

Discovery Routes

2020-2021 Impact Report

Creating Connections




Discovery Routes
There's no end to our trails



A Message from our Chair

The past year has been one like no other. As public health orders and restrictions continue to affect daily life, so many have found solace in time spent outdoors on the trails, bicycle paths and waterways. Across the Near North, we have a thriving community of volunteers that provide stewardship for this vast and diverse trails network.

To continue to support the trails community in a meaningful way, the Board of Directors took time to evaluate its vision and mission this year. The exercise resulted in a renewed vision that speaks to the power of trails to create connections; not only the physical connection that trails create within and between communities but also their ability to deepen our connection with nature, to our communities and to each other.

To better understand the impact the dramatic increase in demand for outdoor activities has put

on the local trails community, Discovery Routes undertook a trails community consultation. This consultation will guide the Board as we begin work on a new strategic plan in 2022 to address some of the challenges brought on by the pandemic and to ensure we continue to move forward in our mission. We want to provide the best support possible to the trails community, as we work together to ensure that every person across the region has equitable access to a safe network of well-maintained trails.

In the post-pandemic recovery, trails will continue to play an important role in our health and well-being as well as revitalizing communities and local economies. Discovery Routes will continue to provide the supports needed for our thriving trails network.

Lance Belanger, Board Chair

Our Renewed Vision

A thriving trails network connecting communities and meeting the diverse needs of trail users in the Near North.

Our Renewed Mission

To invest in partnerships for the development and promotion of sustainable multi-use trails and active transportation systems throughout the Near North. Our collaboration and support through the sharing of resources, raising awareness, education and technology connects citizens and visitors while stimulating economic growth, encouraging an active, healthy lifestyle and appreciation for the natural beauty and history of the region.

Board of Directors 2020-2021

Lance Belanger, Chair
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 Rod Bilz, Member-at-Large
 Donna Maitland, Member-at-Large
 Hannah Wolfram, Member-at-Large
 Alan Korell, Member-at-Large

1000+

We support a vast and diverse trails network with over 1000km of land and water trails

40+

We support more than 40 communities across the Near North

56+

We work with 56 community trail partners

\$3.8M

We have secured over \$3.8 million for infrastructure and programming since 2000



Connecting Communities and People

Across the Near North, we have a thriving community of volunteers who provide stewardship for a vast and diverse trails network. Supporting our community-based trail partners through collaborations and resource sharing is our strategy to keep growing and improving the trails network.

Trails Community Consultation

In the Spring, an online survey and interviews were completed with 20 community-based trail groups and 30 municipalities and First Nations. The results will inform Discovery Routes' strategic plan by providing a better understanding of the needs of our trails partners, how they are supported, the current and forecasted organizational and trail infrastructure needs, and the impact COVID-19 has had on trail use and trail management practices.

New Boardwalks at Laurier Woods

We are working with the **Friends of Laurier Woods** to secure funding for improvements to two 20-year-old deteriorating boardwalks.

Fundraising for Almaguin Community Trails

The organization continues to support the **Almaguin Community Trails** through a Land Use Agreement with the Near North District School Board for access to the property that hosts the trails. We also collect donations on behalf of the volunteer stewards of the trails for trail maintenance and improvements.

New Trail Signs at Three Towers

We are assisting the **North Bay Mountain Bike Association** to secure funds to sign the new Three Towers Trail Network.

Beachburg Rail Trail

Working in partnership with the **Near North Trails Association** and **Trans Canada Trail**, Discovery Routes is helping to secure public access to the former CN rail trail known as the Beachburg Line. A feasibility study has been completed and land transfer negotiations are ongoing.

Bicycle infrastructure improvements

We have supported funding applications through the **East Ferris Active Transportation Committee** to pave the shoulders of Lake Nosbonsing Road as part of the Voyageur Cycling Route and province-wide cycling network.

Physical Trail Connections

We continue to act as a regional coordinator to 340km of the **Trans Canada Trail** and are the coordinating agent of the **Voyageur Cycling Route** connecting 29 rural and northern communities.

Advisory Role to Municipalities

With expertise in cycling infrastructure, Discovery Routes has an advisory role on the **North Bay Active Transportation Advisory Committee**.

Mapping Trails and Special Places

Explore South River is an innovative project connecting people to the special places of the South River area. As experts in trail mapping and partner to the **Forgotten Trails Association**, we helped create their map.



