
Number of new street cars or rail cars	1	17
Number of rehabilitated, refurbished or replaced conventional buses	1	3.0
Number of rehabilitated, refurbished or replaced para transit vehicles	3	24.0
Increase in number of accessible vehicles	7	316
Increase in number of accessible transit facilities	2	145
Average increase in annual number of regular service passenger trips on conventional transit per capita	2	7
Average increase in annual revenue vehicle kilometres per capita	2	1
Decrease in average age of fleet (%)	5	9
Number of residents with improved access to transit facilities	6	1,545,960
Number of transit facilities with accessibility or service upgrades/enhancements	8	181.0
Number of transit vehicles with accessibility or service upgrades/enhancements	8	321.0

 <b>Regional and Local Airports</b>	Projects	Total
Increase in number of annual aircraft take-offs or landings at the airport	1	300
Increase in number of annual airline passengers	1	790
Number of businesses positively affected	3	36



## Local Roads and Bridges – Roads

	Projects	Total
<b>Roads</b>		
Length of new paved roads and gravel roads converted to paved roads (lane-km)	35	162
Length of new unpaved roads (lane-km)	2	3
Length of rehabilitated unpaved roads (lane-km)	45	392
Length of rehabilitated or replaced paved roads (lane-km)	382	2,844
Length of roads with improved drainage (lane-km)	128	843
Increase in length of paved roads rated as good and above (lane-km)	357	2,532
Increase in length of unpaved roads rated as good and above (lane-km)	43	253
Increase in capacity of sand or salt storage sites (tonnes)	1	50
Number of intersections with advanced traffic management systems	16	36
Number of residents with access to new, rehabilitated or replaced roads	172	1,733,893
Number of residents with improved access to highways or neighbouring municipalities	94	1,029,146
<b>Bridges and Culverts</b>		
Number of new bridges	5	5
Number of new culverts	2	2
Number of rehabilitated or replaced bridges	43	59
Number of rehabilitated or replaced culverts	25	50
Increase in surface area of bridges with condition of the primary component rated as good and above (m <sup>2</sup> )	38	15,575
Increase in surface area of culverts with condition of the primary component rated as good and above (m <sup>2</sup> )	19	2,512
Surface area of new bridges (m <sup>2</sup> )	6	2,842
Surface area of new culverts (m <sup>2</sup> )	2	30
Surface area of rehabilitated or replaced bridges (m <sup>2</sup> )	41	20,745
Surface area of rehabilitated or replaced culverts (m <sup>2</sup> )	17	1,229
Number of residents with access to new, rehabilitated or replaced bridges	32	749,239
Number of residents with access to new, rehabilitated or replaced culverts	24	765,699
<b>Active Transportation</b>		
Length of new bike lanes (km)	6	9
Length of new sidewalks (km)	24	15
Length of new trails (km)	14	15
Number of new pedestrian bridges	2	4
Length of rehabilitated or replaced sidewalks (km)	23	33
Length of rehabilitated or replaced trails (km)	5	5
Number of rehabilitated or replaced pedestrian bridges	2	9
Surface area of new pedestrian bridges (m <sup>2</sup> )	2	588
Surface area of rehabilitated or replaced pedestrian bridges (m <sup>2</sup> )	1	88
Increase in surface area of pedestrian bridges with condition of the primary component rated as good and above (m <sup>2</sup> )	1	233
Number of residents with access to new, rehabilitated or replaced bike lanes, sidewalks, hiking and walking trails, and/or pedestrian bridges	45	2,596,705



## Recreation

	Projects	Total
Number of new, renovated or rehabilitated comfort stations	3	13
Number of new, renovated or rehabilitated picnic shelters	3	3
Number of new, renovated or rehabilitated playground structures	4	5
Number of new, renovated, rehabilitated or upgraded arenas	10	10
Number of new, renovated, rehabilitated or upgraded community centres	8	9
Number of new, renovated, rehabilitated or upgraded fitness facilities	1	1
Number of new, renovated, rehabilitated or upgraded sport-specific courts	1	7
Number of new, renovated or upgraded public swimming pools	4	5
Length of recreational paths or trails constructed or improved	5	3,169
Increase in annual number of visitors to the community	5	45,018
Increase in annual number of registered users	3	2,807
Capacity of new, renovated, rehabilitated or upgraded arenas	2	1,350
Capacity of new, renovated, rehabilitated or upgraded community centres	1	3,000
Number of businesses positively affected by the investment in recreational infrastructure	6	173
Number of residents who will benefit	33	2,204,848



## Sports

	Projects	Total
Increase in annual available ice/field time (h)	1	1,600
Number of businesses positively affected	1	4
Increase in annual number of visitors to the community	3	24,518
Increase in number of registered users in a year	1	150
Increase in sporting events held annually	1	10



## Tourism

	Projects	Total
Number of businesses positively affected	3	45



## Wastewater

	Projects	Total
Length of new sanitary sewers (km)	3	2
Length of new stormwater sewers (km)	8	4
Length of rehabilitated or replaced sanitary sewers (km)	9	7
Length of rehabilitated or replaced stormwater sewers (km)	16	15
Increase in reserve sewage treatment plant capacity	1	39
Change in number of residents serviced by stormwater/sanitary infrastructure	9	18,464
Reduction in energy used by treatment system per ML of wastewater treated (kWh)	2	28
Reduction in annual number of sanitary sewer backups	6	25

# Appendix B: Financial Statements



	2019	2014 - 2019
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>\$1,457,756</b>	
<b>Revenues</b>		
Received from Canada	\$1,297,872,568	\$4,381,248,773
Interest Earned	\$867,425	\$2,325,181
Transferred from the original program	\$0	\$16,190,205
Transfer from AMO's reserves	\$8,794,577	\$8,794,577
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$1,307,534,570</b>	<b>\$ 4,392,368,531</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Transferred to Municipalities	\$(1,303,427,490)	\$(4,387,631,660)
Administration Costs	\$(3,239,655)	\$(18,601,895)
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$(1,306,667,145)</b>	<b>\$(4,406,233,555)</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$2,325,181</b>	

