



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, March 6, 2026

	Pages
1. Memorandum from the City of Welland re: Lottery Licensing for Community Organizations.	2 - 4
2. Memorandum from the City of Welland re: 2025 Annual Water Quality, Lead Evaluation and Summary Report.	5 - 24
3. Letter from the Niagara Peninsula Conservation re: Spring Flooding Information.	25 - 26
4. Letter from the Township of North Glengarry re: OCIF.	27 - 41
5. Letter from the Town of Englehart re: Resolution 2026-35.	42 - 55
6. Letter from the Municipality of Markstay Warren re: Nation Building Improvements to Highways 11 17.	56 - 57
7. Letter from the Town of McNab/Braeside re: Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy.	58 - 59
8. Letter from the Township of Perry re: Improved School Bus Safety.	60 - 62

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Tara Stephens, Director of Legislative Services/City Clerk

DATE: February 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Lottery Licensing for Community Organizations

As per By-law 1993-10057, charitable organizations must obtain lottery licensing approval from Council to conduct lottery events. The City Clerk, appointed as the licensing officer for the Corporation, oversees the review of licensing eligibility applications to ensure compliance with the guidelines set by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario. Once eligibility is confirmed, a report was traditionally prepared for Council consideration. However, on March 19, 2024, Council passed a motion delegating authority to the City Clerk to approve lottery licensing requests for eligible organizations and to provide a memorandum be provided to council following approval.

The following five (5) organizations have been granted approval for conducting lottery events within the City of Welland:

École élémentaire Nouvel Horizon

École élémentaire Nouvel Horizon is a publicly funded French elementary school in Welland. Through lottery licence fundraising, proceeds will initially fund two (2) new play structures and the school with long-term funds used to enhance experiential learning opportunities for students.

St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School

St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School is an English Catholic elementary school in Wainfleet. Through lottery licence fundraising, the school plans to direct funds toward

technology to support learning such as Chromebooks, extra-curricular sports transportation, educational field trips, as well as literacy and numeracy resources

Port Colborne Operatic Society (PCOS)

The Port Colborne Operatic Society is the oldest amateur theatre company in Niagara and have been presenting their annual musical production since 1945. PCOS promotes interest in and the study of the arts, advances the knowledge and appreciation asbb of dramatic culture through theatrical performances and provides facilities and education and instruction in theatre arts. In addition, PCOS supports other non-profit and charitable entities, particularly those focused on young people in the arts.

Start Me Up Niagara

Start Me Up Niagara offers services and programs to support people facing significant challenges such as poverty, homelessness, unemployment, disabilities, addictions and mental health issues. Their goal is to provide opportunities for these individuals to help them increase their level of self-sufficiency and improve their quality of life. Their services range from daily drop in, community lunches, health care, income maximization, arts, garden, and employment development.

Port Colborne Community Association for Resource Extension (Port Cares)

Port Cares aims to provide help, hope and opportunity to all to achieve their potential and improve quality of life by providing wrap-around supports and services to children and adults in our community. Port Cares provides emergency food support and meal programs, assists with eviction prevention and crisis support. Additionally, Port Cares offers employment services and learning, affordable housing units, EarlyON Child and Family Centres. Port Cares is the largest provider of early childhood development services through EarlyON centres located across Niagara.

Lottery Licensing Trends

In recent months, the City has observed an increase in lottery eligibility requests

from organizations located outside of Welland. Many of these groups are seeking approval in order to hold events at the Welland Bingo Hall, as their own municipalities do not have comparable facilities. This trend aligns with a broader regional pattern, as the limited number of bingo halls in Niagara has resulted in increased participation and higher gaming revenues across all locations. The resulting growth in local bingo activity has provided additional benefit to the community through enhanced charitable revenues.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Welland City Council

FROM: Sherri-Marie Millar, P.Eng.
Director of Infrastructure Services/City Engineer

Steve McGean
Senior Supervisor of Public Works

DATE: Friday, March 6, 2026

SUBJECT: 2025 Annual Water Quality, Lead Evaluation, and Summary Report

Purpose:

This memorandum and the 2025 Welland Water Distribution System Annual Water Quality, Lead Evaluation, and Summary Report (Annual Report, Appendix I) have been prepared to satisfy requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, Ontario Regulation 170/03, for the Welland Water Distribution System.

Key Points:

- The City of Welland (the City) continues to provide clean and safe drinking water to consumers.
- The Annual Report has been prepared to meet legislated requirements for the Welland Water Distribution System and includes water quality results, an evaluation for lead replacement, monthly water volume totals, and non-compliance information.
- The Annual Report is available to the public on the external website or by request.
- The annual drinking water system inspection 2025 resulted in four non-compliances and an inspection rating of 88 percent.

Background:

As the Operating Authority of the Welland Distribution System, the City is required to provide a drinking water summary report to Council on an annual basis, under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2022 (Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems).

The summary report must include:

- a description of any failure to meet the requirements of any governing Act, Regulation, Order or Approval that the Drinking Water System operates under, along with the actions the Operating Authority undertook to mitigate any such non-compliance; and

- a summary of water flow rates including maximum daily flow rates and instantaneous peak flow rates in comparison with the capacity of the water works identified in the drinking water license and permit.

Niagara Region is responsible for treatment and system storage and the City is responsible for distribution of water to consumers. Due to the two-tier nature of water treatment and distribution, the summary of water flows is reflective of monthly water volume purchased from Niagara Region. For information related to maximum daily and peak flow rates, see the Welland Water Treatment Plant - 2023 Summary Report (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/water/water-quality-reports/welland/default.aspx>), prepared by Niagara Region.

To meet other legislated annual reporting requirements, the City must prepare a water quality report and a lead evaluation report. These reports are not required to be provided to Council. To promote transparency and highlight operational performance, a combined report has been prepared for all three reporting obligations and covers the reporting period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, inclusive.

For additional background information, see the Annual Report (Appendix I) and the Ontario Municipal Drinking Water Compliance Program Overview (Appendix II).

Discussion:

The Annual Report has been prepared for Council review and public access. The report includes water quality results, an evaluation for lead replacement, monthly water volume totals, and non-compliance information. It can be accessed from the City's website (<https://www.welland.ca/Finance/DWQA.asp>) or by request from City staff. Highlights from the Annual Report are included below.

Water Quality Results

In 2025, the City collected 1,697 microbiological samples (E. coli, total coliforms) and performed 4,732 operational tests (free chlorine) to monitor and maintain water quality within the distribution system.

All water quality sample results for the reporting period were responded to in accordance with regulatory requirements or met the prescribed health standards identified by Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards and operational testing requirements of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems.

Changes to the City's distribution system sampling, testing, and monitoring program, throughout 2025, will result in a reduction in the total number of samples for the 2026 sampling year. These changes are being implemented to better align sampling practices with municipal standard practice and support the overall monitoring and optimization of the distribution system.

Adverse Water Quality Incidents

The following table summarizes the notices of adverse water quality incidents submitted in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Adverse water quality incidents are reported to the Spills Action Centre and the Medical Officer of Health.