Inspiring Trail Use for Health and Well-Being

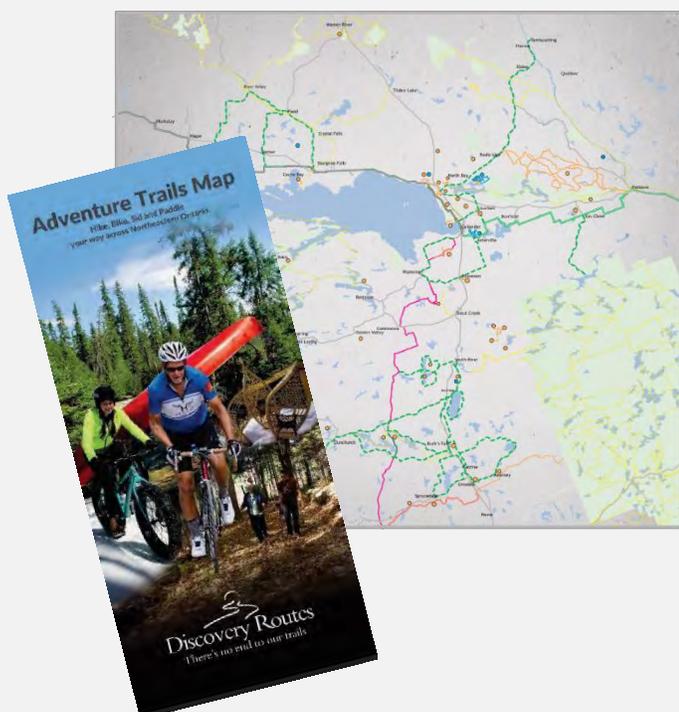
More people than ever are seeking new trails across the Near North where they feel safe for exercise, for fresh air, for well-being and for connection. Discovery Routes works with agencies like the **Health Unit**, local **school boards** and **municipalities** to provide the resources to find local trails, close to home.

DiscoveryRoutes.ca

Our website continues to be a source of trail information with close to 40,000 visitors to the site this year – that’s a 42% increase in visitors over the same period last year. We are working on a new, refreshed website that will provide even more detailed information on the trails themselves and also the volunteers that steward the trails.

Discovery Routes Adventure Trails Map

Our newest map out in 2020 continues to be in high demand. It celebrates close to 1000km of recreational trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, paddling and cycling.



Sharing our Stories

We are endeavouring to have a more active presence on Facebook and Instagram, to connect trail users to trail stewards, share our stories and engage with the trails community.

Community Trail Mapping Project

One unexpected outcome of the pandemic was where we found places to walk and ride. Our streets became our trails and all over the region informal trails popped up as our neighbours welcomed us onto their property to walk and get reprieve from the stress of the pandemic. We have begun to catalogue and map these informal trails and are working on a strategy to make these trails find-able to others. This effort helps to ensure equitable access to trails in every neighbourhood, in every community.





Promoting Safe, Responsible and Equitable Access to Trails

We believe that access to a safe place to walk or ride a bike is a right. Working closely with our municipal and community partners, Discovery Routes helps to inform on the integration of trails and active transportation infrastructure into sustainable community planning to bring the benefits of trails to all communities across the Near North.

ReCycle Bikes Program

With support from the North Bay Community Foundation the program reached even further this year. A satellite program in Powassan brought new volunteers. 220 bikes were donated with 120 repaired, tuned up and given to those in need. 323 volunteer hours were logged with 6 student volunteers were mentored by our veteran mechanics. We worked with the **North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority** and **Laurentian Ski Hill** to run the program and at least 10 separate **community service organizations** to ensure the bikes got to those in need.

"Thank you for all the joy you are helping to provide for Hands clients in helping them get bikes."

Hands The Family Help Network



Community Bicycle Education

We partnered with the **Near North District School Board** to deliver bicycle safety training sessions to Grade 7 & 8 educators in East Parry Sound. These teachers gained the knowledge to teach their students safe cycling skills.

Road Safety Campaign

Working through the **North Bay Active Transportation Advisory Committee**, Discovery Routes led a road safety campaign in May that helped inform all road users of how to use new cycling infrastructure in North Bay.