## Ultimate Recipients

	2019	2014 - 2019
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>\$831,512,032</b>	
<b>Revenues</b>		
Allocations Received from AMO	\$1,303,427,490	\$4,387,133,498
Proceeds from the Disposal of Assets	\$65,000	\$266,488
Interest Earned	\$24,894,759	\$94,509,660
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$1,328,387,249</b>	<b>\$4,481,909,646</b>
<b>Transfers</b>		
In	\$79,792,243	\$271,840,393
Out	\$(79,792,243)	\$(271,840,393)
<b>Net</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Expenditures<sup>16</sup></b>		
Broadband Connectivity	\$(2,362,898)	\$(2,388,762)
Brownfield Redevelopment	-	\$(5,697,411)
Capacity-Building	\$(5,081,371)	\$(43,726,929)
Community Energy Systems	\$(19,590,152)	\$(112,055,281)
Culture	\$(9,323,483)	\$(15,091,482)
Disaster Mitigation	\$(4,797,575)	\$(9,465,735)
Drinking Water	\$(20,213,223)	\$(99,279,607)
Local Roads and Bridges	\$(445,896,310)	\$(2,306,936,038)
Public Transit	\$(196,482,204)	\$(770,153,820)
Recreation	\$(23,585,450)	\$(82,916,208)
Regional and Local Airports	\$(2,442,311)	\$(5,769,810)
Short-line Rail	-	\$(215,000)
Short-sea Shipping	-	-
Solid Waste	\$(31,945,099)	\$(144,381,937)
Sports	\$(709,073)	\$(3,002,893)
Tourism	\$(834,682)	\$(2,225,263)
Wastewater	\$(20,616,907)	\$(193,665,845)
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$(783,880,738)</b>	<b>\$(3,796,972,022)</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$1,376,018,543</b>	

<sup>16</sup> Financial information shown in this table was compiled from annual reports submitted to AMO by municipal staff. All but three communities had submitted an annual report to AMO by the time of compilation (August 21, 2020).



**Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**

200 University Ave., Suite 801, Toronto, ON M5H 3C6

Telephone direct:	416-971-9856
Voicemail:	416-971-8099
Fax:	416-971-6191
Toll-free in Ontario:	1-877-4-AMO-LAS (1-877-426-6527)
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:gastax@amo.on.ca">gastax@amo.on.ca</a>
Twitter:	<a href="https://twitter.com/GasTaxinOntario">@GasTaxinOntario</a>
Instagram:	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/federalgastaxontario">@federalgastaxontario</a>
Linkedin:	The Federal Gas Tax Fund in Ontario
Websites:	<a href="http://www.amo.on.ca">www.amo.on.ca</a> <a href="http://www.GasTaxAtWork.ca">www.GasTaxAtWork.ca</a> <a href="http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca">www.infrastructure.gc.ca</a>

Part I and II of this report can be downloaded at AMO's website.



The Corporation of the  
**TOWNSHIP OF BALDWIN**

P.O. Box 7095, 11 Spooner Street  
MCKERROW, ONTARIO P0P 1M0  
TEL: (705) 869-0225 FAX: (705) 869-5049  
CLERK: Karin Bates – karin@baldwin.ca

Info List # 11-20  
Item #5

MOVED BY: Ray Maltais

DATE: September 14, 2020

SECONDED BY: J. Bouche

MOTION NO.: 20- 61

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** Council support Resolution 246-20 from the Corporation of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills pertaining to "Rural Broadband".

Carried  Defeated  Mayor [Signature]

RECORDED VOTE	FOR	AGAINST
Vern Gorham		
David Fairbairn		
Jo-Anne Boucher		
Ray Maltais		



**CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS**

3131 OLD PERTH ROAD • PO BOX 400 • RR 2 • ALMONTE ON • K0A 1A0

PHONE: 613-256-2064  
FAX: 613-256-4887  
WEBSITE: [www.mississippimills.ca](http://www.mississippimills.ca)

**VIA E-MAIL**

June 19, 2020

Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
[doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org)

Hon. Steve Clark  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
[minister.mah@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mah@ontario.ca)

Hon. Vic Fedeli  
Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade  
[MEDJCT.Minister@ontario.ca](mailto:MEDJCT.Minister@ontario.ca)

Hon. Lisa MacLeod  
Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries  
[Minister.MacLeod@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.MacLeod@ontario.ca)

Hon. Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education  
[minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)

Hon. Laurie Scott  
Minister of Infrastructure  
[laurie.scottco@pc.ola.org](mailto:laurie.scottco@pc.ola.org)

Dear Premier and Ministers,

**RE: Support for Rural Broadband**

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On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills, this is to advise you that the following resolution was adopted by Council at its meeting held on June 16, 2020.

**Resolution No. 246-20**  
**Moved by Councillor Maydan**  
**Seconded by Councillor Dalgity**

**WHEREAS** in December 2016 the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission declared broadband internet an essential service for Canadians;

**Bylaws & Resolutions**

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**AND WHEREAS** access to internet in many rural communities in Ontario is limited or non-existent;

**AND WHEREAS** current broadband investment projects across Ontario will still leave many residents unserved;

**AND WHEREAS** the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the digital divide leaving many rural residents unable to participate in e-commerce, online schooling, are unable to move businesses online or access healthcare and other services online;

**AND WHEREAS** communities and municipalities are developing economic recovery plans;

**AND WHEREAS** there may be potential federal and provincial funding for shovel-ready infrastructure programs to kick-start the economy;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Municipality of Mississippi Mills calls on the provincial and federal governments to include rural broadband investment as part of the economic recovery shovel-ready projects for municipalities;

**AND THAT** Council direct staff to circulate this resolution to the Prime Minister of Canada; the Federal Minister of Rural Economic Development; the Federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry; the Federal Minister of Economic Development; the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities; the Federal Minister of Health; the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Municipal Affairs; the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries; the Minister of Education; the Minister of Infrastructure; and all Ontario Municipalities; the Association of Rural Municipalities of Ontario; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and The Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

**CARRIED**

Should you have any questions please feel free to follow up with our office directly at 613-256-2064 or [jharfield@mississippimills.ca](mailto:jharfield@mississippimills.ca)

Kind Regards,

  
Jeanne Harfield  
Clerk

**Solicitor General**

Office of the Solicitor General

25 Grosvenor Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6  
Tel: 416 325-0408  
MCSCS.Feedback@Ontario.ca

**Solliciteur général**

Bureau de la solliciteure générale

25, rue Grosvenor, 18<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6  
Tél.: 416 325-0408  
MCSCS.Feedback@Ontario.ca

Info List # 11-20  
Item #6



132-2020-3484

**By email**

October 2, 2020

Dear Head of Council:

The Ministry of the Solicitor General is committed to keeping communities across Ontario safe, supported and protected. I would like to take this opportunity to share some information with your municipality regarding the anti-racism initiatives of my ministry and the Anti-Racism Directorate (ARD), the regulatory work being done to bring the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, into force, new police oversight measures, police training as it relates to de-escalation, mental health and diverse communities, mental health and addictions initiatives and investments, Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Planning and police-hospital transition protocol.