All corrective actions to resolve all incidents were completed to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer of Health.

Incident Date	Adverse Condition	Corrective Action	Corrective Actions Complete Date
2025-08-12	Total Coliform Detection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flush watermain ▪ Confirmation of free chlorine residual ▪ Two sets of microbiological samples (at location, upstream, downstream) 24 hours apart 	2025-08-15

Regulatory Non-Compliance

The Welland Distribution System received four (4) non-compliances and an inspection rating of 88% for the 2024-2025 annual drinking water system inspection. The inspection was conducted by a Provincial Officer with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. The four non-compliances were for the following issues:

- A contractor fixed a broken watermain without a licensed city staff present. This resulted in two non-compliances because licensed staff were not there to witness the repair and keep proper documentation for it. The repair was done by qualified staff implementing proper disinfection methods. A meeting was held with the contractor to ensure that repairs are only done while licensed city staff is on site.
- The third non-compliance was for not updating the ministry with staff changes within 10 days.
- The fourth non-compliance was for doing one less sample than required in a sampling period.

These non-compliances were all minor issues, having no bearing on the quality and safety of the distribution system. All compliances have been corrected and steps put into place to ensure they will not happen again.

Conclusion:

The Annual Report has been prepared to meet legislated requirements for the Welland Water Distribution System and includes, water quality results, an evaluation for lead replacement, monthly water volume totals, and non-compliance information and is available to the public on the external website or by request.

The annual drinking water system inspection (2024-2025) resulted in four minor non-compliances and an inspection rating of 88 percent. The City continues to provide clean and safe drinking water to consumers.

Attachments:

- Appendix I 2025 Welland Water Distribution System Annual Water Quality, Lead Evaluation, and Summary Report
- Appendix II Ontario Municipal Drinking Water Compliance Program Overview



**Welland Distribution System (Drinking Water)
City of Welland**

**2025 Annual Water Quality, Lead Evaluation and Summary Report
(Prepared under Ontario Regulation 170/03)**

January 1 to December 31, 2025

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

**Municipal Drinking Water Licence # 076-101
Drinking Water Works Permit # 076-201**

Contents

- 1. Water Quality Report..... 3**
 - 1.1. Description of Drinking Water System 3**
 - 1.2. Monetary Expenses Incurred..... 3**
 - 1.3. Summary of Adverse Water Quality Incidents..... 4**
 - 1.4. Water Quality Test Results..... 4**
 - 1.4.1. Microbiological Testing 4**
 - 1.4.2. Heterotrophic Plate Count Testing..... 5**
 - 1.4.3. Operational Testing 5**
 - 1.4.4. Additional Testing..... 5**
 - 1.4.5. Inorganic Testing 5**
 - 1.4.6. Lead Testing..... 6**
 - 1.4.7. Organic Testing..... 6**
 - 1.5. Parameters Exceeding Prescribed Half-Standard 6**
- 2. Lead Evaluation Report 7**
 - 2.1.1. Summary of Current Lead Reduction Strategies 7**
 - 2.2. Summary of Results and Implementation..... 8**
 - 2.2.1. Lead Service Replacement Progress 8**
 - 2.2.2. Outreach and Education 8**
 - 2.2.3. Faucet Filter Program 8**
 - 2.2.4. Involvement of Public Health Authorities..... 8**
 - 2.3. Sample Results 9**
- 3. Summary Report – Regulatory Non-Compliance and Water Volume 10**
 - 3.1. Summary of Regulatory Non-Compliance 10**
 - 3.2. Summary of Water Volume 11**

1. Water Quality Report

This annual water quality report summarizes the quality of drinking water from the Welland Distribution System, Drinking Water System number (DWS) 260003149, from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

Additional water quality information for the Welland Water Treatment Plant can be accessed from Niagara Region's Water Quality Report website (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/water/water-quality-reports/welland/default.aspx>).

This report satisfies the requirements of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems.

1.1. Description of Drinking Water System

The City of Welland (City) is the owner and operating authority of the Welland Distribution System (DWS 260003149).

The City purchases wholesale drinking water for the Welland Distribution System from Niagara Region, the owner and operating authority of the Welland Water Treatment Plant (DWS 2200002048), located at 4 Cross Street North in Welland, Ontario.

The Welland Water Treatment Plant obtains source water indirectly from Lake Erie, via the Welland Canal and the Welland Recreational Waterway (Old Welland canal). The Welland Water Treatment Plant is a conventional surface water treatment plant and, though not used, can operate as a direct filtration plant. The water treatment process uses aluminum sulphate and primary disinfection is achieved using sodium hypochlorite with ultraviolet light as enhancement.

The Welland Distribution System provides water to the City of Thorold (DWS 260049621) and the Highlands Resident's Association (DWS 260093522). Drinking water is conveyed to consumers via 294 km of City owned watermain and 30.5 km of Niagara Region owned watermain, which range in size from 50 mm (2") to 750 mm (30").

The City does not add additional chemicals within the distribution system for the purpose of drinking water treatment.

1.2. Monetary Expenses Incurred

To ensure safe and efficient operations, the following major repairs or upgrade projects took place:

- Capital watermain replacement - \$2,500,000
- Watermain repairs - \$150,000

Costs are approximate.

1.3. Summary of Adverse Water Quality Incidents

The following table summarizes the notices of adverse water quality incidents submitted in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Adverse water quality incidents are reported to the Spills Action Centre and the Medical Officer of Health.

Where there have been no adverse water quality incidents for the reporting period, the table will show “NIL”.

Incident Date	Adverse Condition	Corrective Action	Corrective Actions Complete Date
2025-08-12	Total Coliform Detection (200)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flush watermain ▪ Confirmation of free chlorine residual ▪ Two sets of microbiological samples (at location, upstream, downstream) 24 hours apart 	2025-08-15

1.4. Water Quality Test Results

Reported results that are shown with “ND” (non-detect) instead of a numerical value indicate that the sample result is below the lowest possible detection limit for the parameter.

1.4.1. Microbiological Testing

Microbiological testing carried out under Schedule 10 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water systems, during this reporting period.

Location	Number of Samples	Range of E. coli Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Range of Total Coliform Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Prescribed Standard*	Unit of Measure
Distribution	1697	Not detectable	0 - 200	Not detectable	CFU/100ml

*Prescribed standards are copied from Ontario Regulation 169/03 - Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards.

1.4.2. Heterotrophic Plate Count Testing

Heterotrophic plate count (HPC) testing is conducted on some distribution system samples. The HPC test is used as a tool to monitor overall quality, but the results are not indicators of water safety. There is no prescribed standard for HPC.

Location	Number of Samples	Range of HPC Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Unit of Measure
Distribution	1697	0-78	CFU/ml

1.4.3. Operational Testing

Operational testing carried out under Schedule 7 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems, during this reporting period.

Location	Number of Samples	Range of Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Unit of Measure
Turbidity	4681	0 – 9.25	NTU*
Chlorine	4732	0.05 – 1.23	mg/L

*NTU (nephelometric turbidity units) is a unit that measures the lack of water clarity.