Advocacy for Active Transportation Facilities

We continue to advocate for improved road conditions for the safety of all road users. As highway rehab projects and municipal roadways are redesigned, Discovery Routes provides comments to ensure cycling infrastructure is included in the design phase. Sections of HWY 64 and HWY 17 will receive cycling facilities as a result of our advocacy. We have also provided comments to **MTO's Transportation Plans** for Northern Ontario and Eastern Ontario to ensure active transportation remains an important part of provincial policy.



Supporting the Local Economy

We believe trails are good for business. Trails and safe cycling facilities get us moving around our community, attract visitors from across the region and tourists from farther away. Trail experiences provide an invitation to explore, discover and deepen connection with nature, to our communities and to others.

Trail Experiences Program

Working with local storytellers and trail enthusiasts, a series of engaging and inspiring experiences are under development that blend culinary, local agriculture, history, nature and culture with a cycling and trail adventure. The experiences will be shared through a new and improved website, tourism blogs, social media and other advertising. Discovery Routes works closely with our tourism partners to achieve the greatest reach including local municipalities, **Tourism North Bay, Almaguin Communities Economic Development, Northeastern Ontario Tourism, Destination Northern Ontario** and **Destination Ontario**.

Trail Event Support

Events like the **Ghost Gravel, Almaguin Harvest Spin** series and the **Great Powassan Farmstand Tour** attract visitors to the region and get people out exploring their own backyards promoting regional tourism. We support these events through resource sharing and promotion.

Bicycle Friendly Business Certification

We work with local businesses to promote cycle tourism in the Near North. 43 bicycle friendly businesses across the region have registered with the **Ontario by Bike Network**. Congrats to 1886 Lake House Bistro for winning best bicycle friendly business in the northeast.

Signature Trails

We bring national attention to the region by promoting and improving 340km of the **Trans Canada Trail** and the 645km **Voyageur Cycling Route**.

Trail Use Tracking Program

We maintain 6 portable Eco-counters that move throughout the region annually to count cyclists. The data we track helps make the case for continued investments in trails and cycling infrastructure.





Tribunals Ontario

Assessment Review Board
15 Grosvenor Street, Ground Floor
Toronto ON, M7A 2G6
Website: www.tribunalsontario.ca/arb/

Tribunaux décisionnels Ontario

Commission de révision de l'évaluation foncière
15 rue Grosvenor, rez-de-chaussée
Toronto, ON M7A 2G6
Site web : www.tribunalsontario.ca/cref/

MEMORANDUM

TO: Municipalities

FROM: Ken Bednarek, Associate Chair and Kelly Triantafilou, Registrar

DATE: **October 2021**

SUBJECT: **ARB Digital Delivery Initiative - Update**

We are writing to provide an update further to our memo dated January 29, 2021 where we indicated that we would be continuing our focus on a “digital first” approach to the delivery of notices.

In that memo, we called on municipalities to engage with us to discuss reducing our paper footprint. Our memo said:

“As we continue to look forward, the ARB is interested in further reducing our paper footprint. The ARB is currently researching ways to eliminate the paper notice to the municipalities by creating a data file that can be sent electronically. We are still in the early stages of this research however we will soon be reaching out to the municipalities to gather more information.

If you are interested in having an “early thinking” discussion with the Registrar, please contact the Board at ARB.Registrar@ontario.ca.”

Over the last several months, the ARB has been working with the cities of Toronto and North Bay to develop a platform through which all Notices of Hearing have been sent by email. Those data files, which Toronto and North Bay have been able to download as Excel spreadsheet files, have contained the same information that was previously included in paper Notices of Hearing.

The ARB is now expanding this project. Our testing timeframe was from July to September 2021 and will continue. Our expectation is that this new process will be implemented across all 444 Ontario municipalities by January 2022.

The ARB is currently creating a secure web-platform with standard user-names and unique passwords for each municipality. This will ensure that you all have access to your specific regions’ notices in real-time.

Once created, data files will be uploaded to the secure website for all municipalities every Friday and they will include notices that were created for all the ARB's hearings that week across the province.

We hope to provide a further update in December regarding a launch date.