Anti-Racism

Our government has zero tolerance for hate, racism or discrimination in all its forms. We share a responsibility to speak out and act against racism and hate and build a stronger society. Our government is committed to addressing racism and building a stronger, more inclusive province for us all.

I am proud to be the minister responsible for Ontario's Anti-Racism Directorate (ARD), which leads strategic initiatives to advance anti-racism work across government with a plan that is grounded in evidence and research. Through the ARD, the government continues to invest in community-led research, public education and awareness initiatives. This includes investments to the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Ontario to undertake research that seeks to identify key mental health issues impacting survivors of victims of homicide violence in Ontario.

*Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*

Our government is also committed to addressing racism at a systemic level through the regulatory framework under the *Anti-Racism Act, 2017*, and through the work we are doing to bring the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, into force. As we work to develop regulations under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, we will continue to engage racialized groups, including Black, South Asian, First Nation, Inuit and Métis organizations. We are committed to ensuring that Ontario's communities are well supported and protected by law enforcement and that all interactions between members of the public and police personnel are conducted without bias or discrimination, and in a manner that promotes public confidence and keeps our communities safe.

.../2

The *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, which is part of the *Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019*, provides policing and police oversight legislation. Once in force, the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, will address a number of recommendations made by Justice Michael H. Tulloch, including:

- Mandatory training for all police service board members, the Inspector General, inspectors, police officers and special constables on human rights, systemic racism as well as training that promotes the diverse, multiracial and multicultural character of Ontario society and the rights and cultures of First Nation, Inuit and Métis Peoples;
- The requirement for each municipality that maintains a municipal board to prepare and publish a diversity plan to ensure members of the board are representative of the diversity of the population of the municipality;
- Not releasing the names of officials and witnesses in SIU investigations;
- Ensuring information made available to the public about an SIU investigation helps them understand the decision made by the SIU director; and
- Ensuring the SIU continues to publish investigative reports on its website.

### New Measures for Police Oversight

#### *Inspector General of Policing*

The *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, will establish an Inspector General (IG) of Policing who will be required to monitor and conduct inspections related to compliance with the Act and regulations. The IG will work with policing entities to ensure consistent application of policing across the province by measuring compliance with prescribed standards.

Key functions of the IG include:

- Consulting with, advising, monitoring and conducting inspections of police service boards, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) detachment boards, First Nation OPP boards, OPP Advisory Council, chiefs of police, special constable employers, police services and other policing providers regarding compliance with the Act and regulations.
- Receiving and investigating, if warranted, public complaints about members of police service boards, OPP detachment boards, First Nation OPP boards and the OPP Advisory Council regarding misconduct and policing complaints regarding the provision of adequate and effective policing, failure to comply with the Act and regulations, and policies and procedures.
- Reporting inspection findings, issuing directions to remedy or prevent non-compliance with the Act and imposing measures if the direction is not complied with, or, reprimanding, suspending or removing a board member if board member misconduct is identified.
- Conducting analysis regarding compliance with the Act and regulations.
- Reporting on the activities of the IG annually, including inspections conducted, complaints dealt with, directions issued and measures imposed; and compliance with the Act and regulations.

The Act also gives the IG and its inspectors the right to access closed police service board meetings.

### *Law Enforcement Complaints Agency*

The *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* will continue the office of the Independent Police Review Director as the Law Enforcement Complaints Agency (LECA), headed by the Complaints Director.

The LECA will receive and screen complaints from the public about the conduct of police officers. In addition, the LECA will have the authority to initiate an investigation in the absence of a public complaint if, in the Complaints Director's opinion, it is in the public interest to do so.

The Complaints Director may also undertake reviews of issues of a systemic nature that have been the subject of public complaints or investigations, or that may contribute or otherwise be related to misconduct.

### *The Special Investigations Unit*

The *Special Investigations Unit Act, 2019*, (SIU Act), once in force, will set out a new legal framework for the SIU. The SIU Act will focus and clarify the mandate of the SIU to better ensure more timely, efficient, reasonable and transparent investigations. Key changes contained in the Act will focus the SIU's investigative resources where they are needed most – on criminal activity.

The Ministry of the Attorney General will continue to consult with law enforcement, community organizations and advocates to ensure their input is incorporated into the development of regulations under the SIU Act.

### Police Training

Training is developed and delivered in a manner that reinforces principles of fairness, equity and compliance with the Ontario *Human Rights Code* and *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

All Basic Constable Training (BCT) recruits undergo diversity-focused training designed to improve their ability to engage with the public and respond to victims of crime. This training focuses on improving recruits' understanding of the experiences of, and systemic barriers faced by, diverse communities, including racialized, Indigenous, First Nations and Metis, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning and Two-Spirited (LGBTQ2S) people.

Diversity and anti-racism training includes:

- Human rights framework for policing;
- Equity and inclusion;
- Harassment and discrimination;

- Defining police professional;
- Collection of Identifying Information in Certain Circumstances regulation;
- History of profiling in policing and the impact of racial profiling on the community;
- Profiling practices and the mindset behind it;
- Stereotyping;
- Bias free policing – racial profiling vs. criminal profiling;
- Hate crimes and bias incidents of a non-criminal nature; and
- Practical skills scenario that reinforces academic learning on hate crimes.

Training on Indigenous issues includes:

- Indigenous culture;
- Residential schools;
- Land claims and treaties;
- First Nations Policing;
- Cultural appropriation;
- Cultural practices; and
- Practical skills scenario that reinforces academic learning on Indigenous issues.

The Serving with Pride organization attends each intake to deliver a presentation to all recruits entitled “LGBTQ2S 101” which covers a number of issues related to the LGBTQ2S communities including historical events, current and appropriate terminology, gender expression, gender identity and other topics.

In addition to the standalone sessions, the above noted issues are interwoven and reinforced throughout the BCT program. For example, recruits are taught to respond to victims in a trauma-informed manner for all victims of crime acknowledging potentially vulnerable groups.

#### *De-escalation and Mental Health Crisis Response Training*

The Ontario Police College’s current de-escalation training emphasizes communication techniques such as establishing rapport, threat management and conflict resolution and mediation.

The training specifically addresses scenarios in which police interact with people in crisis with a goal of resolving conflicts in a manner that protects the safety of the public, the person in crisis and police officers. Officers must also undertake follow-up training every 12 months. Police services are also encouraged to have policies and procedures in place as set out in the “Use of Force” Guideline. This includes procedures for impact weapons, aerosol weapons, conducted energy weapons, firearms and use of force reporting.

Training on the BCT program is reviewed and updated to reflect the most current information after every BCT intake.