1.4.4. Additional Testing

Summary of additional testing and sampling carried out in accordance with the requirement of an approval, order, or other legal instrument.

Date of Legal Instrument Issued	Location: Parameter	Date Sampled	Result Value or Range (minimum number – maximum number)	Requirement	Unit of Measure
NIL					

1.4.5. Inorganic Testing

Inorganic parameter testing carried out under Schedule 13 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems, during this reporting period. Inorganic substances include heavy metals and dissolved minerals that may be present in treated drinking water.

Parameter	Number of Samples	Last Sample Date	Range of Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Prescribed Standard*	Unit of Measure	Exceedance
NIL						

*Prescribed standards are copied from Ontario Regulation 169/03 - Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. The prescribed standard for sodium is copied from Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems.

1.4.6. Lead Testing

Lead testing carried out under Schedule 15.1 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems, during this reporting period. Additional information for lead sampling is summarized in Section 2.

Parameter	Number of Sample Sets	Range of Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Prescribed Standard*	Unit of Measure	Exceedance
Distribution	NIL				
Plumbing	40	0.00002 – 0.00182	0.010	mg/L	No

1.4.7. Organic Testing

Organic parameter testing carried out under Schedule 13 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems, during this reporting period.

Parameter	Number of Samples	Results (running annual average)	Prescribed Standard* (running annual average)	Unit of Measure	Exceedance
HAA – Distribution	4	0.011	0.080	mg/L	No
THM – Distribution	4	0.02658	0.100	mg/L	No

*Prescribed standards are copied from Ontario Regulation 169/03 - Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards.

1.5. Parameters Exceeding Prescribed Half-Standard

Any inorganic or organic parameter(s) that exceeded half the standard prescribed in Schedule 2 of prescribed standards documented in Ontario Regulation 169/03 - Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards or prescribed standards documented within Ontario

Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems for large municipal residential drinking water systems.

Where there have been no instances of a half-standard exceedance for the reporting period, the table will show “NIL”.

Parameter	Range of Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Prescribed Standard*	Unit of Measure	Date of Sample
NIL				

*Prescribed standards are copied from Ontario Regulation 169/03 - Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. The prescribed standard for sodium is copied from Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems.

2. Lead Evaluation Report

This report summarizes the actions taken to monitor the effectiveness of the lead service line replacement program for the Welland Distribution System, Drinking Water System (DWS) number 260003149, from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

This report satisfies the requirements of Schedule D, Section 1.0 Lead Regulatory Relief of the Municipal Drinking Water Licence (Issue 7).

2.1.1. Summary of Current Lead Reduction Strategies

Current lead reduction strategies undertaken by the City include:

- Public lead service replacement
- Private lead service replacement (Lead Replacement Program)
- Lead sample collection and analysis for private premise plumbing (residential)
- Resident education and outreach
- Notification and coordination with Niagara Region Public Health

Historically, lead samples collected from the Welland Distribution System meet the prescribed lead standard of 0.010 mg/L required by Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. Results for lead sampling in the distribution system (2025) ranged from 0.00002 to 0.000182 mg/L and met the prescribed standard. Distribution lead sampling was not conducted in 2025 due to consistent results that meet drinking water standards.

On occasion, lead samples collected from private premise plumbing do exceed the prescribed standard for lead. In 2025, no private premise plumbing sample sets exceeded this standard. See Section 2.3 Sample Results for a summary of sample results.

Previous lead sample results for private premise plumbing suggest that efforts to replace City owned lead services has reduced lead levels (full or partial replacement).

2.2. Summary of Results and Implementation

2.2.1. Lead Service Replacement Progress

The table below summarizes lead service replacements and known remaining services as of December 31, 2025. Additional lead services (City and privately owned) may be identified during watermain replacement and repair work and directly affect the lead service replacement timeline.

Public Lead Service (City)				Private Lead Service (Resident)	
2025 Remaining	Previously Unknown	Replaced	2026 Remaining	Replaced	2023 Remaining
18		18	All known replaced	unknown	Approx. 693

The City continues to fund and replace the remaining lead services from the City owned portion. As additional lead services are identified, they will be changed.

The Lead Replacement Program for private lead service replacement is voluntary. The City continues to fund and promote the Lead Replacement Program. The program provides grants to residents when replacing a private lead service. Grant amounts are typically limited to \$1,500; however, provisions may allow amounts up to \$2,000 if certain conditions are met.

2.2.2. Outreach and Education

City staff continue to provide outreach and education to the public regarding lead service lines and lead in drinking water through:

- The City of Welland website (<https://www.welland.ca/Building/LASSR.asp>).
- Direct communication with residents when lead service lines are discovered.
- Door to door requests for private premise lead sampling.
- Proactive outreach (letter) to areas with known or probable lead services.

Communication to residents includes information on lead in drinking water and information about the City’s Lead Replacement Program.

2.2.3. Faucet Filter Program

The City of Welland does not offer a Faucet Filter program to residents. Where appropriate, the benefits of having a lead rated filter to reduce lead levels at the tap are communicated to residents. The information provided is prepared by Niagara Region Public Health.

2.2.4. Involvement of Public Health Authorities

Niagara Region Public Health provides education and outreach to residents when requested by City staff.

In addition, Niagara Region Public Health is notified of any lead sample exceedance for the Welland Distribution System or private premise plumbing; these results are reported as an exceedance of a prescribed drinking water sample under Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems and appropriate corrective actions are taken should they arise.

2.3. Sample Results

Lead sample results were collected based on the requirements of the Municipal Drinking Water Licence.

In 2025, 40 lead samples were collected from private premise plumbing and resulted in no exceedances of the prescribed lead standard of 0.010 mg/L (Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards). A summary of private residence lead samples completed in 2025 is shown below.

Sample Date (dd/mmm/yy)	Sample Location	Sample 1 Result (mg/L)	Sample 2 Result (mg/L)	Exceedance	Replaced
12-Mar-25	333 Wallace Street	0.00011	0.00010	No	No
13-Mar-25	40 Hilda Street	0.00013	0.00010	No	No
18-Mar-25	304 Harriet Street	0.00009	0.00016	No	No
18-Mar-25	326 Harriet Street	0.00021	0.00014	No	No
18-Mar-25	434 David Street	0.00011	0.00026	No	No
19-Mar-25	300 Harriet Street	0.00014	0.00010	No	No
19-Mar-25	219 Harriet Street	0.00182	0.00046	No	No
19-Mar-25	492 David Street	0.00004	0.00006	No	No
20-Mar-25	223 Harriet Street	0.00024	0.00029	No	No
20-Mar-25	293 David Street	0.00016	0.00018	No	No
20-Mar-25	502 David Street	0.00020	0.00050	No	No
21-Mar-25	35 Hilda Street	0.00038	0.00018	No	No
26-Mar-25	494 Harriet Street	0.00006	0.00010	No	No
26-Mar-25	20 Hilda Street	0.00016	0.00021	No	No
26-Mar-25	23 Hilda Street	0.00009	0.00022	No	No
27-Mar-25	40 Rita Street	0.00013	0.00004	No	No
27-Mar-25	41 Rita Street	0.00058	0.00039	No	No
4-Apr-25	27 Hilda St	0.00017	0.00004	No	No
10-Apr-25	33 Rita Street	0.00025	0.00009	No	No
11-Apr-25	32 Rita Street	0.00022	0.00016	No	No
3-Jul-25	116 Riverside Drive	0.00022	0.00018	No	No
4-Jul-25	37 Rita Street	0.00035	0.00015	No	No
29-Aug-25	41 Glendale Drive	0.00020	0.00008	No	No
4-Sep-25	59 Beatrice Street	0.00043	0.00029	No	No
4-Sep-25	33 Beatrice Street	0.00060	0.00078	No	No
5-Sep-25	81 Garon Avenue	0.00052	0.00039	No	No
5-Sep-25	50 Classic Avenue	0.00020	0.00012	No	No
9-Sep-25	79 Park Street	0.00011	0.00014	No	No