We are also looking to expand this service in the future to include use by tax representatives and law firms.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Ken Bednarek
Associate Chair

Kelly Triantafilou
Registrar

From: [AMCTO | The Municipal Experts](#)
To: [Cindy Pigeau](#)
Subject: Advocacy Update: Local Government Priorities for the 2022 Provincial Election
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 3:00:38 PM

AMCTO at your service
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image of Queens Park



October 25, 2021

Advocacy Update:

Local Government Priorities for the 2022 Provincial Election

As a vital municipal association with membership roots that reach deep into every part of Ontario, AMCTO knows the challenges facing communities. Last week's Local Government Week (LGW) reminds us of how you, our members, have stepped up over the course of the pandemic to do more with less in order to effectively meet the needs of your communities. LGW also reminds us about the importance of local government services and how they immediately impact and shape our communities. This is why, as an association, we feel it is important to ensure these priorities are top of mind for political party candidates leading up to the 2022 Provincial election.

For the first time ever, we have developed a **provincial election priorities document** that communicates the unique positions of our members and other municipal professionals to those involved in writing party platforms ahead of the 2022 June election. The document also provides recommendations on behalf of our members for the next Provincial government. These include

providing stable, predictable funding and investment; supporting continuous improvement through a strengthened municipal-provincial partnership; and investing in skills development and training for the next generation of municipal leaders.

We are pleased to provide members with a first-hand look at this document today ahead of a wider public release in the coming weeks. You can use this document to engage in discussions about provincial priorities with your local leaders including members of council and provincial candidates. A few weeks ago, letters were sent to the major political parties represented in the current legislative session, targeting election platform leads. These letters requested that they review this document and meet with us to discuss how we can work together to ensure the best outcomes for our residents. We look forward to connecting with representatives to discuss these priorities and recommendations further and will be sure to keep you, our members, informed on progress and next steps.

Stay tuned over the coming months for more updates, tools and resources to be released around this project including more in-depth spotlights on each priority and tactics around how we can work together as an association to advance these recommendations. In the meantime, for more information, please do not hesitate to **reach out** – your feedback is important to help us in continuing to develop and refine our approach to these important advocacy initiatives. Your member needs are at the forefront of what we do and should be supported as an integral part of the next Provincial government's mandate.

Sincerely,



David Arbuckle, MPA
Executive Director, AMCTO



AMCTO | The Municipal Experts

2680 Skymark Avenue, Suite 610, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 5L6

Tel: (905) 602-4294 | Fax: (905) 602-4295

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From: [AMO Communications](#)
To: [Cindy Pigeau](#)
Subject: AMO Policy Update - Community Paramedicine Expansion, Broadband Internet Expansion, Launch of LTC Inspections Program
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 2:44:51 PM

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AMO Policy Update



October 26, 2021

AMO Policy Update – Community Paramedicine Expansion, Broadband Internet Expansion, and Launch of Long-Term Care Inspections Program

Community Paramedicine Long-Term Care Program Expansion

The Ontario government is investing \$82.5 million to expand the existing Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care program to an additional 22 communities, making it available to all eligible seniors across Ontario. This program, which is fully funded by the provincial government, provides additional care for seniors in their own homes before admission into long-term care. The program was piloted across five communities in October 2020 and is currently active in 33 communities. With this expansion, the program will be available to all eligible seniors across Ontario.

AMO is supportive of the Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care program, and this needed expansion, as it provides for appropriate primary care by paramedics in peoples' homes across the province and is 100% funded by the province. There are no longer any geographical gaps in this LTC community paramedicine program.

AMO and the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC) released a [joint Community Paramedic Policy Framework](#) in July 2021. The paper sets out the immediate and future requirements to successfully develop a community paramedicine system in Ontario. We are looking forward to working with the Ministries of Health and Long-Term Care as valued partners along with Ontario Health to make a community paramedicine system in Ontario a reality.

Funding for Broadband Internet Expansion

The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, and the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, [announced](#) \$1.5 million in funding for

high-speed internet expansion. The projects supported by this funding will connect more than 900 homes and businesses in Rideau Lakes, Saugeen Shores, Kincardine, and Lucan-Biddulph. The funding is from Ontario's [Improving Connectivity for Ontario \(ICON\)](#) program and is in addition to the \$14.7 million announced in July.

In addition to ICON, Ontario's 2021 Budget announced an additional \$4 billion to expand high-speed internet to all unserved and underserved Ontario communities by 2025. Infrastructure Ontario is currently conducting a [Request for Qualification](#) process for firms to participate in the reverse auction process to connect defined geographic areas. The provincial government also passed the [Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, 2021](#) in April. This legislation gives the province authority to set the terms of access to municipal rights of way to build high-speed internet expansion projects if required. It is anticipated that Ontario will release guidelines for municipalities and internet service providers to support these expansion projects.