Once in force, the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, will require all police officers, special constables and board members to successfully complete training related to human rights, systemic racism and the rights and cultures of Indigenous Peoples. This training will also be required for the new Inspector General of Policing, its inspectors, the Complaints Director at LECA and LECA investigators. This is part of the government's commitment to ensure that all interactions are conducted without bias or discrimination, and in a manner that promotes public confidence and keeps communities safe.

### Mental Health and Addictions Initiatives and Investments

#### *Dedicated Funding for Mental Health and Addictions Programs*

Ontario's community mental health services include:

- assertive community treatment teams, case management, crisis intervention, early psychosis intervention, eating disorders programs, vocational programs, supportive housing and consumer/survivor initiatives, peer supports and other programs; and
- initiatives to keep people with serious mental health issues out of the criminal justice system which include, but are not limited to, court support and diversion, crisis intervention and safe beds.

In July 2018, Ontario announced its commitment to invest \$3.8 billion over 10 years, with the support of the Government of Canada, to develop and implement a comprehensive and connected mental health and addictions strategy. This includes \$174 million for mental health and addictions programs in 2019-20. As part of the \$174 million commitment of funds to support mental health and addictions in 2019-20, my ministry partnered with the Ministry of Health to announce \$18.3 million in new funding to support those affected by mental health and addictions challenges in the justice sector.

Specifically, in 2019-20, the Ministry of Health provided funding for an integrated set of mobile crisis services that assist in the de-escalation and stabilization of persons in crisis and their connection to community programming and supports to address their physical and mental well-being over the longer term, in order to prevent further crises. Five teams were implemented in 2019-20 with \$6.95 million of the \$174 million in new, annualized funding to develop and enhance mobile crisis services. Mobile crisis services partner police with community mental health organizations to respond to persons in mental health and addictions (MHA) crises and determine if the crisis:

- can be de-escalated and resolved at the scene;
- warrants further psychiatric attention at hospital emergency rooms; or
- requires short-term community stabilization and reintegration.

Part of the \$18.3 million in new funding also includes \$2.5 million for various programs run by the ministry, one of which includes de-escalation training.

### *Ministry of the Solicitor General Grant Programs*

Apart from the dedicated funding for mental health and addictions programs highlighted above, the ministry also offers a number of grant programs that are primarily available to police services, working in collaboration with municipal and community partners, to support local Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) initiatives, including mental health-related programs. For example, under the 2019-20 to 2021-22 Community Safety and Policing Grant local and provincial priorities funding streams, the ministry is providing funding to 27 police services/boards for projects involving an integrated response between police and a mental health worker to respond to situations of crisis (e.g., Mobile Crisis Response Teams).

### Community Safety and Well-Being Planning

The ministry developed the *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* booklet, which includes the CSWB Planning Framework and a toolkit of practical guidance documents to assist municipalities, First Nations and their community partners as they engage in the CSWB planning process. The Framework encourages communities to work with various partners across sectors to proactively identify and address local priority risks in the community before they escalate and result in situations of crisis (e.g., crime, victimization or suicide). This involves reducing the number of incidents that require enforcement by shifting to more proactive, preventative programs and strategies that improve the social determinants of health (e.g., education, housing, mental health).

In support of this work, effective January 1, 2019, the government mandated municipalities lead the development of CSWB plans which identify and address local priority risks to safety and well-being, working in partnership with police services/boards and various other sectors, including health/mental health, education, community/social services and children/youth services.

Complementary to the Framework, a Situation Table is one type of multi-sectoral risk intervention model that is being implemented across our province.

The ministry also offers the Risk-driven Tracking Database (RTD), which allows for the collection of risk-based data and helps to inform the CSWB planning process, free of charge to communities across Ontario that are engaged in multi-sectoral risk intervention models, such as Situation Tables. As of June 2020, 60 sites have been on-boarded to the RTD and any communities who are interested in being on-boarded to the RTD is encouraged to contact the ministry.

Police-Hospital Transition Protocol

Additionally, to improve front-line response to persons experiencing a mental health or addictions-related crisis, my ministry partnered with the Ministry of Health to support the Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee and CMHA of Ontario to develop a framework for local police emergency room transition protocols for persons apprehended under the *Mental Health Act*.

On June 3, 2019, the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Ministry of Health jointly endorsed the release of [Improving Police-Hospital Transitions: A Framework for Ontario](#), as well as the supporting toolkit, *Tools for Developing Police-Hospital Transition Protocols in Ontario*. The purpose of the framework and toolkit is to assist police services and hospitals with developing joint emergency department transition protocols, which are responsive to unique local needs, in order to ensure the seamless transfer of care for persons in a mental health or addictions crisis brought to a hospital by police officers.

I hope you find this information useful and I appreciate your municipality's support during this time of uncertainty.

Sincerely,



Sylvia Jones  
Solicitor General  
Minister Responsible for Anti-Racism

c: Chief Administrative Officers

Municipal Clerks



KIM COURTS  
DEPUTY CLERK  
T 519.837.2600 x 2930  
F 519.837.1909  
E kimc@wellington.ca

74 WOOLWICH STREET  
GUELPH, ONTARIO  
N1H 3T9

October 2, 2020

Sent via email to all Ontario Municipal Clerks

Dear Municipal Clerks,

At its meeting held September 24, 2020, Wellington County Council approved the following recommendation from the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee:

**WHEREAS previous assessment methodologies for aggregate resource properties valued areas that were used for aggregate resources or gravel pits at industrial land rates on a per acre basis of the total site and such properties were formally classified and taxed as industrial lands; and**

**WHEREAS Wellington County Council supports a fair and equitable assessment system for all aggregate resource properties; and**

**WHEREAS the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation determined, with the participation only of the Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, revised criteria for assessing aggregate resource properties; and**

**WHEREAS Wellington County Council has concerns that the revised criteria does not fairly assess the current value of the aggregate resource properties.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

**(a) That Wellington County Council does not consider the revised criteria for assessment of aggregate resource properties as a fair method of valuation for these properties; and**

**(b) That Wellington County Council believes there is a need to review the current assessment scheme for aggregate resource properties to address the inequity of property values; and**

**(c) That Wellington County Council hereby calls upon the Province to work with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation to address the assessment issue so that aggregate resource properties are assessed for their industrial value; and**

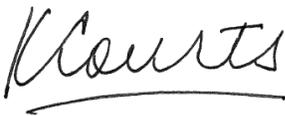
**(d) That Wellington County Council direct the Clerk to provide a copy of this motion to the Ministers of Finance; Municipal Affairs and Housing; and Natural Resources and Forestry; and to AMO, ROMA, and all Ontario municipalities and local MPP(s).**

Please find the Aggregate Resource Property Valuation and Advocacy report and Municipal Resolution enclosed.