Sample Date (dd/mmm/yy)	Sample Location	Sample 1 Result (mg/L)	Sample 2 Result (mg/L)	Exceedance	Replaced
9-Sep-25	130 Beatrice Street	0.00033	0.00019	No	No
9-Sep-25	70 Beatrice Street	0.00018	0.00018	No	No
11-Sep-25	201 Beatrice Street	0.00022	0.00028	No	No
11-Sep-25	115 Beatrice Street	0.00073	0.00035	No	No
2-Oct-25	184 Merritt Street	0.00002	0.00002	No	No
3-Oct-25	161 Price Avenue	0.00037	0.00020	No	No
3-Oct-25	141 Chaffey Street	0.00013	0.00020	No	No
7-Oct-25	15 Canora Court	0.00015	0.00011	No	No
17-Sep-25	108 Alberta Street	0.00098	0.00056	No	No
17-Sep-25	94 Albert Street	0.00016	0.00026	No	No
15-Oct-25	27 Gladys Avenue	0.00008	0.00012	No	No
15-Oct-25	61 Lindel Crescent	0.00011	0.00022	No	No

3. Summary Report – Regulatory Non-Compliance and Water Volume

This report summarizes the water volume by month, provided by Niagara Region, to the Welland Distribution System (DWS 260003149), from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

This report satisfies the requirements of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems.

3.1. Summary of Regulatory Non-Compliance

The Welland Distribution System received four non-compliances and an inspection rating of 88% for the 2024-2025 annual drinking water system inspection. The inspection was conducted by a Provincial Officer with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

The four non-compliances were for the following issues:

- A contractor fixed a broken watermain without a city staff that is licensed present. This resulted in two non-compliances because licensed staff were not there to witness the repair and proper documentation was not completed for it. The repair was done by qualified staff using appropriate disinfection methods. A meeting was held with the contractor to ensure this does not happen again.
- The third non-compliance was for not updating the ministry with staff changes within 10 days.
- The fourth non-compliance was for doing one less sample than required in a sampling period.

These non-compliances were all minor issues, having no bearing on the quality and safety of the distribution system.

3.2. Summary of Water Volume

The drinking water volumes captured below are reflective of the wholesale water billing volumes supplied by Niagara Region.

Month	Total Water Volume (m³)
January	651.741
February	620.806
March	649.905
April	613.373
May	636.825
June	679.834
July	728.063
August	711.957
September	660.109
October	649.898
November	601.637
December	659.780
2025 Total Volume	7,863.928

Ontario Municipal Drinking Water Compliance Program Overview

The purpose of this overview is to provide Council, as System Owner, with background information related to programs that support municipal drinking water compliance (Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002) and the provision of safe drinking water.

Additional information on System Owner responsibilities, and other roles, that provide oversight and/or contribute to maintaining compliance and safe drinking water, are explained within this overview.

1. Standard of Care

Standard of Care provisions under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, came into force on January 1, 2013.

These provisions require the System Owner, senior leadership, and every person who, on behalf of the municipality, oversees the accredited Operating Authority or exercises decision-making authority, to “exercise the level of care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would be expected to exercise in a similar situation” and “act honestly, competently and with integrity, with a view to ensuring the protection and safety of the users of the municipal drinking-water system.”

Failure to do so could result in an offense under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002. A System Owner may rely on a report of an engineer, lawyer, accountant, or other person whose professional qualifications lend credibility to the report.

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks has prepared a guide for municipal councils with additional information related to standard of care: *Taking Care of Your Drinking Water: A Guide for Members of Municipal Councils* (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/taking-care-your-drinking-water-guide-members-municipal-councils>).

1.1. Ongoing Communication with Council

In support of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, and to assist Council with meeting the due diligence requirements of the Standard of Care provisions, regular correspondence can be expected throughout the 2022-2026 Council term regarding the Municipal Drinking Water Licencing Program, quality management system status, and operational performance.

Minimum correspondence frequencies have been summarized below.

Topic	Frequency
Financial Plan	Every 5 years (renews 2026)
Water QMS Update	Annual
Operational Performance – Summary Report	Annual
Request for Operational Plan Re-Endorsement	As required

2. Municipal Drinking Water Licencing Program

The Municipal Drinking Water Licencing Program (MDWLP) was developed in response to several recommendations of the Part II Report of the Walkerton Inquiry. The MDWLP requires every Operating Authority (City of Welland staff) of a municipal residential drinking water system to hold a system level licence to operate the subject system.

Without a valid licence, the City of Welland is unable to operate its drinking water distribution system. A licence includes conditions of operation for the subject system; these may include details of additional sampling and maintenance requirements, relief from regulatory requirements, and administrative procedures related to the MDWLP.

The City of Welland will be renewing the municipal drinking water licence in 2026. Under the MDWLP, there are five (5) requirements to obtain a drinking water licence:

- Financial plan;
- Drinking Water Works Permit;
- Permit to Take Water (not applicable to distribution only systems);
- Documented quality management system (QMS) operational plan; and
- Accreditation of the Operating Authority's QMS.

These requirements are discussed in more detail below.

2.1. Financial Plan

Ontario Regulation 453/07 prescribes requirements for the development of a financial plan. Under this regulation, municipalities must prepare a financial plan that demonstrates financial sustainability of the drinking water distribution systems for the duration of the term of the municipal drinking water licence.

The next financial plan submission to Council will be in 2026.

2.2. Drinking Water Works Permit

The City of Welland holds a Drinking Water Works Permit for the drinking water distribution system. A permit contains an overview of the major infrastructure that is installed and in use within the subject system. Permits also specify the types of infrastructure additions, modifications, replacements, or extensions that a municipality is pre-authorized to complete, versus those that require approval from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

2.3. Water Quality Management System

The MDWLP requires municipalities or organizations who operate municipal residential drinking water systems to develop, implement, and maintain a Quality Management System (QMS) that is accredited to the requirements of Ontario's Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (the Standard).