New Long-Term Care Inspections Program

It was announced today that Ontario is investing \$20 million this year to hire 193 new inspections staff and launch a [new annual proactive inspections program](#) in long-term care homes. This is part of the government's commitment of \$72.3 million over three years to increase enforcement capacity, ensure every resident has a safe and best quality of life, and to hold homes accountable for the care they provide. This investment is to double the current number of long-term care inspectors by Fall 2022 with a ratio of one inspector for every two homes.

This proactive inspections program adds to the current risk-based program of responding to complaints and critical incidents and will assist the government and long-term care homes in identifying and resolving problems to improve the quality of care provided to residents. This program will take a resident-centred approach by allowing for direct discussion with residents, to focus on their care needs as well as the home's program and services. The results from these inspections will help the government determine where the sector can benefit from additional resources, including guidance material and best practices.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.

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From: [AMO Communications](#)
To: [Cindy Pigeau](#)
Subject: AMO Policy Update - New Long-Term Legislation, Additional Personal Support Workers' Wage Enhancements, New LTC Personal Support Workers and Nurses Training
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 3:22:31 PM

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AMO Policy Update



October 28, 2021

AMO Policy Update – New Long-Term Legislation, Additional Personal Support Workers' Wage Enhancements, New LTC Personal Support Workers and Nurses Training

New Long-Term Care Legislation Introduced

The Ontario government is [introducing](#) the [Providing More Care, Protecting Seniors, and Building More Beds Act, 2021](#), which will repeal the current *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* and create the *Fixing Long Term Care Act, 2021*. The Bill also introduces proposed amendments to the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010*.

Measures proposed under the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* would fall under three pillars: improving staffing and care; protecting residents through better accountability, enforcement, and transparency; and building modern, safe, comfortable homes for seniors.

If passed, the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* would:

- establish the commitment to provide an average of four hours of daily direct care per resident per day by March 31, 2025
- strengthen the Residents' Bill of Rights to align with the Ontario *Human Rights Code* and recognizing the role caregivers play in resident health and well-being
- implement new requirements for annual resident, family, and caregiver surveys
- establish new compliance and enforcement tools, including doubling the fines on the conviction of an offense under the proposed legislation
- introduce a Minister's review of a director's decision in the licensing process.

It is expected that these legislative changes to the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010* would, if passed, increase transparency, and promote consumer choice and resident protection by modernizing the oversight of the Retirement Homes Regulatory

Authority, improving quality of care, and enhancing consumer protection.

AMO will be analyzing the Bill to assess the impact on residents and municipal homes and looks forward to presenting a submission to the legislative committee reviewing the Bill.

Extending Personal Support Workers' Temporary Wage Enhancement

The province is providing an additional \$373 million to extend the temporary wage enhancement for personal support workers and direct support workers who deliver publicly funded services in home and community care, long-term care, public hospitals, and social services. This increase will continue until March 31, 2022 and is expected to help attract and retain workers in these critical sectors.

This temporary wage enhancement includes:

- \$3 per hour for approximately 38,000 eligible workers in home and community care
- \$3 per hour for approximately 50,000 eligible workers in long-term care
- \$2 per hour for approximately 10,000 eligible workers in public hospitals
- \$3 per hour for approximately 60,000 eligible workers in children, community and social services providing personal direct support services to those who need assistance with the activities of daily living.

Additional Training for Long-Term Care Nurses and Personal Support Workers

The provincial government is funding up to \$100 million to add an additional 2,000 nurses to the long-term care sector by 2024-25 by [supporting the training](#) of thousands of personal support workers (PSWs) and nurses who want to advance their careers in long-term care. This investment is to support the [Long-Term Care Staffing Plan](#) which was launched last year and sets out actions that will educate, train, and help recruit tens of thousands of new LTC staff.

This funding creates two programs. **The BEGIN initiative: Bridging Educational Grant in Nursing** will provide tuition support to PSWs and registered practical nurses so they can pursue further education to become registered practical nurses and registered nurses respectively. Applicants will be expected to commit to working in the long-term care sector through a Return of Service Agreement for a period equivalent to the time they receive these funding supports for their education.

The **Nursing Program Transformation in Ontario's Colleges** will increase access to nursing programs at publicly assisted colleges through:

- Introducing hybrid online and in-person learning models in practical nursing and Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs, to provide students the flexibility to

learn as per individual schedules.