Wellington County Council is requesting that all Ontario municipalities adopt the Municipal Resolution and forward to Donna Bryce, Wellington County Clerk at [donnab@wellington.ca](mailto:donnab@wellington.ca) upon passing.

Should you have any questions please contact Ken DeHart, County Treasurer, at [kend@wellington.ca](mailto:kend@wellington.ca) or call 519.837.2600 ext 2920.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Courts". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Kim Courts  
Deputy Clerk



# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

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## COMMITTEE REPORT

**To:** Chair and Members of the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee  
**From:** Ken DeHart, County Treasurer  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020  
**Subject:** **Aggregate Resource Property Valuation and Advocacy Report**

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### **Background:**

Through the County's Assessment Base Management Policy and Programme approved in 2016; Wellington County has made significant efforts to maintain, protect and enhance the quality of the assessment roll. This includes reviewing the accuracy of individual assessments and ensuring the equitable distribution of the tax burden. The County remains a strong advocate for the accurate and equitable valuation and property tax treatment of all properties, including gravel pit and aggregate resource properties in the County and throughout Ontario.

The County has been actively pursuing fair and accurate assessment valuations for gravel pits through two streams:

1. Assessment appeals heard by the Assessment Review Board
2. Advocacy through the province on a permanent policy solution

### **Assessment Appeals**

The County has filed assessment appeals on all aggregate producing properties in its three southern-most municipalities, being Puslinch, Erin and Guelph/Eramosa for the 2017 to 2020 taxation years. The purpose of these appeals is to ensure that the current value assessment of these properties is captured through the existing legislation, and to deal with how those properties are classified for taxation purposes.

The effect of the current property tax valuation structure by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation ("MPAC") unfairly sees active gravel pits incurring less property tax than many single-family homes and small businesses as a result of unduly low and inaccurate current value assessments. It also leads to properties that are located in the same areas and are similar to gravel pits receiving vastly different property valuations, which contradicts the principle of fairness and transparency underpinning our taxation system that similar properties should be treated and taxed equally. Arbitrarily classifying gravel pits as among the lowest form of farmland (Class 5) sets an artificial cap on these producers' property assessments and keeps their property taxes well below what they should be paying. In turn, residents and businesses are subsidizing the break that gravel producers are receiving.

In terms of next steps for these appeals, a settlement conference is scheduled to take place on September 16 and hearings are scheduled for the weeks of November 16 and 23.

### **Advocacy for a Permanent Policy Solution**

The County has been working with its colleagues through the Top Aggregate Producing Municipalities of Ontario (TAPMO) to raise awareness of the assessments and the inequitable treatment of these properties and ask the government to review how these properties are assessed and treated from a property tax policy perspective through the MPAC review that is currently taking place.

Through this work, TAPMO endorsed the attached municipal resolution to be shared with TAPMO municipalities for consideration at local Councils. The resolution formally asks the province to review how these properties are assessed in light of the inequitable treatment in comparison to other residential and business properties in the municipality. Several municipalities across the province have approved and forwarded this resolution to the province and local MPPs.

To be clear, the County believes MPAC's property valuation is incorrect even within the current legislation, however, the County is looking for further direction and possible legislative or regulatory changes that will eliminate future disputes. This kind of permanent policy change is in everyone's best interest to resolve this issue once and for all.

Staff recommend that the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee support the resolution and pass it along to County Council for approval. This is also an opportunity for the County to remind its member municipalities to review and give consideration to this resolution as well.

### **AMO Delegation Meeting**

On August 18, 2020, in collaboration with the Top Aggregate Producing Municipalities of Ontario (TAPMO), County representatives met with Stan Cho, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance, to discuss the need to improve how aggregate properties are assessed across Ontario under an equitable valuation system. The meeting was held during the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference. This is where municipal and provincial policymakers come together to discuss pressing issues facing both levels of government.

Wellington County and other TAPMO members presented several policy-driven solutions to Mr. Cho that would make MPAC's property tax valuations accurate and equitable. There are many possible legislative, regulatory or policy changes that can achieve a permanent solution. These include:

- Creating a separate class for aggregate producing properties (as was done for landfills in 2015);
- Directive (or regulation) from the Minister to MPAC regarding how to assess these types of properties to reflect their true market or industrial value;
- Remove the aggregate exemption from the *Assessment Act* (as was the situation prior to 2008).

This would enable municipalities to maintain stability in local taxation levels and meet the needs of their communities. Directing MPAC on how to assess these properties based on their true market value makes common sense and will result in stability and accuracy in the assessment process. The solution to remove the exemption of aggregate in the *Assessment Act* would allow MPAC to assess the full value of the property.

## **Summary**

Aggregate sites are important job creators and an increasingly critical element of public works that help to fuel steady economic growth across Ontario, especially as part of municipalities' post-pandemic recovery. Yet, under the current MPAC valuation formula, their current value assessment is inaccurate such that these sites generate significantly less revenue for municipalities and the Province than other possible uses for the same land. This costs Ontario municipalities millions of dollars in lost tax revenue every year and negatively impacts their abilities to deliver more fulsome services and programmes to residents. The current system also generates less Education property taxes which shifts even more tax burden onto homeowners and small businesses. Municipalities are therefore eager to find a solution that is fair for all involved: the municipality, taxpayers, and aggregate producers.

COVID-19 has highlighted the urgency for a policy-driven, equitable approach. Municipalities across Ontario are fighting to continue providing a high standard of services to our families and businesses who need them now more than ever. The lost tax revenue undermines our ability to enhance those services and make key infrastructure investments at a time when our residents are suffering. The County wants to be fair to aggregate producers while recognizing that they should be part of the solution in terms of helping families and businesses get back on their feet – the very people who are carrying the burden of the current MPAC system.

## **Recommendation:**

That the Aggregate Resource Property Valuation and Advocacy Update Report be received for information; and

That the attached resolution be supported by County Council and sent to the Ministry of Finance.