The QMS must be documented in an Operational Plan and accredited through an audit process by a third-party accreditation body that is approved by the Ministry of

Environment, Conservation and Parks. The City of Welland has maintained accreditation to the Standard since 2012. In addition to this requirement, the City of Welland has proactively implemented and previously held accreditation with ISO 9001:2015. Though ISO accreditation will not be sought in the future, City staff will endeavor to maintain requirements alongside the Standard.

The City of Welland's Water QMS Operational Plan describes various operational, maintenance, testing, monitoring, administration, and oversight processes that have been implemented in support of the Water QMS. Elements of the Standard that may be of particular interest or importance to Council include risk assessment; roles, responsibilities, and authorities; infrastructure review, maintenance, rehabilitation, and renewal; internal auditing; and management review.

The Water Compliance Supervisor provides Council with an annual QMS Update that summarizes the status of the Water QMS, including updates relating to the above-noted elements of interest, key QMS activities, and relevant milestones.

2.3.1. QMS Roles and Responsibilities

Several key roles and responsibilities have been defined in the Water QMS Operational Plan. These roles include but are not limited to the following:

System Owner

Council represents the City of Welland as the Drinking Water System Owner. Owner responsibilities include:

- Owning and endorsing the Operational Plan;
- Ensuring the drinking water system is operated by an accredited operating authority;
- Monitoring the QMS and providing resources in support of the QMS; and
- Ensuring compliance with the Municipal Drinking Water Licence and its components.

Operating Authority

City of Welland staff (specifically, selected staff of the Infrastructure Services Division) act as the drinking water system Operating Authority. The responsibilities of the Operating Authority include:

- Maintaining the QMS;
- Maintaining accreditation of the QMS;
- Communicating with the Owner about the QMS and resource requirements; and
- Ensuring compliance with the Municipal Drinking Water Licence and its components.

Top Management

Top Management of the Water QMS includes the Chief Administrative Officer, Director Infrastructure Services/City Engineer, and the Manager of Public Works.

Top Management's responsibilities include:

- Ensuring that a QMS is in place that meets the requirements of the Standard;
- Participating in annual QMS Management Reviews;
- Ensuring that the Operating Authority is aware of legislative and regulatory requirements;
- Communicating the QMS according to documented procedures; and
- Providing resources needed to maintain and improve the QMS.

QMS Representative

The Water Compliance Supervisor has been appointed as the QMS Representative as detailed in the Operational Plan.

Responsibilities of the QMS Representative include:

- Establish and maintain procedures and documents required by the QMS;
- Report to Top Management and the Owner on the performance of the QMS and areas of required improvement;
- Ensure that current QMS documentation is being used by Operating Authority staff at all times;
- Ensure that Operating Authority staff are aware of all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements that pertain to their duties for the operation of the drinking water distribution system; and
- Promote QMS awareness throughout the Operating Authority.

2.3.2. Endorsement of Water Quality Management System Operational Plan

Endorsement of the Water QMS by the System Owner and Top Management is a mandated requirement of the Standard. The previous endorsement of the Operational Plan is still valid.

The Water Compliance Supervisor will report to Council to recommend re-endorsement of an Operational Plan if substantial changes are made to its content.

3. Operational Performance

Annual reporting requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, and the Municipal Drinking Water Licence, include reports outlining annual water quality, lead service replacement program evaluation, and a summary of water volume and non-compliances.

The annual water quality report provides a description of the quality of drinking water; including adverse water quality incidents and sample results.

The lead evaluation report outlines the status and effectiveness of lead reduction within the distribution system through City and private lead service replacements, regular lead sampling, and other education and outreach efforts.

The summary report must be provided to Council on an annual basis and contains:

Appendix II

- A description of regulatory non-compliances with pertinent legal instruments (licence, permit, etc.); and
- Water flow information that can be used to assess the capability of the system to meet both existing and planned uses.

The City of Welland compiles these reporting requirements into one report: Welland Water Distribution System Annual Water Quality, Lead Evaluation, and Summary Report.

Due to the two-tier water treatment and distribution structure in Niagara region, water quality and summary report information for water purchased from Niagara Region can be accessed from Niagara Region's website (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/water/Water-Quality-Reports/default.aspx>).

March 3, 2026

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

**City of Hamilton
Haldimand County
Regional Municipality of Niagara
Local Area Municipalities**

RE: Request for Support: Coordinated Spring Flood Preparedness Communications

As we move into the spring thaw period, NPCA is requesting your leadership in supporting a coordinated approach to flood preparedness communications.

Seasonal conditions—including significant winter snowfall, potential rapid snowmelt, rainfall, and frozen ground—may elevate flood risk in the coming weeks, particularly in low-lying areas and near watercourses. Clear, consistent messaging across jurisdictions is essential to ensuring residents are informed and prepared.

We respectfully ask for your support in:

- Sharing [NPCA's flood preparedness messaging](#) through municipal communication channels.
- Circulating social media posts to broaden reach within your communities.
- Displaying the attached digital advertisement within municipal facilities and community hubs where feasible.
- [Reinforcing key preparedness messaging](#) through council communications and community updates, as appropriate.

NPCA continues to actively monitor watershed conditions through snowpack assessments, real-time water level monitoring, and weather tracking. Flood outlooks, advisories, or warnings will be issued as warranted.

Residents are encouraged to monitor conditions at npca.ca/flood-status, follow NPCA on social media, download the [Alertable app](#) for real-time notifications, and report drainage concerns to their municipality.

Your support ensures a unified and proactive approach to public safety during the spring thaw. Thank you for your continued collaboration and leadership.

Sincerely,



Melanie Davis, M.A.
Manager, Office of the CAO & Board
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority



Niagara Peninsula
CONSERVATION
nature for all

The Groundhog Says Early Spring.

**NPCA Says:
Check Flood Conditions.**



ALERTABLE

npca.ca/flood-status



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

Resolution # 7

Date: Monday February 23, 2026

Moved by: Michael Madden

Seconded by: Carma Williams

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

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

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

Resolution #

Date: Monday February 23, 2026

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

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

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

CARRIED

DEFEATED

DEFERRED



MAYOR / DEPUTY MAYOR

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



Northumberland County Council Resolution

SENT VIA EMAIL

January 28, 2026

Honourable Kinga Surma (Minister of Infrastructure),
Honourable Rob Flack (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing),
Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy (Minister of Finance),
Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South),
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO),
Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM),
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM),
All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Correspondence, 'Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF)'

At a meeting held on January 21st, 2026 Northumberland County Council approved Council Resolution # 2026-01-21-052, adopting the recommendation below from the January 5, 2026 Public Works Committee meeting:

Moved by: Deputy Warden Mandy Martin

Seconded by: Councillor John Logel

"**That** the Public Works Committee having considered correspondence from the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal, the Municipality of South Huron and the Township of Puslinch recommend that County Council support the correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Kinga Surma (Minister of Infrastructure), the Honourable Rob Flack (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy (Minister of Finance), Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and all Ontario Municipalities."