- Creating an additional 500 enrolments in bridging programs for the 2022-23 academic year, that are designed to give applicants the skills and credentials they need to move to the next stage of their career. Hybrid options will also be available for bridging programs.
- Providing up to \$6,000 a year in financial support to internationally trained nurses to gain the credentials required to work in Ontario.

The Ontario government is also investing \$1.2 million through the [Learning Inter-Professionally Healthcare Accelerator \(LIPHA\)](#), a new program to support innovative and flexible training for current and future personal support workers (PSWs) and nurses.

The program is being made available for free to over 80,000 nurses and PSWs currently employed in Ontario's LTC homes and will provide a virtual space with simulated cases for teams and individuals in the sector to practice caring for virtual residents. The LIPHA app can be adopted by long-term care homes to enhance and accelerate their existing training and orientation processes for nurses and PSWs.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.

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From: [AMO Communications](#)
To: [Cindy Pigeau](#)
Subject: AMO Policy Update - OMPF Allocations and LTC Development Call
Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021 3:04:02 PM

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AMO Policy Update



October 21, 2021

AMO Policy Update – OMPF Allocations and LTC Development Call

2022 OMPF Allocations Announced

The Ministry of Finance has issued allocation notices for the 2022 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF). As previously announced at the AMO Conference in August, the total funding envelope will remain at \$500 million. These dollars are distributed to 389 municipal governments across the province and provide unconditional operating support for local frontline services. This early announcement of the 2022 OMPF allocations is much appreciated.

For 2022, a further \$2 million is being targeting to rural farming municipalities through an enhancement to the Rural Communities Grant. This will provide up to an additional \$5 per household to municipalities with the highest levels of farmland.

Letters to Heads of Council and Treasurers have been sent at this time and the allocation notices may also be viewed on the Ministry's [website](#). The Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) provides unconditional operating support from the province to municipal governments. It uses an equalization approach to address fiscal challenges in rural and northern communities, with funding based on various community fiscal health indicators.

Historical OMPF Allocations (in millions of \$):

Graph of Historical OMPF Allocation Figures in \$ Millions

Call for Long-Term Care Development Proposals

The provincial government has opened a new call for applications to develop long-term care homes as part of the commitment to deliver 30,000 net new beds over 10 years. Everyone interested in building and redeveloping long-term care homes is invited to apply, including existing non-profit, for-profit and municipal long-term care operators, as well as organizations new to the long-term care sector.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their application as soon as possible, as they will be evaluated in the order in which they are received. Successful applicants will be announced in early 2022. More information is available at <http://ontario.ca/developingltc>.

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CHRISTINE TARLING
Director of Legislated Services & City Clerk
Corporate Services Department
Kitchener City Hall, 2nd Floor
200 King Street West, P.O. Box 1118
Kitchener, ON N2G 4G7
Phone: 519.741.2200 x 7809 Fax: 519.741.2705
christine.tarling@kitchener.ca
TTY: 519-741-2385

November 1, 2021

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

Dear Premier Ford:

This is to advise that City Council, at a meeting held on October 18, 2021, passed the following resolution regarding the vaccine passport program:

"WHEREAS the Covid-19 pandemic has been both a health crisis and an economic crisis; and,

WHEREAS lockdown and physical distancing measures have caused significant hardship to businesses, particularly those dependent on in-person delivery or experience (ex: retail, restaurant, hospitality, personal service, etc.); and,

WHEREAS vaccinations have proven to be an effective means of keeping Ontarians safe and can enable businesses to safely remain open without compromising the health of their customers and employees; and,

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario and the Regional Municipality of Waterloo are the primary authorities governing public health in the city of Kitchener;

WHEREAS the Economic Development Advisory Committee expressed concerns about financial supports for businesses and the City's ability to support, maintain and grow the economy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Kitchener thank the Province of Ontario for developing the vaccine passport program, but urge the Province to provide financial supports for businesses to cover capital and human resource costs necessary to execute the program; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and, all other Ontario municipalities."

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Tarling".