Respectfully submitted,



Ken DeHart, CPA, CGA  
County Treasurer

## SCHEDULE A – MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS previous assessment methodologies for aggregate resource properties valued areas that were used for aggregate resources or gravel pits at industrial land rates on a per acre basis of the total site and such properties were formally classified and taxed as industrial lands; and

WHEREAS Wellington County Council supports a fair and equitable assessment system for all aggregate resource properties; and

WHEREAS the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation determined, with the participation only of the Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, revised criteria for assessing aggregate resource properties; and

WHEREAS Wellington County Council has concerns that the revised criteria does not fairly assess the current value of the aggregate resource properties;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That Wellington County Council does not consider the revised criteria for assessment of aggregate resource properties as a fair method of valuation for these properties; and
- (b) That Wellington County Council believes there is a need to review the current assessment scheme for aggregate resource properties to address the inequity of property values; and
- (c) That Wellington County Council hereby calls upon the Province to work with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation to address the assessment issue so that aggregate resource properties are assessed for their industrial value; and
- (d) That Wellington County Council direct the Clerk to provide a copy of this motion to the Ministers of Finance; Municipal Affairs and Housing; and Natural Resources and Forestry; and to AMO, ROMA, and all Ontario municipalities and local MPP(s).

**CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY**

**Resolution #** 6

**Date:** Monday, September 28, 2020

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**Moved by:** Jeff Manley

**Seconded by:** Johanne Wensink

THAT Council of the Township of North Glengarry adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Ontario government has provided emergency assistance funding to municipalities through the Safe Restart Agreement to offset the financial impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the Province has specified funding must be used for operating costs and pressures due to COVID-19;

AND WHEREAS due to the nature of the pandemic and the necessity to make physical retrofits to offices to accommodate staff and the public in a safe environment, capital costs will be incurred by municipalities;

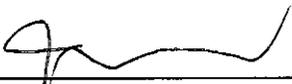
AND WHEREAS the Township has been advised by SDG County, through the Ministry of Finance that COVID-19 related capital costs are ineligible for Safe Restart Agreement Funding;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of North Glengarry urges Ontario to allow capital expenditures under the Safe Restart Agreement, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Jim McDonell, MPP and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Carried

Deferred

Defeated

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor / Deputy Mayor

## Office of the Mayor Rodger Bonneau

October 7, 2020

**Sent via E-mail**

### **Re: Cannabis Production**

---

Dear Ministers, Members of Parliament, and Members of Provincial Parliament,

Please be advised that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Asphodel-Norwood passed the following resolution at its regular meeting of September 22, 2020:

Motion No. 239/20 | Moved by: Councillor Walsh | Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Burt

**WHEREAS** the Ontario Federation of Agriculture has adopted the position that licenced cannabis production for medical and/or recreational-use purposes should be considered a farming activity;

**AND WHEREAS** the Government of Canada introduced Bill C-45 (the Cannabis Act) to create the foundation for a comprehensive national framework to provide restricted access to regulated cannabis, and to control its production, distribution, sale, importation, exportation, and possession;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 7 of the Cannabis Act requires that any person who intends to submit an application for a licence for cultivation, a licence for processing, or a licence for sale that authorizes the possession of cannabis must provide written notice to: a) The local government, b) The local fire authority, and c) The local police force or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment responsible for providing policing services to the area in which the site is referred to in the application;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 35(1) of the Act requires a holder of a licence for cultivation, a licence for processing, or a licence for sale that authorizes the possession of cannabis to provide a written notice to the local authorities within 30 days of issuance, amendment, suspension, reinstatement or revocation of a licence and provide a copy of said notice to the Minister; and

---

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Township of Asphodel-Norwood requests a governing body in cannabis production that:

1. Takes a unified approach to land use planning restrictions;
2. Enforces the regulations under the Cannabis Act on behalf of the licencing agency and ensures local authorities are in fact provided with notification of any licence issuance, amendment, suspension, reinstatement, or revocation within their region;
3. Communicates more readily with local governments; and
4. Provides local governments with more support.

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Township of Asphodel-Norwood will forward this motion to the following partners: All municipalities in Ontario, the MP and MPP of Northumberland-Peterborough South, the MP and MPP of Peterborough-Kawartha, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food with the request that they enact legislation to support local governments with land use management and enforcement issues.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Rodger Bonneau, Mayor  
Township of Asphodel-Norwood

- c. E. Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
M. Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
D. Piccini, MPP Northumberland-Petrborough South  
P. Lawrence, MP Northumberland-Petrborough South  
D. Smith, MPP Peterborough –Kawartha  
M. Monsef, MP Peterborough-Kawartha  
All municipalities in Ontario



# MEDIA RELEASE

October 7, 2020

## AGH WELCOMES **OPEN DOORS FOR LANARK CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Today, Almonte General Hospital welcomed **Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth** to the hospital campus on Spring Street. A Registered Psychotherapist will now be on-site one day a week, offering counselling and crisis support for children and youth up to the age of 18, and their families.

In addition to pre-booked appointments, the Registered Physiotherapist will provide Emergency Department (ED) consultations for children and youth. She will assess risk and develop safety plans in consultation with the ED team.

“We are pleased to welcome Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth and to work together to provide these much-needed services in the community for children, youth and families of Mississippi Mills,” noted Mary Wilson Trider, President and CEO. “Open Doors will augment the vital adult services already provided on-site by Lanark County Mental Health, helping families navigate the mental health system.”

“We are excited to improve accessibility to high quality child and youth mental health through this partnership with Almonte General Hospital,” adds Kevin Clouthier, Executive Director, Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth. “Not only can people access us more easily, this is a wonderful opportunity to build strong relationships with our health partners at the hospital and elsewhere in Mississippi Mills.”

The Registered Psychotherapist will be located in the Lanark County Mental Health office. Clients will access AGH through the main doors where they will be screened upon arrival. These clients will have pre-booked appointments which will be made through Open Doors.

Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth provides services throughout Lanark County. Each staff member is dedicated to working with each child, youth and family to gain an understanding of each person’s unique circumstances and social relationships. In doing so, they can tailor a plan that is fitted to their unique needs.

For more information, call 613-257-8260, email [admin@opendoors.on.ca](mailto:admin@opendoors.on.ca), or visit [www.opendoors.on.ca](http://www.opendoors.on.ca).

**Media Contact:**

Jane Adams

Communications Lead

Almonte General Hospital

613-729-4864

[jane@brainstorm.nu](mailto:jane@brainstorm.nu)



It's an exciting time at the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) as we get closer and closer to having shovels in the ground, aiming to drastically improve cell phone coverage and capacity in the areas of eastern Ontario where people live, work and travel. We hope you enjoy this update and please encourage others to [sign up](#) for the newsletter as well.

## A message from the board

Welcome to the first edition of the EORN newsletter. I'm glad to see this publication come to fruition at a very important time for our organization and eastern Ontario as a whole. While we are all living and working in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, staff at EORN have continued to meet deadlines associated with our \$213 million Cell Gap Project. We will provide an update on the Cell Gap Project further down in this newsletter.

While we remain committed to achieving exceptional cell coverage in eastern Ontario, we are also looking ahead to improving broadband. This is why we are asking all levels of government to support the newly proposed EORN Gig Project, an endeavour that would see internet in our region fixed for an entire generation.

Please read more on the EORN Gig Project below. Thank you for your interest in EORN.

*J. Murray Jones*

*Chair of the EORN Board of Directors*



EORN Chairman J. Murray Jones with Premier Doug Ford at an event in Peterborough in August.



## Cell Gap Project

“At this critical time it’s important that all Canadians can stay connected through reliable cell service and high-speed internet. This important project will bring mobile service to more than 100 communities and over 1 million people across Eastern Ontario and ensure that residents and businesses have better access to online services and tools.”

*The Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development*

### Objectives

In April this year we issued a request for proposal to tackle cellular dead zones across eastern Ontario. With it our region became one step closer to improved cellular services that will help rural communities take part in the digital economy, create jobs and improve public safety.

The project aims to achieve these cell phone targets in areas of eastern Ontario where people live, work and travel:

- 99 per cent coverage of basic voice service such as day to day calls
- 95 per cent coverage with standard data services such as email, web browsing and social media
- 85 per cent coverage with high demand data services such as video conferencing and moviestreaming

Submissions for the Cell Gap Project were received September 3 and EORN staff is currently going through an extensive evaluation process. More information will be announced later this year.

## EORN Gig Project proposal

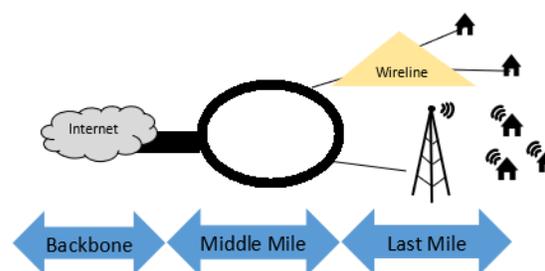
The EORN Gig Project is a proposed project to bring ultra-high-speed internet to eastern Ontario. Today’s digital economy is key to the economic development of rural regions. The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the massive divide between rural and urban Canadians when it comes to accessing high-speed internet services. Rural residents need high-speed broadband to work from home, participate in online education and access online medical care. In a recent business survey conducted by the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council (EOLC), 57 per cent of the more than 250 participants identified internet connectivity and high-speed internet as the most significant barrier to growth in our region. The EORN Gig Project is a proposed solution that would fix broadband in eastern Ontario for a generation. Why invest now in previously proposed technology that would only provide us with broadband at speeds of 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload by 2030 or 2035? By that time, the proposed technology will be outdated again. The cost to get 1 Gbps service to 95 per cent of the residences and businesses in eastern Ontario could be as high as \$1.6 billion.

## Tech corner

At EORN we spend a lot of time analyzing data and developing models that are ultimately meant to help improved cell coverage and capacity as well as broadband. It can be challenging to “translate” some of the technicalities of our industry. In each edition of the EORN newsletter we’ll try to unravel the mystery around one technical term. In this issue we’ll talk about “**the last mile**”.

The term last mile is often used when describing the process of delivering internet (also known as broadband) to homes. It is the final leg of a telecommunications network that delivers the service to the customers. When introducing the last mile, it comes with two other terms, namely: the middle mile and the backbone. The backbone of a network is the major data routes in a telecom service provider’s (TSP) infrastructure. This is most often a network made of thick fibre cables through which data travels in the form of light. The major routes bring the data to “access points” where TSPs will take it and bring it as close to the home as they can get. That section (from the back bone to the last mile) is called middle mile. Now that the data is close to the home, it needs

to get across the final hurdle, the last mile. This can be achieved in various ways but let us pick the two most common ones. First, the last mile can be delivered wirelessly. The data has made it to a tower near you and from there will be transmitted through radio frequencies to your home. This is known as fixed wireless. Fixed wireless can have a range of approximately 15 kilometres (so actually more than a mile!) depending on several factors including the height of the tower and the terrain over which the signal travels. The other main way of getting across the last mile is through another cable, for example an “old fashioned” copper phone cable or another fibre option. Each option has its own pros and cons depending on use. So there you have it.



## Your questions answered

Every day we receive emails from residents in eastern Ontario with questions about cell and broadband issues. In this newsletter we’ll highlight and answer one of your questions.

### Question

I recently bought a home and our cell service is terrible. We know that EORN is working on a cell project, but how do you determine where service will be improved?

### Answer

EORN used data from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) to create a “demand area” map, which is where homes, businesses and major roads can be found. MPAC has the most reliable and detailed data available on residential, commercial and industrial properties, as well as whether properties are multi-unit or seasonal. This data identified demand areas where EORN wants to see new or improved services. For more information on our project, visit [www.eorn.ca/cell](http://www.eorn.ca/cell).

October 7, 2020

Honourable Jeff Yurek  
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
College Park 5th Flr,  
777 Bay St, Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Sent via email: [minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecp@ontario.ca)

**Re: Development Approval Requirements for Landfills - (Bill 197)  
Our File 35.2.2**

Honourable and Dear Sir,

At its meeting held on October 5, 2020, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

WHEREAS Schedule 6 of Bill 197, COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020 considers amendments to the Environmental Assessment Act relating to municipal autonomy and the principle that municipalities can veto a development outside their municipal boundary in an adjacent municipality; and

WHEREAS Bill 197 empowers multiple municipalities to 'veto' development of a landfilling site within a 3.5 km zone inside the boundary of an adjacent municipality; and

WHEREAS Bill 197 establishes a dangerous precedent that could be expanded to other types of development; and

WHEREAS Bill 197 compromises municipal autonomy and the authority of municipal councils to make informed decisions in the best interest of their communities and municipal taxpayers; and

WHEREAS amendments in Schedule 6 could cause conflict in the effective management of landfill sites, put significant pressure on existing landfill capacity, and threaten the economic activity associated with these sites;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the City of St. Catharines calls upon the Government of Ontario (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MOECP) to amend Bill 197, COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020, to eliminate the development approval requirement provisions from adjacent municipalities and that the 'host' municipality be empowered to render final approval for landfills within their jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this motion be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Jeff Yurek the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Steve Clark the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local MPP's., the Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO) and Ontario's Big City Mayors (formerly Large Urban Mayors Caucus of Ontario-LUMCO)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Ontario municipalities with a request for supporting motions to be passed by respective Councils and copies of the supporting motion be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Jeff Yurek the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Steve Clark the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the local MPP's, the Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO).

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at extension 1506.



Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, City Clerk  
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk  
:ra

Cc. Hon. Premier Doug Ford [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)  
Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Housing [minister.mah@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mah@ontario.ca)  
Jennifer Stevens, MPP - St. Catharines, [JStevens-CO@ndp.on.ca](mailto:JStevens-CO@ndp.on.ca)  
Jeff Burch, MPP - Niagara Centre, [JBurch-QP@ndp.on.ca](mailto:JBurch-QP@ndp.on.ca)  
Wayne Gates, MPP - Niagara Falls, [wgates-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:wgates-co@ndp.on.ca)  
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP - Niagara West-Glanbrook, [sam.oosterhoff@pc.ola.org](mailto:sam.oosterhoff@pc.ola.org)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario [amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)  
Chair of Ontario's Big City Mayors, Cam Guthrie [mayor@guelph.ca](mailto:mayor@guelph.ca)  
All Ontario Municipalities (via email)

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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

**Ministère des  
Affaires municipales  
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M7A 2J3  
Tél.: 416 585-7000



Ontario

234-2020-4374

October 8, 2020

Dear Heads of Council and Chairs of District Social Services Administration Boards:

On August 28, 2020, our government announced its intention to stabilize rent by introducing legislation this fall to ensure that the vast majority of families do not see a rent increase in 2021.

On October 1, 2020, the *Helping Tenants and Small Businesses Act, 2020* received Royal Assent. The Act amends the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2006* (RTA), to deliver on the commitment to freeze residential rent increases in 2021 to give the vast majority of Ontario tenants some relief and financial security as we continue to recover from the pandemic.

The amendments set the 2021 rent increase guideline to zero per cent and freeze annual rent increases starting January 1, 2021 and lasting until December 31, 2021. The rent freeze applies to the majority of rental units that are covered by the RTA, including:

- Newly built units occupied for the first time on or after November 15, 2018, which are typically exempt from the rent increase guideline;
- Purpose-built rental apartments, condos, houses and basement apartments;
- Rented sites in mobile home parks and land lease communities;
- Care homes, including retirement homes;
- Affordable housing units created through various federally and/or provincially funded programs; and
- Households living in community housing that receive rent-geared-to-income (RGI) assistance or pay low end of market rent, with the exception of non-profit housing co-op members who pay market rates.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is committed to engaging the community housing sector through consultations under the Community Housing Renewal Strategy to monitor and understand the impacts of the rent freeze, as we work together to mitigate the financial impacts of COVID-19 on Ontarians, increase housing affordability, and deliver on our goal to sustain and grow the community housing system.

The Act is available [online here](#) and additional details can be found [online here](#).

On behalf of our government, I would like to extend our thanks for your support in working with the ministry to support tenants during this challenging time. We welcome your continued input and look forward to continuing to work with our municipal partners in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Clark  
Minister



T 705-635-2272  
TF 1-877-566-0005  
F 705-635-2132

Info List # 11-20  
Item #14

TOWNSHIP OF LAKE OF BAYS  
1012 Dwight Beach Rd  
Dwight, ON POA 1H0

October 9, 2020

*Via Email*

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

Dear Honourable Premier Doug Ford:

**RE: Reform to the Municipal Insurance Policy**

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On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lake of Bays, please be advised that Council would like to express their concern and request a reform to the Municipal Insurance Policy.

As outlined in the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) report entitled, "[Towards a Reasonable Balance: Addressing Growing Municipal Liability and Insurance Costs](#)", dated October 1, 2019, joint and several liability creates a higher insurance cost for municipalities. Local municipalities within Muskoka have experienced a 20% increase in municipal liability for 2019 and are expecting at least 20% increase for 2020.

Throughout the Township of Lake of Bays, the area of concern is the Errors and Omissions for building code claims. There is a much higher value of newly built cottages/seasonal residences within Lake of Bays and it is populated by a commanding number of ratepayers who possess the financial means to sue and will endure the protracted legal process. The Township has a lower than average number of building claims, however a higher than average payout.

Please consider an amendment to Bill 124 to make it a requirement that the building contractor name be disclosed and that the contractor must provide proof of insurance, thus providing greater accountability and responsibility and ensuring that municipalities will not bear the burden alone.

...2

*Page 2*

Kindly review and consider the recommendations as outlined in the above-noted AMO report. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Municipal Office at 705-635-2272.

Sincerely,



Carrie Sykes, *Dipl. M.A., CMO, AOMC,*  
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk.

CS/cw

Copy to: MP, Scott Aitchison  
MPP, Norm Miller  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Municipalities in Ontario



# MEDIA RELEASE

October 9, 2020

## ENRICHING LIFE AT FAIRVIEW MANOR

Connections between our Residents and their families are a top priority and Fairview Manor's Life Enrichment team has gone above and beyond to keep everyone connected. In fact, in the first four months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the team worked with their colleagues to organize 849 family connections. The entire team including Nursing, Personal Support Workers, Laundry, Maintenance, Dietary, Housekeeping and Hairdressing staff pulled together to make it work. Each visit lasted approximately 20 minutes – resulting in 16,980 minutes of together time!

“The team quickly set up window visits, but they also looked for other ways to connect virtually,” explains Karen Bunes, Director of Resident Care. “One iPad was not sufficient, but thanks to the Fairview Manor Auxiliary, the team was able to purchase a second one. They became experts in FaceTime, Skype, Messenger, WhatsApp, and Google Duo to help connect loved ones in our care to their families.”

In addition to these important visits, the Life Enrichment Team has continued to provide ongoing programming. They also deliver mail, newspapers, parcels, and room décor. They ensure new clothing items fit, are labelled, or returned to families. Every effort has been made to juggle visits with the regular full calendar of activities.

Finally, the team created a Facebook page and invited families to join. Special events such as BBQs, Mother's Day, Father's Day, dessert socials, preserve-making, and pictures are all shared so that everyone can join in the celebrations.

“We have a very dedicated Life Enrichment team who took on this new way of ‘doing business’ without hesitation and they kept families connected to their loved ones during a very difficult, frightening time,” sums up Amanda Becking, Assistant Director of Care. “We want to celebrate the dedication of the entire Fairview Manor team as they work together to keep the lines of communication open with families and friends.”



Cutline: Resident Denise Hayes (right) enjoys delicious cookies with Recreation Therapy Aide Kayla Nichols (left). The cookies were made by Denise's daughter in celebration of Nursing Week.



Cutline: Doris Dyck celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with family. The family sent a heartfelt thank you to Fairview Manor staff, noting it was a happy occasion, despite the restrictions.

**Media Contact:**

Jane Adams  
Communications Lead  
Almonte General Hospital  
613-729-4864  
[jane@brainstorm.nu](mailto:jane@brainstorm.nu)