Council Resolution # 2026-01-21-052

Carried



**The Corporation of the
County of Northumberland**
555 Courthouse Road
Cobourg, ON, K9A 5J6

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at bennett@northumberland.ca or by telephone at 905-372-3329 ext. 2238.

Sincerely,
Tonia Bennett

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tonia Bennett".

Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk
Northumberland County

Council Resolution

Moved By M. Martin

Agenda
Item 10.a

Resolution Number
2026-01-21-052

Seconded By J. Logel

Council Date: January 21, 2026

"That Council adopt all recommendations from the six Standing Committees, as contained within the Committee Minutes (meetings held January 5, 6 and 7, 2026), with the exception of the following items (referenced from the Standing Committee Minutes), that will be held for discussion:

- Public Works Committee, Item 8.b, Report 2026-002 'Changes to Tipping Fees at Community Recycling Centres'- **Held by Councillor Cleveland**

And Further That the items listed above and held for separate discussion each require a separate resolution."

Recorded Vote
Requested by _____
Councillor's Name

Deferred _____
Warden's Signature

Carried  _____
Warden's Signature

Defeated _____
Warden's Signature

Public Works Committee Resolution

Committee Meeting Date: January 5, 2026

Agenda Item: 7.b

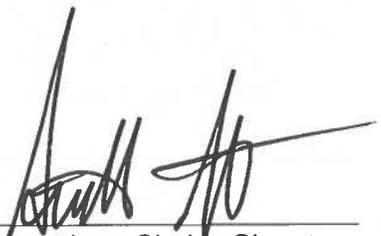
Resolution Number: 2026-01-05-004

Moved by: J. Logel

Seconded by: R. Crate

Council Meeting Date: January 21, 2026

"That the Public Works Committee having considered correspondence from the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal, the Municipality of South Huron and the Township of Puslinch recommend that County Council support the correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Kinga Surma (Minister of Infrastructure), the Honourable Rob Flack (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy (Minister of Finance), Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and all Ontario Municipalities."

Carried 
Committee Chair's Signature

Defeated _____
Committee Chair's Signature

Deferred _____
Committee Chair's Signature

TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH/CARDINAL

Resolution Number 2025-253

September 29, 2025

Moved By: _____

Seconded By: _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

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

TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL

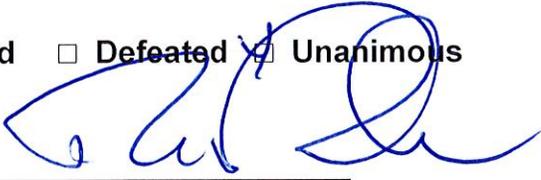
September 29, 2025

Resolution Number: 2025- 253

demographic projections, climate resilience metrics and rural equity considerations.

5. A dedicated contingency reserve equal to 5 percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs or project overruns without reallocating core funding.
6. The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report—including program disbursements, allocation adjustments and reserve expenditures—in a transparent, publicly accessible online dashboard.
7. The Clerk of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal forward this resolution to:
 - o The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
 - o The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
 - o The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - o The Honourable Francois-Phillipe Champagne, Minister of Finance
 - o Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - o Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM)
 - o Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
 - o The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
 - o All upper- and lower-tier municipalities in Ontario

Carried Defeated Unanimous

Mayor: 

RECORDED VOTE REQUESTED BY: _____

NAME	YEA	NAY
Councillor J. Martelle		
Councillor W. Smail		
Councillor C. Ward		
Deputy Mayor S. Dillabough		
Mayor T. Deschamps		
TOTAL		

VIA EMAIL

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable Francois-Phillipe Champagne, Minister of Finance
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
All Upper- and Lower-Tier Municipalities in Ontario

Please be advised that at its Regular Council meeting held on Monday, September 29, 2025, the Council of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal unanimously adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION: Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF)

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. The Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal calls upon the Government of Ontario to extend the annual OCIF envelope at not less than \$400 million beyond its current five-year term ending in 2026, with no reductions in subsequent provincial budgets.
2. The Province be requested to index the total annual OCIF envelope—and each individual municipal allocation—to the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI), calculated on a calendar-year basis and disbursed in the first quarter of each fiscal year.
3. The Ministry of Infrastructure establish a new five-year OCIF funding framework that guarantees annual envelopes and allocation percentages by municipality, enabling long-term capital planning and stable cash-flow management.
4. The Province undertake a formal review of the OCIF allocation formula at least once every four years, incorporating current municipal asset management data, demographic projections, climate resilience metrics and rural equity considerations.
5. A dedicated contingency reserve equal to 5 percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs or project overruns without reallocating core funding.

6. The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report—including program disbursements, allocation adjustments and reserve expenditures—in a transparent, publicly accessible online dashboard.

7. The Clerk of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal forward this resolution to:
 - The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
 - The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
 - The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - The Honourable Francois-Phillipe Champagne, Minister of Finance
 - Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM)
 - Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
 - The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
 - All upper- and lower-tier municipalities in Ontario

If you have any questions, please contact me at the email address below.

Sincerely,



Natalie Charette
Interim Clerk
clerk@twpec.ca



CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

N0M 1S6

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

Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

www.southhuron.ca

October 23, 2025

Via email: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Premier's Office
Room 281
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Dear Hon. Doug Ford,

Re: Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their October 20, 2025, Regular Council Meeting:

418-2025
Moved By: Aaron Neeb
Seconded by: Jim Dietrich

That South Huron Council supports the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal September 29, 2025, Resolution regarding Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF); and

That this supporting resolution and originating correspondence be circulated to the Premier, Minister of Infrastructure, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister of Finance, MPP Thompson, AMO, OSUM, FCM, all Ontario municipalities.

Result: Carried

Please find attached the originating correspondence for your reference.

Respectfully,

Kendra Webster, Legislative & Licensing Coordinator
Municipality of South Huron
kwebster@southhuron.ca
519-235-0310 x. 232

Encl.

cc: Minister of Infrastructure Hon. Kinga Surma, kinga.surma@pc.ola.org;
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Rob Flack,
rob.flack@pc.ola.org; Minister of Finance, Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy,
peter.bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org; MPP Lisa Thompson,
lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org; AMO, resolutions@amo.on.ca; OSUM,
osum@osum.ca; FCM, resolutions@fcm.ca; and all Ontario Municipalities



Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
VIA EMAIL:
premier@ontario.ca

Marit Stiles, MPP
Leader of the Official
Opposition
VIA EMAIL:
mstiles-qp@ndp.on.ca

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

November 28, 2025

Hon. Kinga Surma
Minister of Infrastructure
VIA EMAIL:
kinga.surma@pc.ola.org

Hon. Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs
and Housing
VIA EMAIL:
rob.flack@pc.ola.org

RE: 6.17 Municipality of South Huron Council Resolution regarding Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund & 6.18 Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal Council Resolution regarding Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on November 19, 2025 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2025-382:

Moved by Councillor Hurst and
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the Consent Agenda item 6.17, 6.18 Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal Council Resolution regarding Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund be received for information; and

That the Township of Puslinch Council supports the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal September 29, 2025 Resolution and the Municipality of South Huron Resolution of October 20, 2025 regarding Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF); and

That this supporting resolution and originating correspondence be circulated to the Premier, Leader of the Official Opposition, Minister of Infrastructure, Minister of



Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister of Finance, MPP Racinsky, ROMA, AMO, FCM, all Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED

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

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston
Municipal Clerk

CC: Minister of Finance, MPP Racinsky, ROMA, AMO, FCM, all Ontario municipalities.