C. Tarling
Director of Legislated Services
& City Clerk

c: Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Monika Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Municipalities

October 8, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

Please be advised that the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Leamington, at its meeting held Tuesday, September 14, 2021 enacted the following resolution:

No. C-279-21

WHEREAS residents and staff at long-term care (LTC) homes have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS in the first wave of the pandemic (March - July 2020) there were approximately 5,488 resident cases and 2,290 staff cases in Ontario and tragically 1,817 residents and seven staff lost their lives to this disease; and

WHEREAS on 15 April 2020, Premier Ford stated, “we will stop at nothing to protect those who cannot protect themselves. Today we are launching an all-out plan to fight COVID-19 in our long-term care homes. We will fortify the iron ring of protection around our long-term care residents and those who care for them. We’ll go further in our testing, screening, surveillance, targeting the homes facing outbreaks”; and

WHEREAS there have been approximately 9,417 resident cases and 4,217 staff cases in Ontario in the second wave (2 September 2020-16 February 2021) and 1,869 residents and three staff lost their lives, representing an increase of resident deaths from the first to second wave; and

WHEREAS for-profit LTC homes have seen a disproportionate incidence of care failing to meet the standard of the Long-Term Care Act, which states that “...a long-term care home is primarily the home of its residents and is to be operated so that it is a place where they may live with dignity and in security, safety and comfort and have their physical, psychological, social, spiritual and cultural needs adequately met”; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) report dated 20 May 2020 revealed conditions including inadequate staffing levels and training, limited medical supplies, unsafe medication administration, insufficient procedures to reduce the spread of

COVID-19, poor infection prevention and control standards of practice, deficiencies in infrastructure and significant concerns about standards of care including seniors calling out for help, rotting food, missed meals, seniors left in soiled diapers and linens and cockroach and bug infestations; and

WHEREAS similar conditions were found in the second wave, including ongoing shortages of qualified, trained staff, ineffective use of PPE to prevent COVID-19 transmission, violation of protocols and practices including one instance in which residents who had tested positive for COVID-19 had their door handles removed, physical distancing and isolation challenges from continuing to house several residents in ward rooms with a shared bathroom and ongoing infection prevention and control standard concerns, all problems that were not fixed after the recommendations of the CAF;

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has launched an independent commission to investigate COVID-19 spread within LTC homes, how residents, staff and families were impacted and the adequacy of measures taken by the province and other parties to prevent, isolate and contain the spread; and

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has provided a Board-approved submission, Improving the Long-Term Care Outbreak Response in Ontario: Submission to the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission, on 29 January 2021, outlining recommendations to the Commission on behalf of the municipal governments that operate 100 of the 626 long-term care homes in Ontario; and

WHEREAS AMO's submission puts forward 48 recommendations for action in both public and private long-term care homes across nine themes: Vision for Long-Term Care and Leadership Culture, Public Health and Safety, Planning and Communications, Staffing Measures, Care for Residents, Funding, Inspections - Enforcement and Compliance, and Mental Health and Well-Being; and

WHEREAS one of the key recommendations of the AMO submission is that the Ministry of Long-Term Care and Ministry of Health review the adequacy of infection prevention and control programs under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007 in preventing and managing COVID-19 outbreaks, and to institute higher standards with increased funding to homes to implement these standards; and

WHEREAS the Canada Health Act's aim is to protect, promote and restore the physical and mental well-being of residents of Canada, and that the Federal Government provides health care funding to Provinces and Territories through the Canada Health Transfer; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government does not currently provide funding earmarked to support the LTC home sector, and;

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) works with and advocates to the Federal Government to secure new tools and empower municipalities to build stronger communities; and

WHEREAS the operation of LTC homes is a municipal responsibility in Ontario but is of significance to the federal-municipal relationship.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Leamington Municipal Council endorses AMO's recommendations contained in its submission to the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission;

THAT Leamington Municipal Council strongly urges the Provincial Government to move forward with implementation of these recommendations, including instituting higher standards with increased funding to homes to implement those standards;

THAT Leamington Municipal Council advocate to the Federal Government to enhance federal health care funding to the Provinces and Territories, specifically dedicating funding to long- term care, and to undertake further efforts to protect, promote and restore the physical and mental well-being of long-term care residents in Canada;

THAT Leamington Municipal Council request the FCM to develop a policy and advocacy position on enhanced federal support for long-term care;

THAT this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Federal and Provincial Ministers of Health, and FCM for their immediate action and that a copy be sent to AMO, and Windsor-Essex Members of Parliament and Provincial Parliament for their information;

AND that a copy of this resolution be sent to all Ontario upper-tier and single-tier municipalities for their endorsement.