TOWN OF ENGLEHART

61 Fifth Avenue , Englehart , Ontario , P0J 1H0

Tel: 1-705-544-2244

<https://www.Englehart.ca/>

February 25, 2026

RESOLUTION

Resolution # 2026-35

Agenda Item # 5.3 Committee of the Whole followed by the Regular Meeting

Moved By : Jo-Anne Farmer

Seconded By : Pam Bannink

WHEREAS the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) Pension Fund serves over 1,000 employers and over half a million employees and retirees from diverse groups including: municipal governments, school boards, libraries, police and fire departments, children's aid societies, and electricity distribution companies; and

WHEREAS the long-standing jointly-sponsored governance model with two corporate boards has provided stability, accountability, and fairness for both plan members and employers for more than two decades; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has passed legislative changes to OMERS' governance structure through Bill 68; and

WHEREAS these changes would replace the current OMERS Sponsors Corporation with a new Sponsors Council that would lose its corporate status and independent resources; and

WHEREAS the proposed model could allow pension decisions affecting municipal employers and employees to be made without meaningful municipal oversight, increasing financial risk for municipalities and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS municipalities are already under significant financial strain and cannot absorb additional pension costs without consequences for property taxes or local services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Englehart does not support the legislative changes to the OMERS Act contained in Bill 68 and requests that the Government of Ontario reconsider the advisability of proceeding with these changes; FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Englehart supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in calling on the Government of Ontario to maintain the current OMERS governance model, with two corporate Boards, as the structure that would best deliver on the long-term interests of municipalities, taxpayers, and employees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, MPP Paul Vickers, The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried

This is a certified and true copy of the original document Amy Vickery, CAO/Clerk.



OMERS Governance Changes & Bill 68



Association of
Municipalities
of Ontario



Contents

- OMERS: Current Governance Model
- OMERS Sponsors Organizations
- What happened?
- What does this matter?
- Why municipalities need to care?
- What can we do?

OMERS: Current Governance Model

- Prior to 2006, OMERS was fully controlled by the provincial government, as its sole sponsor: decisions regarding pension benefits and contributions were the responsibility of the provincial government
- In 2006, the provincial government removed itself from plan oversight and devolved the plan's sponsorship to the employers and employees who contribute to the plan.
- Now, OMERS is a defined benefit jointly sponsored pension plan where employee and employer sponsors are jointly responsible for funding the plan and making decisions around plan design.
- OMERS is governed by two corporate boards, each made up of members appointed by employee and employer sponsor groups:
 - The **Sponsors Corporation** determines plan design, contribution rates, and appointments to the Administration Corporation Board.
 - The **Administration Corporation** is responsible for the overall administration of the Plan, including making investment decisions and paying pension benefits to retirees.

The current OMERS governance model of two corporate boards with distinct responsibilities works because it balances independence, accountability, and fairness across the many different employers and employees.

OMERS: Sponsor Organizations

Employer Sponsors	Employee Sponsors
Association of Municipalities of Ontario	CUPE Ontario CUPE 416/79
City of Toronto	OPSEU
Ontario Public School Boards Association & Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association	Police Association of Ontario
Ontario Association of Police Services Boards	Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association
Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies	Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
Electricity Distributors Association	Retirees Group

*Sponsor organizations currently appoint members to the Sponsors Corporation and *nominate* members to the Administration Corporation (Sponsors Corporation reviews nominations and appoints to AC).

What happened?

- In 2024, the OMERS Sponsors Corporation conducted a regular review of contribution rates
 - Identified that lower-paid plan members were in effect subsidizing the retirement benefits of higher-paid plan members; adjusted rates to reallocate the financial burden in a more equitable way
- Following the release of this decision, the Police Association of Ontario, Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association, and Metrolinx wrote to the Premier requesting a governance review
 - The government launched a review in 2024
- AMO/MEPCO has consistently stated that the current OMERS governance structure functions well and does not require structural change.
- In November 2025, the government:
 - Released the Report of the Special Advisor, containing recommendations for significant governance change
 - One day later, tabled legislative changes to the *OMERS Act* as part of Fall Economic Statement omnibus legislation
 - Passed legislation in early December

Why does this matter?

Report recommendations and legislation mean significant changes to OMERS governance that:

- Shifts from a stewardship model focused on long-term sustainability and affordability to one focused more on advocacy and interest-based bargaining
- Weakens sponsor and municipal employer oversight by shifting power to the administrator (Administration Corporation) with respect to appointments and resources
- Provides significant authority to the Minister to prescribe rules and regulations related to Sponsors Council business, which risk interference in the plan design and potential new costs without the say of sponsors, employers, or employees

This is another example of provincial overreach into areas of municipal responsibility without a clear rationale or a full understanding of impacts.

Why municipalities need to care?

- Municipalities have less of a voice in the pension plan that we fund
- Province will be able to make decisions about the plan through regulation, and municipalities and employees will have to cover any new costs
- An interest-based approach to benefits and contributions decisions creates greater financial risks for municipalities (e.g. decisions that could lead to higher contribution rates or lower benefits)
- Less sponsor control over the Administration Corporation makes it harder to hold administrators responsible for plan performance

Ultimately, municipal governments are the default funder of the pension plan. This new model creates a greater risk of funding shortfalls, which will need to be covered by municipal taxpayers.

What can we do?

- Tell government and local MPPs that pension governance matters, and that municipalities should have control over their own plan by:
 - Passing a resolution
 - Sending a letter
 - Meeting with your local MPP
 - Raising this issue in delegations at ROMA (key messages on next slide)

Key messages

- The OMERS pension plan is important to municipalities: it is a recruitment and retention tool and a valuable benefit for our employees.
- We are concerned about the OMERS governance changes because:
 - Municipalities have less of a voice in the pension plan that we fund and rely on
 - These changes could lead to higher costs for municipalities. We cannot afford new costs without increasing taxes or cutting services.
- We believe that the current OMERS structure with two corporate boards is working; it provides predictability and stability.
- Pensions need to stay independent and accountable. They cannot be politicized.
- We are asking you to work with AMO and the other plan sponsors to chart a path forward that limits major changes and protects the long-term interests of municipalities, taxpayers, and employees.



Appendix

Poirier Report Summary

	Recommendations
Sponsors Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wind down Sponsors Corporation and replace with a Sponsors Council• Maintain current composition with the addition of five (5) non-voting members• Re-establish employer/employee co-chair model and employer/employee sponsor caucuses
Appointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extend current Independent Board Chair term for three (3) years• Sponsors to directly appoint members to Administration Corporation Board• Give Administration Corporation Board veto (2/3 majority vote) over sponsor appointments
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• End corporate structure for Sponsors Corporation and access to independent resources• Administration Corporation to reimburse Sponsors Council for “reasonable costs”• Costs of arbitration be borne exclusively by sponsor organizations
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legislate normal retirement age (NRA) 60/65 flexibility within plan text

Bill 68 Summary

- As part of Fall Economic Statement, Government introduced Bill 68 legislation to enact several (but not all recommendations)
- Provides authority to the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing to:
 - Dissolve Sponsors Corporation at a date determined by Ministerial order
 - Establish a Sponsors Council, subject to any rules Minister deems appropriate
 - Make regulations governing any elements of the Sponsors Council by-laws
 - Approve Sponsors Council by-laws, as established initially by the Administration Corporation
- Prohibits Sponsors from appointing:
 - to the Sponsors Council anyone who has been a member of the Administration Corporation Board or the Sponsors Corporation Board
 - to the AC anyone who has been a member of the Sponsors Corporation Board or the Sponsors Council

Agenda Number: 14.b.
Resolution Number 2026-RCM-077
Title: Highway 11/17 Nation Building Improvements - Town of Joly
Date: March 2, 2026

Moved by:

Rae Rachelle

Seconded by:

Dave

WHEREAS Canada's east-west trade and national mobility rely on the Trans-Canada Highway system, including Highways 17 and 11 across Northern and Eastern Ontario, which carry significant freight volumes but remain predominantly two-lane corridors;

AND WHEREAS to four-lane the entirety of Highway 17 is the ultimate goal of the communities along the corridor;

AND WHEREAS the proven "2+1" highway design, alternating passing lanes with a continuous median barrier, delivers safety outcomes comparable to full twinning at substantially lower cost, land, and environmental impact, and can be scaled or converted to four lanes (2+2) as volumes grow;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has announced a 2+1 pilot between North Bay and Temagami and a further extension toward Cochrane, creating a near-term implementation pathway;

AND WHEREAS modernizing Highways 17 and 11 will improve safety, reduce closures, strengthen supply-chain reliability for mining, forestry, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing, and enhance national resilience and emergency response capacity;

AND WHEREAS a phased 2+1 build - prioritizing Highway 11 (North Bay -+ Cochrane, then Cochrane -+ Nipigon) and key sections of Highway 17 (western border of County of Renfrew-+ Sudbury; Sault Ste. Marie--+ Sudbury; Thunder Bay--+ Kenora) - aligns with nation building criteria, supports economic reconciliation with indigenous partners, and enables integrated EV charging and low-carbon construction practices;

AND WHEREAS analysis summarized by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, (FONOM) demonstrates high freight demand on these routes and strong safety / economic rationale for a 2+1 program;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of Markstay-Warren formally endorses the adoption and phased implementation of a 2+1 highway program on Highways 17 and 11 as a nation-building project;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada be urged to designate this initiative as a project of national interest under the Building Canada Act and to partner with Ontario to co-fund and accelerate planning, design, procurement, and construction;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Government of Ontario be urged to expand the announced pilot to a corridor-wide program, sequencing works according to readiness, safety benefit and economic importance;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Government of Ontario prioritize these projects into the Ministry of Transportation's Major Projects Division;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT both governments ensure early, ongoing, and capacity supported engagement with affected Indigenous Nations, with opportunities for Indigenous training,

contracting, and equity participation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the program incorporate corridor-wide safety features (barrier-separated 2+1 cross-sections, controlled passing frequency, wildlife considerations), resilience measures (closure mitigation, climate adaptation), and clean-growth elements (EV charging readiness, recycled aggregates, lower-carbon materials);

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transport (Canada), the Minister of infrastructure (Canada), the Ontario Minister of Transportation, our local MP and MPP, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Eastern Ontario Wardens'

CARRIED

DEFERRED

DEFEATED



Mayor



TOWNSHIP OF
McNab/Braeside

Regular Council Meeting Resolution Form

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

Description: Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy

RESOLUTION:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MAYOR

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

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

Motion: Support for Modernizing the Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Township of Perry

PO Box 70, 1695 Emsdale Road, Emsdale, ON POA 1J0

PHONE: (705)636-5941

FAX: (705)636-5759

www.townshipofperry.ca

March 5, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation Province of Ontario

Re: Municipal Support for School Bus Safety and Stop-Arm Camera Systems

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Sarkaria,

On behalf of the Township of Perry, I am writing to express our strong support for enhanced school bus safety measures across Ontario, including the implementation of school bus stop-arm camera systems and other child-safety technologies.

Illegal passing of stopped school buses remains a serious and widespread issue throughout the province, occurring an estimated 30,000 times per day. These violations place children at unacceptable risk and continue to result in preventable injuries and fatalities. Municipalities require effective, modern enforcement tools to address this dangerous behaviour.

The Town of Parry Sound supports provincial investment in and expansion of school bus stop-arm camera systems under Part XIV.3 (School Bus Camera Systems) of the *Highway Traffic Act*. These systems have demonstrated success in deterring illegal passing, improving driver compliance, and strengthening accountability. Provincial funding and implementation support would help ensure municipalities of all sizes can deploy this technology equitably.

We also support the Let's Remember Adam – Stop for the School Bus campaign, launched in memory of Adam Ranger, a five-year-old child who tragically lost his life when a driver failed to stop for a school bus displaying its flashing lights and stop arm. This tragedy highlights the urgent need for continued public education, enforcement, and the use of technology to better protect children travelling to and from school.

...2



Township of Perry

PO Box 70, 1695 Emsdale Road, Emsdale, ON POA 1J0

PHONE: (705)636-5941

FAX: (705)636-5759

www.townshipofperry.ca

We respectfully call on the Province of Ontario to provide municipalities with the necessary funding tools, legislative support, and implementation guidance to advance school bus stop-arm camera systems and complementary child-safety initiatives across Ontario.

Protecting children on our roads is a shared responsibility. Through strong provincial leadership and municipal partnership, meaningful progress can be made to prevent further tragedies and enhance road safety for families across Ontario.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Norm Hofstetter
Mayor

cc: The Hon. Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka, and all Ontario municipalities



**The Corporation of the
Township of Perry**

Box 70 1695 Emsdale Road Emsdale, Ontario P0A 1J0

Date: March 4, 2026

Resolution No.: 2026- 104

Moved By: Paul Sowrey **Seconded By:** Margaret Ann MacPhail

Whereas the Township of Perry has received a letter from the Town of Parry Sound, along with other municipalities requesting support for improved school bus safety initiatives and the expansion of stop-arm camera programs;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Perry hereby supports the resolution passed by the Town of Parry Sound advocating for enhanced provincial support for school bus safety and stop-arm camera systems;

And further that Council directs staff to forward a letter to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, the Hon. Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka, and all Ontario municipalities for support.

Carried: ✓ **Defeated:** _____ 
Norm Hofstetter, Mayor

RECORDED VOTE		
Council	For	Against
Councillors Jim Cushman		
Joe Lumley		
Margaret Ann MacPhail		
Paul Sowrey		
Mayor Norm Hofstetter		