Carried

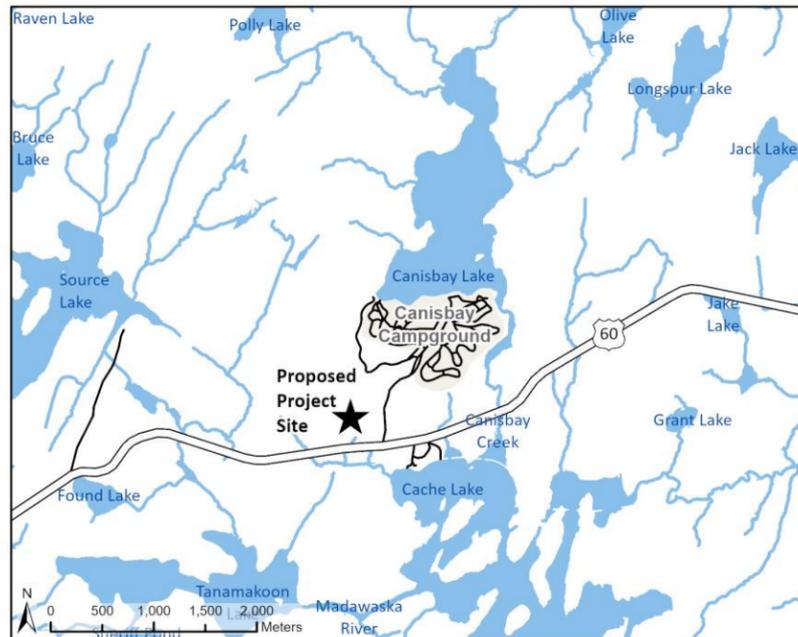
Dated today, the 8th day of October, 2021.

Brenda Percy, Clerk
The Corporation of the Municipality of Leamington



Algonquin

Public Notice for a Category B Project Evaluation: New Trailer Dump and Fill Station and Entrance Road to Canisbay Campground



The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), Ontario Parks, is inviting public comment on its proposal to undertake the construction of a new, three-lane trailer dump and fill station on Highway 60 in Algonquin Provincial Park and to reconfigure access to Canisbay Campground. The project is within the park's designated development zone; all work will be contained within this zone. This project is being undertaken in accordance with the current approved management plan for the park.

Algonquin Provincial Park is a 772,300 hectare (ha) natural environment class park located approximately 42 kilometres east of Huntsville and 134 kilometres west of Pembroke. The park provides recreational opportunities such as camping, interior tripping, swimming, day use, wildlife viewing, canoeing and in the winter cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

The proposed project involves the construction of a new trailer dump and fill station, including three trailer dump and fill lanes and one fill-only lane, resulting in a combined total of six dump and fill lanes for the Algonquin Park Highway 60 corridor. Parking for the Minnesing trail will be relocated approximately 200m north of its current location. These project components will be located entirely within the previously disturbed area of a retired gravel pit.

To ensure continued safe access along Highway 60 in this location, the Canisbay Campground and Minnesing trail entrance points will be consolidated. A new 250-300m access road will be constructed from the Minnesing trail entrance road across to the existing Canisbay campground road. The current access to Canisbay Campground from the highway will be permanently closed.

The proposal is being evaluated as a Category B project under *A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves* (Class EA). A Notice of Completion will be sent to those who submit comments or request further notice when the project evaluation is finished. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ontario Parks may proceed to implement the project without issuing a further general notice.

Comments must be received within the 30-day comment period which ends on **November 30, 2021**.

For more information on the project, to submit comments or to request further notice, please contact:

Beth Cragg
Park Planner
Algonquin Zone, Ontario Parks
451 Arrowhead Park Road
Huntsville, Ontario, P1H 2J4
Phone: (705) 571-2739
Email: beth.cragg@ontario.ca

As part of the entrance road reconfiguration, additional work will be required at the highway to create appropriately engineered turning lanes and merge lanes. This work will be contained within the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) right of way and will be covered through the planning process for Group 'C' Projects under MTO's Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000). Ontario Parks is working collaboratively with MTO to coordinate these distinct project components. For more information contact Jane Haddow, Senior Environmental Planner (MTO), Jane.Haddow@ontario.ca.

All personal information included in your request – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, under the authority of section 30 of the Environmental Assessment Act and is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public. As this information is collected for the purpose of a public record, the protection of personal information provided in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) does not apply (s.37). Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential.