



**Elgin County Council
Regular Council Meeting
Orders of the Day**

Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

**Council Chambers
450 Sunset Drive
St. Thomas ON**

Note for Members of the Public:

Please click the link below to watch the Meeting:
<https://www.facebook.com/ElginCounty>

Accessible formats available upon request.

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**Elgin County Council
Regular Council Meeting
Minutes**

**May 27, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Council Chambers
450 Sunset Drive
St. Thomas ON**

Members Present: Warden Grant Jones
Deputy Warden Ed Ketchabaw
Councillor Dominique Giguère (virtual)
Councillor Mark Widner
Councillor Jack Couckuyt
Councillor Todd Noble
Councillor Mike Hentz
Councillor Richard Leatham

Members Absent: Councillor Andrew Sloan

Staff Present: Blaine Parkin, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk
Nicholas Loeb, Director of Legal Services
Michele Harris, Director of Homes and Seniors Services
Brian Masschaele, Director of Community & Cultural Services
Jennifer Ford, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer (virtual)
Peter Dutchak, Director of Engineering Services
Mat Vaughan, Director of Planning and Development (virtual)
Holly Hurley, Director of People & Culture
Carolyn Krahn, Manager of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Initiatives
Katherine Thompson, Manager of Administrative Services/Deputy Clerk
Diana Morris, Senior Planner
Jenna Fentie, Legislative Services Coordinator
Stefanie Heide, Legislative Services Coordinator

1. Meeting Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. with Warden Jones in the chair.

2. Approval of Agenda

Consideration of item 8.1 will be deferred until after the closed meeting session.

Moved by: Councillor Hentz

Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the May 27, 2025 County Council Meeting be approved as amended.

Motion Carried.

3. Introductions, Recognitions, Memorials

None.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by: Councillor Noble
Seconded by: Councillor Couckuyt

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on May 13, 2025 be adopted.
Motion Carried.

5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

Councillor Widner declared a conflict with Committee of the Whole recommendation CW25-16 under agenda item 7.1. Councillor Widner will not participate in the discussion or vote on this item.

6. Presenting Petitions, Presentations and Delegations

6.1 Dr. Ninh Tran, Medical Officer of Health, Southwestern Public Health - Update on Measles in the Southwestern Public Health Region

Dr. Ninh Tran presented an update on the measles outbreak in the region, the response from Southwestern Public Health, and provided information on how Council can support messaging to County residents.

Moved by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw
Seconded by: Councillor Couckuyt

RESOLVED THAT the presentation from Southwestern Public Health be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

6.2 Brenda Fleming, Executive Director, Robert Furneaux, Board Chair, and Barry Fitzgerald, Hospice Community Volunteer - Hospice of Elgin Presentation

Representatives from Hospice of Elgin provided a presentation to Council detailing the services provided by the organization.

Moved by: Councillor Widner
Seconded by: Councillor Noble

RESOLVED THAT the presentation from the Hospice of Elgin be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

7. Motion to Adopt Recommendations from the Committee of the Whole

Council recessed at 9:55 a.m. and reconvened at 10:08 a.m.

7.1 Recommendations of Committee of the Whole - May 13, 2025 Meeting

Council identified items CW25-16 and CW25-17 as items to be pulled out for separate discussion.

Moved by: Councillor Widner
Seconded by: Councillor Noble

RESOLVED THAT Items CW25-14 - CW25-19 from the Committee of the Whole Meeting dated May 13, 2025, with the exception of items CW25-16 and CW25-17 identified for separate discussion, and the recommendations therein be adopted.

Motion Carried.

Councillor Widner declared at conflict with this item and did not participate in discussion or in the final vote for this item.

Moved by: Councillor Hentz
Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT Item CW25-16 from the Committee of the Whole Meeting dated May 13, 2025 and the recommendations therein be adopted.

Motion Carried.

Moved by: Councillor Giguère
Seconded by: Councillor Couckuyt

RESOLVED THAT item CW25-17 be referred to the Committee of the Whole Meeting on June 10, 2025; and

THAT staff extend an invitation to the Chair of the Land Division Committee to attend.

Motion Carried.

8. Committee Recommendations

8.1 Growth Planning Steering Committee Recommendation - May 13, 2025

Consideration of item 8.1. will occur following the Closed Meeting Session.

8.2 Draft Committee Meeting Minutes

8.2.1 Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee - April 22, 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes

8.2.2 Growth Planning Steering Committee - May 13, 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes

9. Reports for Information and Immediate Consideration

9.1 Manager of Administrative Services/Deputy Clerk - AMO Conference 2025 – Delegation Requests

The Manager of Administrative Services/Deputy Clerk presented the report seeking Council's approval to submit delegation requests for the 2025 Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) Conference to the Ministry of Transportation regarding DriveOn Inspection System Concerns and to the Ministry of Health regarding Community Health Centre funding. The Manager also sought Council's approval to partner with the City of St. Thomas on a delegation regarding inter-regional transit, and to submit a delegation request to the Ministry of Long-Term Care and the Ministry of the Solicitor-General regarding the approval timeframe of vulnerable sector checks and the implications on staffing at the County's Long-Term Care Homes.

Moved by: Councillor Hentz
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw

RESOLVED THAT County Council approve the draft AMO Conference 2025 Delegation Requests for submission.

Motion Carried.

10. Council Correspondence

Moved by: Councillor Widner
Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT Correspondence Items 10.2 and 10.3 be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

Moved by: Councillor Leatham

Seconded by: Councillor Couckuyt

RESOLVED THAT County Council approve a flag raising and proclamation request from ChildCan in recognition of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Motion Carried.

10.1 Flag Raising and Proclamation Request from ChildCan in recognition of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

10.2 Resolution from the Town of The Blue Mountains advocating for reduced Provincial Tax Rate on Ontario-Made Cider

10.3 Resolution from the Town of Shelburne opposing elements of Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025

11. Statements/Inquiries by Members

11.1 Upcoming Events in Elgin County

Deputy Warden Ketchabaw invited Councillors to attend Edisonfest at Memorial Park in Vienna on June 7, 2025. He noted that dignitaries are asked to arrive by 9:30 a.m.

Warden Jones noted that Rosy Rhubarb is also being held on June 7, 2025 in Shedden.

11.2 Accessibility Week in Elgin County

Warden Jones advised Council that this week is Accessibility Week and recognized staff for the work they do on accessibility throughout the year.

12. Closed Meeting Items

Moved by: Councillor Noble

Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT we do now proceed into closed meeting session in accordance with the Municipal Act to discuss the following matters under Municipal Act Section 239 (2):

Closed Meeting Item #1 - Closed Meeting Minutes - May 13, 2025

Closed Meeting Item #2 - Growth Planning Steering Committee Closed Meeting Minutes - May 13, 2025

Closed Meeting Item #3 - Property Matter

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

Closed Meeting Item #4 - Property Matter

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

Motion Carried.

12.1 Closed Meeting Minutes - May 13, 2025

12.2 Growth Planning Steering Committee Closed Meeting Minutes - May 13, 2025

12.3 Director of Community and Cultural Services - Property Matter

12.4 Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk - Property Matter

13. Motion to Rise and Report

Moved by: Councillor Noble

Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

RESOLVED THAT we do now rise and report.

Motion Carried.

Closed Meeting Item #1 - Closed Meeting Minutes - May 13, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Couckuyt

Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT the May 13, 2025 Closed Meeting Minutes be adopted.

Motion Carried.

Closed Meeting Item #3 - Property Matter

Moved by: Councillor Noble

Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT the confidential report from the Director of Community and Cultural Services be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

Closed Meeting Item #4 - Property Matter

Moved by: Councillor Noble

Seconded by: Councillor Widner

RESOLVED THAT Council approve the initiation of discussions with landowners regarding the possibility of establishing the fire training ground in Elgin County.

Motion Carried.

14. Committee Recommendations - Continued

Moved by: Councillor Noble

Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

RESOLVED THAT the recommendation GPSC25-6 from the May 13, 2025 Growth Planning Steering Committee Meeting be approved.

Motion Carried.

15. Consideration of By-Laws

15.1 By-Law No. 25-22 Confirmation

BEING a By-Law to Confirm Proceedings of the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin at the May 27, 2025 Meeting.

Moved by: Councillor Leatham

Seconded by: Councillor Noble

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 25-22 be now read a first, second, and third time and finally passed.

Motion Carried.

16. Adjournment

Moved by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw
Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 11:03 a.m. to meet again on June 10, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion Carried.

Blaine Parkin,
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk.

Grant Jones,
Warden.



**Elgin County Council
Special Council Meeting
Minutes**

**May 27, 2025, 12:30 p.m.
Council Chambers
450 Sunset Drive
St. Thomas ON**

Members Present: Warden Grant Jones
 Deputy Warden Ed Ketchabaw
 Councillor Mark Widner
 Councillor Jack Couckuyt
 Councillor Todd Noble
 Councillor Mike Hentz
 Councillor Richard Leatham

Members Absent: Councillor Dominique Giguère
 Councillor Andrew Sloan

Staff Present: Blaine Parkin, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk
 Jennifer Ford, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer (virtual)
 Peter Dutchak, Director of Engineering Services
 Andrew Parker, Manager of Roads and Asset Management
 Katherine Thompson, Manager of Administrative
 Services/Deputy Clerk
 Jenna Fentie, Legislative Services Coordinator
 Stefanie Heide, Legislative Services Coordinator

1. Meeting Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:47 p.m. with Warden Jones in the chair.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw
Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the May 27, 2025 Special County Council Meeting be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

3. Introductions, Recognitions, Memorials

None.

4. Adoption of Minutes

None.

5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None.

6. Presenting Petitions, Presentations and Delegations

None.

7. Motion to Adopt Recommendations from the Committee of the Whole

None.

8. Committee Recommendations

None.

9. Reports for Information and Immediate Consideration

9.1 Director of Engineering Services - Draft Multimodal Transportation Networks and Strategies - Elgin County Transportation Master Plan

The Director of Engineering Services, Manager of Roads and Asset Management, and Ana Mori, Consultant Project Manager, Arcadis provided a presentation that provides information to Council on Phase II and III of the County's Transportation Master Plan.

Moved by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw

Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT the presentation from the Director of Engineering Services and Arcadis Professional Services (Canada) Inc. be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

10. Council Correspondence

None.

11. Statements/Inquiries by Members

None.

12. Closed Meeting Items

None.

13. Motion to Rise and Report

None.

14. Consideration of By-Laws

14.1 By-Law No. 25-23 Confirmation

BEING a By-Law to Confirm Proceedings of the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin at the May 27, 2025 Special Meeting.

Moved by: Councillor Hentz

Seconded by: Councillor Widner

RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 25-23 be now read a first, second, and third time and finally passed.

Motion Carried.

15. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Leatham

Seconded by: Councillor Couckuyt

RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 1:51 p.m.

Motion Carried.

Blaine Parkin,
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk.

Grant Jones,
Warden.

Agenda Number: 2.
Resolution Number CW25-20
Title: Approval of Agenda
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Moved by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw
Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the May 27, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

Agenda Number: 3.
Resolution Number CW25-21
Title: Adoption of Minutes
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Couckuyt
Seconded by: Councillor Noble

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on May 13, 2025 be adopted.

Motion Carried.

Agenda Number: 6.1.
Resolution Number CW25-22
Title: Manager of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Initiatives -
Elgincentives Community Improvement Plan Review
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Moved by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw
Seconded by: Councillor Noble

RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to commence the preparation of a comprehensive update to the existing Elgincentives Community Improvement Plan.

Motion Carried.

Agenda Number: 6.2.
Resolution Number CW25-23
Title: Director of Engineering Services - Tourism Oriented Directional Signage (TODS) Agreement
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Widner
Seconded by: Councillor Hentz

RESOLVED THAT the Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk and Warden be directed and authorized to enter into the standard agreement with Canadian TODS Limited to provide tourism directional informational signage along County roads.

Motion Carried.

Agenda Number: 6.3.
Resolution Number CW25-24
Title: Director of Engineering Services - Reduced Speed Zone By-Law
Amendment – St. George Street
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Noble
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Ketchabaw

RESOLVED THAT the reduced speed zone By-Law No. 24-19 be amended to include a 30km/h reduced speed zone on St. George Street (County Road 26) from 50m north of Independent Street to 50m northwest of Hydro Road for a total distance of 460m.

Motion Carried.

Agenda Number: 6.4.
Resolution Number CW25-25
Title: Senior Planner - Draft Plan of Subdivision 34T-SO2402, Township of Southwold 35743 Horton Street, Shedden
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Hentz
Seconded by: Councillor Leatham

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin grants draft plan approval to Draft Plan of Subdivision 34T-SO2402, Township of Southwold 35743 Horton Street, Shedden, by Dillon Consulting Limited on behalf of 1873828 Ontario Limited, dated October 31, 2024; and

THAT staff be directed to provide notice of decision subject to the conditions of final approval in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act.

Motion Carried.

Agenda Number: 6.5.
Resolution Number CW25-26
Title: Senior Planner - Draft Plan of Subdivision 34T-MA23001, Township of Malahide 9270 Rogers Road
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Widner
Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin grants draft plan approval to Draft Plan of Subdivision 34T-MA23001, Township of Malahide 9270 Rogers Road by Strik, Baldinelli, Moniz Ltd on behalf of Peter and Anita Wiebe, dated November 18, 2024; and

THAT staff be directed to provide notice of decision subject to the conditions of final approval in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act.

Motion Carried.

Agenda Number: 6.6.
Resolution Number CW25-27
Title: Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk - Radio Working Group
Recommendations
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Giguère
Seconded by: Councillor Widner

RESOLVED THAT the decision regarding the recommendations from the Radio Working Group be deferred until after Council has received the Shared Services Analysis.

Motion Carried.

Agenda Number: 7.
Resolution Number CW25-28
Title: Adjournment
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Widner
Seconded by: Councillor Couckuyt

RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 12:05 to meet again on June 10, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Motion Carried.

Agenda Number: 6.2.
Resolution Number JAAC25-4
Title: Manager of Human Resources - Joint Annual Accessibility Status Report 2023 and 2024
Date: Thursday, May 29, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Noble
Seconded by: Jenn Salverda

RESOLVED THAT the report titled “Joint Annual Accessibility Status Report 2023 and 2024” from the Manager of Human Resources dated May 29, 2025 be received and filed; and
THAT the report titled “Joint Annual Accessibility Status Report 2023 and 2024” be approved by County Council.

Motion Carried.



Elgin/Central Elgin Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

May 29, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

450 Sunset Drive

St. Thomas ON

Members Present: Todd Noble, Elgin County Councillor (virtual)
Tom Marks, Chair
Dave Baughman, Municipality of Central Elgin Councillor (virtual)
Jenn Salverda
Carleen Green (virtual)

Staff Present: Katherine Thompson, Manager of Administrative
Services/Deputy Clerk, County of Elgin
Emily Waldick, Manager of Human Resources, County of Elgin
Stefanie Heide, Legislative Services Coordinator, County of
Elgin
Scarlett Redman, Legislative Services Coordinator, Municipality
of Central Elgin

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. with Tom Marks in the chair.

Quorum was not met, so the Chair moved to Item 6.1 while waiting for more Committee Members to join the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

Resolution Number: JAAC25-1

Moved by: Councillor Noble

Seconded by: Jenn Salverda

RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the May 29, 2025 Elgin/Central Elgin Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Resolution Number: JAAC25-2

Moved by: Councillor Noble

Seconded by: Dave Baughman

RESOLVED THAT the minutes and closed meeting minutes of the October 22, 2024 Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

Motion Carried.

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None.

5. Delegations

None.

6. Reports/Briefings

6.1 Manager of Human Resources - AccessAbility Week 2025 (verbal)

The Manager of Human Resources provided a verbal update on Elgin County's AccessAbility Week 2025 (Sunday, May 25 - Saturday, May 31, 2025). Internal and external programming held this week included:

- Release of AODA and DEI training for Elgin County Staff; this training will also be made available to staff of Elgin County's Long Term Care Homes.
- Social Media Posts highlighting AccessAbility Week programming.
- Warden's Recognition of AccessAbility Week 2025 at Elgin County Council Meeting.
- Email Campaign Launch highlighting accessibility features and programs at Elgin County, including at the Long Term Care Homes and Libraries.
- A reading list that includes stories featuring characters of all abilities, as curated by Elgin County Library staff.
- Alzheimer's Society SouthWest Partners Education Session on Dementia Friendly Communities for Elgin County Staff presented in hybrid format.
- Accessible Documents and Branding Education Session for Elgin County Staff presented in hybrid format.

As quorum was not yet met, the Committee moved to Item 6.3 and returned to vote on Item 6.1 at 4:11 p.m. after quorum was met.

Resolution Number: JAAC25-3

Moved by: Jenn Salverda

Seconded by: Carleen Green

RESOLVED THAT the verbal report titled "AccessAbility Week 2025" from the Manager of Human Resources dated May 29, 2025 be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

6.2 Manager of Human Resources - Joint Annual Accessibility Status Report 2023 and 2024

The Manager of Human Resources presented a report on the Joint Annual Accessibility Status Report 2023 and 2024. The Manager of Human Resources stated that the Status Report covers 2023 and 2024 due to a lag time in staffing changes, is legislatively required, and outlines all the steps taken by Elgin County and Local Municipal Partners to implement their Joint Accessibility Plan.

Committee Member Todd Noble joined the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Resolution Number: JAAC25-4

Moved by: Councillor Noble
Seconded by: Jenn Salverda

RESOLVED THAT the report titled "Joint Annual Accessibility Status Report 2023 and 2024" from the Manager of Human Resources dated May 29, 2025 be received and filed; and

THAT the report titled "Joint Annual Accessibility Status Report 2023 and 2024" be approved by County Council.

Motion Carried.

6.3 Manager of Human Resources - Compliance Reporting and Update on Desk Audits (verbal)

The Manager of Human Resources provided a verbal report on Compliance Reporting including the following:

- AODA Compliance Reporting is required in 2025 and will be due on December 31, 2025. A draft report will be submitted to this Committee and then Elgin County Council for approval prior to the reporting deadline and this will be a publicly posted document as is required by the Province of Ontario. The reporting form has been updated by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility to streamline the reporting process.
- A random-selection, standard desk audit was received from the 2023 Compliance Reporting with a submission deadline of June 9, 2025.

Committee member Carleen Green joined the meeting at 4:04 p.m. and quorum was met. The Committee then proceeded to Item 6.2.

Resolution Number: JAAC25-5

Moved by: Jenn Salverda

Seconded by: Carleen Green

RESOLVED THAT the verbal report titled "Compliance Reporting and Update on Desk Audits" from the Manager of Human Resources dated May 29, 2025 be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

6.4 Manager of Human Resources - Joint Accessibility Open House 2025 with City of St. Thomas (verbal)

The Manager of Human Resources provided a verbal report on the Joint Accessibility Open House 2025 with the City of St. Thomas. Committee members indicated an interest in participating.

Committee Member Dave Baughman joined the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

Resolution Number: JAAC25-6

Moved by: Jenn Salverda

Seconded by: Dave Baughman

RESOLVED THAT the verbal report titled "Joint Accessibility Open House 2025 with City of St. Thomas" from the Manager of Human Resources be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. Closed Meeting Items

9.1 Closed Meeting Minutes - October 22, 2024

10. Motion to Rise and Report

None.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee will meet again at the call of the Chair.

12. Adjournment

Resolution Number: JAAC25-7

Moved by: Councillor Noble

Seconded by: Dave Baughman

RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 4:19 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Motion Carried.

Katherine Thompson,
Manager of Administrative
Services/Deputy Clerk.

Tom Marks,
Chair.



Report to County Council

From: Grant Jones, Warden

Date: June 10, 2025

Subject: Warden's Activity Report (May 2025)

Recommendation(s):

THAT the report titled "Warden's Activity Report (May 2025)" dated June 10, 2025, from Warden Jones be received and filed.

Introduction:

The purpose of this report is to provide a high-level summary of the meetings and official functions I have attended during the month of May as Elgin County Warden.

Background and Discussion:

Events/Meetings Attended by Warden:

May 2025:

Health Recruitment Partnership (May 5)
Aylmer Library Public Consultation (May 6)
County Council/Committee of the Whole (May 13)
Growth Planning Steering Committee (May 13)
Warden's Charity Golf Tournament Planning Meeting (May 13)
SWPH Building Committee (May 13)
Fanshawe College Strategic Plan Consultation (May 14)
The Talbot Toast, Elgin Historical Society (May 21)
SWPH Board Meeting (May 22)
741 Elgin Air Cadets Annual Review (May 24)
SWPH Governance Standing Committee (May 26)
County Council/Committee of the Whole (May 27)
Special Council Meeting (May 27)
Accessibility Week Presentation by Alzheimer's Society (May 29)

Financial Implications:

None.

Advancement of the Strategic Plan:

Local Municipal Partner Impact:

Elgin County continues to work with and find ways to collaborate with Elgin's municipal partners.

Communication Requirements:

None.

Conclusion:

I am honoured to represent the County and advocate for its interests at events and meetings throughout the year.

All of which is Respectfully Submitted

Approved for Submission

Grant Jones
Warden

Blaine Parkin
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk



Report to County Council

From: Mike Hoogstra, Manager of Procurement & Risk

Date: June 10, 2025

Subject: Procurement Activity Report Q1 (January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025)

Recommendation(s):

THAT the report titled "Procurement Activity Report Q1 (January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025) from the Manager of Procurement & Risk dated June 10, 2025 be received and filed.

Introduction:

The County's Procurement Policy requires that an information report containing the details relevant to the exercise of delegated authority for all contracts awarded that exceed \$15,000, including amendments and renewals, be prepared and reported to Council on a quarterly basis. This report covers the period from January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025.

Background and Discussion:

The Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin delegated authority to the Directors to award contracts as follows:

Value	Report Status
Greater than \$15,000 but less than \$250,000	No report to Council required if within approved budget

Council also approved that an information report would be brought forward containing details of the award of contracts including amendments and renewals. The detailed report of the award of contracts is attached as Appendix A.

Financial Implications:

Prior to contract and purchase order approval, confirmation is made to ensure that the appropriate funds are available in the approved budget.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Serving Elgin	Growing Elgin	Investing in Elgin
<input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring alignment of current programs and services with community need. <input type="checkbox"/> Exploring different ways of addressing community need. <input type="checkbox"/> Engaging with our community and other stakeholders.	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning for and facilitating commercial, industrial, residential, and agricultural growth. <input type="checkbox"/> Fostering a healthy environment. <input type="checkbox"/> Enhancing quality of place.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensuring we have the necessary tools, resources, and infrastructure to deliver programs and services now and in the future. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Delivering mandated programs and services efficiently and effectively.

Local Municipal Partner Impact:

None

Communication Requirements:

None

Conclusion:

This report is submitted to summarize the County's procurement activity for the first quarter of 2025 in accordance with the reporting requirements as set out in section 12.2 of the Procurement Policy.

All of which is Respectfully Submitted

Approved for Submission

Mike Hoogstra
Manager of Procurement & Risk

Blaine Parkin
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

Jennifer Ford
Director of Financial Services / Treasurer

APPENDIX A

Procurement Activity – January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025

Department	Budget Allocation PO/Project No.	Project	Supplier / Contractor	Amount (HST excluded)
Engineering Services	Capital 2025-P03	Consulting Services - Bridge & Culvert Structural Inspection (OSIM) Program	Spriet Associates	\$99,900
	Capital 2025-P02	Consulting Services - Phase 4 Asset Management Plan	Aspire Consulting	\$71,550
	Capital 2025-T16	Players Bridge (B28) Rehabilitation	Vandenberk Construction Inc.	\$181,740
	Capital PO# 1310	Elgin Manor Resident Dining Rooms (x4) Flooring Replacement	Elgin Floor Covering Ltd.	\$21,891
	Capital PO# 1330 2025-Q05	Window Glazing Replacement (80 units) at Terrace Lodge	Festival City Glass	\$60,387
	Operating 2022-T21-RB Renewal	Waste and Recycling Dumpster/Container Collection Services (Cooperative Contract) 1 year renewal (3/1/25 – 3/1/26)	Waste Management of Canada	\$24,000* (*approximate annual cost)
Community & Cultural Services	Capital PO# 1313	Kingsley Book Return Bins (x2) for Dutton & Straffordville branches	Carr McLean	\$16,120
	Operating Renewal	Integrated Library System Annual Contract Renewal 1 year renewal (1/1/25 - 12/31/25)	Innovative Interfaces Inc.	\$66,591

Department	Budget Allocation PO/Project No.	Project	Supplier / Contractor	Amount (HST excluded)
Emergency Management	Operating Renewal	911 Emergency Response Network Primary Public Safety Answering Position (PPSAP) Annual Contract Extension 1 year term (1/1/25 - 12/31/25) Shared service, reimbursed by Municipal Partners	Northern Communication Services	\$28,116
Information Technology	Operating Renewal	Web Hosting, Maintenance and OASIS License Fee for Website / Intranet, Tourism / Economic Development websites. 1 year renewal (1/1/25 - 12/31/25)	Sandbox Software Solutions	\$24,115
Homes and Seniors Services	Capital PO# 1311	Carino Shower Chairs (x2) for Terrace Lodge	Arjo Canada	\$15,345
	Capital / Funding PO# 1352 / 1353 /1354	Industrial Washing Machines (x3) and Dryer (x1) for LTC Homes (Minor Capital Project – Ministry Funding)	Harco Co. Ltd.	\$83,502



Report to County Council

From: Holly Hurley, Director, People and Culture

Date: June 10, 2025

Subject: People and Culture Department Update

Recommendation(s):

THAT the report titled “People and Culture Department Update” from the Director, of People and Culture dated June 10, 2025, be received and filed.

Introduction:

Elgin County, along with the County Council, developed a new Strategic Plan which included a focus on Organizational Culture and Workforce Development. With this new strategic plan, the position “Director of Human Resources” was changed to “Director, People and Culture”. The intent of this change was to reflect a shift in values, priorities and organizational culture.

Background and Discussion:

The People and Culture team, formally Human Resources, resides in the Administration building. With over 400 employees working across Elgin County, the access and integration of the People and Culture team into the Corporation is limited.

Since 2019, the team has seen an increase in grievances, investigations and non-occupation claims at the three Elgin County Homes. The homes management staff have traditionally managed their own employee issues and there has been turnover within the management staff. This creates challenges for both employees and staff when dealing with concerns.

A new Director of People and Culture started on March 3, 2025 and has spent time with the homes staff understanding the challenges facing them. The Director of People and Culture and the HR Manager have been going to Elgin Manor and Terrace Lodge once per week and once every other week at Bobier Villa. The intent of these visits is to be available and accessible to employees and managers for concerns related to benefits, pension and payroll. The feedback we have been receiving from employees and managers has been extremely positive.

In order to better integrate people and culture into the homes, the team will be placing a dedicated fulltime staff member in the homes, on a trial period. This person will become a partner to the homes. This position will support the management staff at the homes with people related items including, investigations and outcomes, in-person interviews, return-to-work meetings including occupational and non-occupational injuries, employee engagement initiatives and one-on-one support for employees with any questions or concerns. The measure of success for this position is reduced grievances, increased hiring and reduced turnover. The People and Culture team will also see role clarity and improved efficiencies to better focus on culture strategies.

Financial Implications:

n/a

Advancement of the Strategic Plan:

This initiative will advance the strategic plan, specifically “*Strategy 2: Organizational Culture and Workforce Development*”. The time spent at the home will be supporting the improvement of the culture within the homes and supporting managers in their development.

Local Municipal Partner Impact:

n/a

Communication Requirements:

A communication to the Corporation regarding the changes in the roles on the team will be required. Communication will also be required for all homes staff to introduce the member of the team supporting them and the schedule for onsite times.

Conclusion:

Placing a member of the People and Culture Team in the homes is the first step to integrating culture into the Corporation and we are excited to feel and see the impact. This is the first step in supporting the work that is needed for the strategic plan.

All of which is Respectfully Submitted

Approved for Submission

Holly Hurley
Director, People and Culture

Blaine Parkin
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk



Report to County Council

From: Mat Vaughan, Director of Planning and Development
Nicholas Loeb, Director of Legal Services

Date: June 10, 2025

Subject: Update on Bill 5, Bill 17 and Bill 30

Recommendation(s):

THAT the report titled “Update on Bill 5, Bill 17 and Bill 30” from the Director of Planning and Development dated June 10, 2025 be received and filed: and

THAT the report titled “Update on Bill 5, Bill 17 and Bill 30” from the Director of Planning and Development dated June 10, 2025 be circulated to the County’s Local Municipal Partners for information.

Introduction:

On April 17, 2025 the Province of Ontario introduced Bill 5 – Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act. Additionally, on May 12, 2025, the Province introduced Bill 17 – Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act. Furthermore, on May 28th, 2025, the Ontario government tabled its seventh Working for Workers Act (Bill 30).

This information report provides Council with information about these three new Bills, how they may shape the planning process in Ontario and notes the other significant shifts in municipal operation(s) that could potentially occur pursuant to the proposed legislation.

Background and Discussion:

Review of Bill 5: Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025

Bill 5 introduces a number of significant structural and procedural changes that could undermine core principles of sound planning practice and municipal autonomy. While the Province’s stated intent is to accelerate economic development, Bill 5 represents a marked shift in the relationship between local and provincial planning authority.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs): Implications for Local Planning Frameworks

The most consequential feature of Bill 5 is Schedule 9, which would enact standalone legislation entitled the *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025*. Special Economic Zones (“SEZs”) will be geographic areas designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council (i.e. Cabinet). Cabinet is authorized to create criteria that can be used by the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade to designate trusted projects or trusted proponents within a SEZ. Cabinet can then exempt trusted projects or proponents from the application of any law or regulation, including Municipal by-laws, over which the Province has jurisdiction. As it relates to municipal spheres of jurisdiction, the Province is proposing to override municipal planning instruments—such as Official Plans, Secondary Plans, Zoning By-Laws, site plan control, and even environmental review mechanisms—in order to expedite development. From a planning perspective, this raises several areas of concern including:

- **Disregard for Comprehensive Planning:** Years of community-driven planning work—often backed by environmental assessments, traffic studies, and public consultation—can be bypassed by ministerial decision.
- **Unclear Criteria & Process:** The legislation does not define the criteria for SEZ designation or require consultation with affected municipalities. This introduces unpredictability and undermines the principle of transparency in land use decision-making.
- **Local Services & Infrastructure Capacity:** Developments approved outside the planning system could outpace municipal infrastructure readiness, resulting in capacity shortfalls for water, wastewater, roads, and community services.

In effect, this provision introduces a parallel planning track that circumvents local accountability while offloading service delivery risks to municipalities.

Environmental Oversight: Loss of Evidence-Based Safeguards

Bill 5 would repeal and replace the *Endangered Species Act* with the proposed *Species at Risk Protection Act*, consolidating key decision-making under the purview of Cabinet. This transition away from science-based conservation assessments weakens a key planning pillar: environmental due diligence.

Municipalities are obligated under the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and other frameworks to protect significant natural heritage features and species at risk. If those provincial policies are weakened or waived within SEZs, municipalities will be forced to process applications that may directly conflict with local environmental objectives, such as:

- Protection of wetlands, woodlots, and wildlife corridors
- Sustainable stormwater and watershed planning
- Climate adaptation and carbon sequestration strategies

The exclusion of environmental review mechanisms in SEZ-designated projects could lead to irreversible ecological loss and long-term cost burdens associated with habitat destruction, flood vulnerability, or water contamination.

Financial Risks and Municipal Accountability

Bill 5 may unintentionally create financial liabilities for municipalities, particularly if large-scale developments are fast-tracked without alignment to local capital budgets or development charge frameworks. For example:

Infrastructure Deficit: Rapid, unplanned growth will increase demands on roads, utilities, and transit services without the benefit of coordinated cost recovery mechanisms.

Servicing Without Predictability: Bypassing site plan control and subdivision agreements limits our ability to plan phasing of infrastructure and assess cost implications for growth-related capital.

Disrupted Revenue Models: If development is approved without local control over development charges or community benefit contributions, municipalities may be left with an unsustainable funding gap.

Property Taxes: If projects are exempted from the requirement to pay property taxes then the cost of municipal infrastructure that is required for operating the project, not merely the development, will be borne by the local ratepayers.

This decoupling of planning authority from financial responsibility runs counter to the planning principle of "growth pays for growth."

Beyond the planning process, there are other areas of municipal jurisdiction that may be impacted. Trusted proponents or projects could be exempted from the requirement to pay fees, including development charges, permits or connection fees. This will have the effect of shifting the cost of development from the trusted project or proponent to the local rate-payers. Exemptions from woodlands conservation by-laws could see the removal of significant woodlands. Exemptions from various nuisance by-laws could permit conflicting levels of noise and odour.

The proposed legislation does not provide detail in how Cabinet or the Minister will make decisions regarding where SEZs will be enacted, which projects or proponents should be trusted, or, what exemptions are likely to be afforded to them. While significant attention has been given to the proposed legislation, it has largely focused on mining in Northern Ontario, in part because the introduction of the legislation was through the Minister of Energy and the presentation of Bill 5 focused on mining. There is nothing in the proposed legislation that would limit SEZs to mining projects. Rather, it is reasonable to infer from the authority being granted to Cabinet and MEDCJT that it is intended to be used more broadly than mining projects.

Undermining Public Engagement and Democratic Process

Municipalities are tasked not only with technical land use analysis, but with engaging communities in shaping the places where they live and work. Bill 5 removes several

mechanisms for public input—such as environmental assessments, planning hearings, and appeal rights—especially within SEZs.

This lack of public accountability raises some democratic concerns. Local residents, Indigenous communities, conservation authorities, and other stakeholders may be left without a formal venue to express concerns or advocate for changes. This risks further eroding public trust in planning institutions.

Additionally, if municipalities are not provided with information about the trusted projects then the ability of the municipality to respond to public concerns about the impact of the project will be muted.

Inclusionary Zoning Amendments: Mixed Impact

The proposed cap on inclusionary zoning—5% set-aside and a 25-year affordability duration—has mixed implications. On one hand, it may improve project viability in high-cost areas and encourage development around Major Transit Station Areas (MTSAs), (not in effect in Elgin County), However:

- These limits may not reflect local affordability needs or real estate market conditions.
- It reduces municipal flexibility to require deeper affordability or longer durations.
- In areas relying on MTSAs to deliver mixed-income housing, this cap could undercut strategic housing policy.
- A one-size-fits-all cap on IZ fails to reflect the varied housing needs across municipalities.

Review of Bill 17 (Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025)

A key objective identified by the Province for the proposed Bill is the simplification and streamlining of the development process, along with the reduction of associated barriers such as development fees. To support this objective, the proposed Bill includes amendments to several pieces of legislation, with the overarching aim of accelerating home construction across Ontario in response to the ongoing housing crisis.

Among the Acts targeted for amendment are:

- *Building Code Act, 1992*
- *Building Transit Faster Act, 2020*
- *City of Toronto Act, 2006*
- *Metrolinx Act, 2006*
- *Ministry of Infrastructure Act, 2011*
- *Planning Act*
- *Transit-oriented Communities Act, 2020*

Beyond legislative amendments, the Province has also indicated an intention to explore alternative models for service delivery. One such model under consideration is the

public utility framework, which could involve the creation of municipal service corporations dedicated to managing water and wastewater systems.

Should this approach be implemented, substantial impacts may be seen in both the cost structure and the delivery mechanisms for water and wastewater services. Although such a shift could ease the financial burden currently placed on development charges (D.C.s), redistributing these costs across the broader base of existing ratepayers is anticipated by industry professionals to lead to increases in water and wastewater rates.

Overview of Proposed Amendments to the Development Charges Act

The following outlines the proposed amendments to the Development Charges Act (D.C.A.), accompanied by insights into their potential implications.

Exemption for Long-Term Care Homes

Under current legislation, long-term care homes are subject to annual development charge (D.C.) instalments. The proposed amendment would fully exempt these developments from D.C. payments moving forward, including outstanding instalments. According to industry professionals, since the D.C.A. prohibits shifting these costs to other types of development, the resulting financial shortfall would need to be addressed through alternative municipal funding mechanisms.

Capital Costs Definition

An amendment to Section 5(3) of the D.C.A. would introduce the phrase “subject to the regulations,” thereby expanding the Province’s regulatory authority to restrict what constitutes eligible capital costs. This builds on the existing ability to limit land cost inclusions and signals an intent to collaborate with stakeholders on further refinements. There are indications that the scope of these regulations may not be confined to land costs alone. Municipalities would need to rapidly adjust funding strategies for capital projects in response to regulatory changes, as such amendments would bypass the legislative process. Any reduction in D.C.-eligible costs would need to be offset through other revenue sources.

Simplified Amendment Process for Reducing D.C. By-law Charges

A new provision in Section 19(1.1) of the D.C.A. would allow municipalities to use a simplified procedure to amend D.C. by-laws in specific scenarios—such as changing the expiry date, removing indexing provisions, or reducing charges for certain development types. This streamlined approach would bypass the requirements for background studies, public consultation, or tribunal appeals. While efficient, this could limit public engagement and reduce transparency.

Deferral of D.C. Payments to Occupancy for Residential Developments

Changes to Section 26.1 would defer residential D.C. payments (excluding rental housing, which remains on an instalment plan) to the point of occupancy—either when a permit is issued or the building is occupied. Municipalities would be limited in their ability to require financial securities unless explicitly permitted by regulation. Interest charges on deferred payments would be disallowed, and existing practices for early payment of specific service charges under Section 26(2) may no longer apply. This shift could impact municipal cash flow, increasing administrative overhead and financing costs.

Elimination of Interest on Legislated Instalments

The amendment would remove the option for municipalities to charge interest on D.C. instalments for rental housing and institutional developments. It would also eliminate the ability to demand full repayment of the development changes.

Early Payment of D.C.s

Currently, early payment of D.C.s requires a formal agreement under Section 27. The proposed revision would permit early payment without such an agreement, giving developers flexibility to pay charges before they are due. While this increases developer autonomy, it may create challenges for municipalities—particularly in cases where developers seek to pay before an anticipated rate increase or before indexing is applied.

Application of the Lower Rate for D.C. Freezes

When D.C.s are frozen at the time of a planning application, situations may arise where the applicable rate at building permit issuance is lower. The proposed amendment would mandate that the lower of the two rates be used, though interest charges from the original frozen rate may still apply. This is generally seen as a favourable development for the building sector, as it avoids overcharging and aligns cost certainty with timely project advancement.

Grouping of Services for Credit Application

Section 38 of the D.C.A. allows credits to be issued when developers undertake growth-related infrastructure projects. The new provision would enable the Province to group multiple services through regulation, affecting how and where credits can be applied. This change may override municipal discretion and could lead to a reallocation of reserve funds, potentially delaying capital works for services not directly linked to the original agreement.

Definition of Local Services via Regulation

The Province is proposing to define local services through regulation under Section 59 of the D.C.A. This could standardize what constitutes a local service across municipalities, potentially overriding local policies developed during D.C. background studies. Depending on the breadth of the definition, outcomes may vary: a broader definition could reduce D.C. rates while increasing direct developer obligations, whereas a narrower one might expand D.C. coverage and raise rates. The variation in service definitions between municipalities—based on factors such as density, development type, and geography—adds further complexity.

Changes to the Planning Act

Amendments to the Planning Act included in Bill 17 impact the following:

- Limiting requirements for complete application – the Province is consulting on proposed regulations that would prescribe a list of subject matters and identify which reports and studies are required as part of a complete application. The current draft regulations would apply to OPAs, ZBAs, site plan, subdivision and consent applications. The list of subject matter that is currently being contemplated for exclusion from complete applications are sun/shadow information, wind information, urban design and lighting.

- Deeming material provided by prescribed professionals to be complete
- Requiring any amendment in an official plan that alters the criteria for a complete application to be approved by the Minister
- Although not an amendment that affects upper-tier planning authority, as-of-right set-back variations are proposed. As drafted, set-back variation within 10% of the set-back regulation will not require a minor variance.
- New MZO powers – a new section 47(1.0.1) would permit the Minister to impose conditions relating to the use of land or erection, location or use of buildings or structures, if in the Minister's opinion the conditions are reasonable. A new section 47(1.0.2.) further provides that the Minister can require such conditions to be secured through an agreement that may be registered on title. This is, notably, similar language to that which appears in sections 51(25)(26), related to subdivision conditions and subdivision agreements.

Updates to the Growth Management Framework

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) is initiating a realignment of municipal growth planning processes in response to the Ministry of Finance's (MOF) updated population projections released in October 2024. This initiative involves assessing Official Plans from Ontario's 50 most populous and fastest-growing municipalities to determine alignment with the latest forecasts.

Where discrepancies are found—specifically where municipal population forecasts fall short of either the updated MOF projections or the corresponding upper-tier projections—the MMAH intends to engage directly with the affected municipalities. In such cases, municipalities will be mandated to revise their Official Plans to reflect the higher of the two forecast figures.

These revisions are expected to follow an upcoming update to the *Projection Methodology Guideline*, marking its first revision since 1995. The intent is to create greater consistency in growth planning across jurisdictions, enabling more accurate alignment between projected land needs, servicing strategies, and infrastructure investment with long-term provincial growth objectives.

To support this shift, the Province is exploring enhancements to planning-related data infrastructure, including the standardization of land use tracking and permitting data across municipalities. This digital modernization is anticipated to improve forecasting accuracy, support implementation monitoring, and strengthen transparency.

The directive to update Official Plans based on MOF projections presents several implementation challenges. MOF forecasts are currently only available at the Census Division level—typically corresponding with upper-tier or single-tier municipalities—raising coordination issues for lower-tier municipalities that must interpret and allocate these broader figures locally. Additionally, the annual release and inherent variability of the MOF projections could complicate the statutory timing of Official Plan Reviews, which operate on five- and ten-year cycles. This dynamic raises uncertainty about the frequency and extent to which municipalities will be required to amend not only their

Official Plans but also associated technical studies, such as needs assessments and financial strategies.

Given these complexities, municipalities will likely require new tools and adaptive processes to more effectively monitor, update, and align long-term planning documents with evolving population data. To date, the current amended and adopted Elgin County Official Plan (which is presently with MMAH for review), uses the MOF projections.

Concurrently, proposed amendments to inclusionary zoning regulations could further influence municipal planning. The legislation proposes to cap affordable housing requirements in protected major transit station areas at 5% and to limit affordability durations to 25 years. While these changes may improve the financial viability of residential projects near transit, they also risk reducing the long-term availability of affordable housing in these areas. Municipalities will need to re-evaluate how these limits affect their broader housing affordability objectives, particularly where inclusionary zoning is a key strategy for delivering mixed-income communities.

Review of Bill 30 (Working for Workers Act, 2025)

Bill 30, the Working for Workers Seven Act, 2025, introduced by the Ontario government on May 28, 2025, proposes 18 measures to enhance worker protections, workplace safety, and economic resilience in response to challenges like U.S. tariffs. It amends key employment-related statutes, including the Employment Standards Act, 2000 (ESA), Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA), and Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997 (WSIA). The bill's implications intersect with urban development, workforce dynamics, and municipal governance, particularly in how it affects construction, economic development, and municipal authority. This summary will focus solely on the areas of the Bill that affect the planning process, and only briefly list the other attributes of the bill.

Below is an analysis and summary of the bill's key provisions and their relevance to community planning:

Key Provisions of Bill 30

Skills Development Fund (SDF) Capital Stream Exemptions:

The bill proposes exemptions from the Planning Act and Municipal Act for projects funded through the SDF Capital Stream, allowing private entities to bypass municipal land use planning requirements and bylaws (e.g., development charges) to expedite development. The SDF Capital Stream is a broad program with an applicant pool comprised of employers in Ontario, non-college apprenticeship programs, non-profit organizations, professional, industry or employer associations, trade unions or union-affiliated organizations, municipalities, hospitals, DSSABs and CMSMs. As a result, there is a wide array of public and private entities that could receive SDF Capital Stream Funds with the consequence that they may be exempt from planning and other municipal by-laws.

These exemptions reduce municipal control over land use and development, potentially undermining local planning frameworks. Planners rely on the Planning Act to ensure

development aligns with Official Plans, zoning bylaws, and community needs. Bypassing these could lead to projects that conflict with long-term urban goals, such as sustainable growth or equitable access to infrastructure.

While expediting projects may attract investment and create jobs, it risks uncoordinated development, straining infrastructure (e.g., transit, water systems) or creating land use conflicts. Municipalities may face challenges ensuring developments align with community visions or environmental goals.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has raised concerns about the lack of robust accountability for private entities receiving these exemptions, increasing the risk of unintended consequences, such as developments that prioritize profit over public interest. The exemptions from the Planning Act and Municipal Act pose significant challenges. While aimed at cutting red tape, they could lead to developments that bypass community input or environmental assessments, risking unsustainable urban sprawl or infrastructure deficits.

Other impacts of the bill include

- Workplace safety enhancements,
- Job posting fraud protections,
- Layoff and termination provisions,
- Ontario immigrant nominee program (OINP) flexibility

Comment Periods

- Proposed *Planning Act* and *City of Toronto Act, 2006* Changes (Schedules 3 and 7 of Bill 17* – *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025*) | [ERO Number 025-0461](#) (comment period closes June 11, 2025);
- Bill 17*: *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025* – Amendment to the *Building Transit Faster Act, 2020* | [ERO Number 025-0450](#) (comment period closes June 11, 2025);
- Bill 17* – *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025* – Accelerating Delivery of Transit-Oriented Communities | [ERO Number 025-0504](#) (comment period closes June 12, 2025);
- Proposed Regulation – As-of-right Variations from Setback Requirements | [ERO Number 025-0463](#) (comment period closes June 26, 2025); and
- Proposed Regulations – Complete Application | [ERO Number 025-0462](#) (comment period closes June 26, 2025).

*While the commenting period appears to remain open for Bill 17 at the ERO links for Regulations, the vote following third reading was passed on June 3, 2025.

Financial Implications:

Bill 5 (Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025) and Bill 17 (Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025) have significant financial implications

for municipalities in Ontario, particularly in the areas of revenue, compliance costs, infrastructure funding, and potential economic impacts. Financial implications for municipalities may include:

Loss of Municipal Revenue from Development Charges and Fees

Municipalities rely on development charges, permit fees, and other levies to fund infrastructure and services related to new developments. By exempting projects in SEZs from municipal by-laws, Bill 5 could reduce or eliminate these revenue streams for affected municipalities. There is also potential that municipal property taxes could be exempted.

Increased Infrastructure Costs Without Compensation

SEZs may lead to rapid development increasing demand for municipal infrastructure such as roads, water, and waste management. However, exemptions from municipal by-laws could mean municipalities bear these costs without corresponding development charges or provincial funding.

Reduced Control Over Local Planning and Associated Costs

By overriding municipal by-laws, Bill 5 limits municipalities' ability to enforce local planning standards, potentially leading to unplanned or unmitigated development impacts. This could result in long-term costs for municipalities, such as environmental remediation or infrastructure maintenance, without the ability to impose conditions or collect fees to offset these expenses.

Administrative and Legal Costs

Municipalities may incur costs to adapt to SEZ regulations, including legal challenges or administrative adjustments to comply with provincial directives. There are proposed statutory liability protections to inure against third-party claims.

Potential Reduction in Development Charge Revenue

Deferring development charge payments to the occupancy permit stage could delay municipal revenue collection, impacting cash flow for infrastructure projects. While no interest is payable on deferred charges, municipalities may face short-term budget constraints, especially for rapidly growing communities.

Reduced Administrative Costs for Planning

Streamlining planning processes, such as allowing as-of-right minor variances and limiting complete application requirements, could reduce municipal administrative costs by decreasing the need for committee of adjustment hearings or extensive application reviews.

Consultation and Compliance Costs

The bill includes consultations with municipalities on population projections and planning regulations, which may require municipalities to allocate resources for engagement with the province. Municipalities may also face costs to update official plans or by-laws to comply with new provincial regulations, particularly if the Minister imposes conditions or limits study requirements for planning applications.

Advancement of the Strategic Plan:

Ontario's Bill 5 (Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025), Bill 17 (Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025) and Bill 30 (Working for workers Act, 2025) advance Elgin County's 2024-2026 Strategic Plan by bolstering its priorities of economic vitality, infrastructure development, and sustainable growth. While there are concerns about the loss of municipal land use control, Bill 5 streamlines approvals for major infrastructure projects and introduces special economic zones, potentially attracting investment and creating jobs in Elgin County, which aligns with the County's goal of fostering economic development. Similarly, Bill 17 accelerates housing and infrastructure development by reducing regulatory barriers and expediting approvals, supporting Elgin's focus on addressing housing needs and upgrading critical infrastructure like roads and water systems. It should be noted that there are potential misalignments that could challenge the County's goals of environmental stewardship, social equity, and good governance.

Local Municipal Partner Impact:

All LMPs will be affected by the changes of Bill 5, Bill 17 and Bill 30.

Communication Requirements:

N/A

Conclusion:

Conclusion on Bill 5

Bill 5 proposes sweeping reforms that may accelerate development, but in doing so, it creates significant risks for municipalities tasked with delivering livable, resilient, and well-served communities. In relation to sound planning process, the most pressing issues are:

1. The potential bypassing of integrated local planning frameworks,
2. The removal of environmental safeguards that guide sustainable growth,
3. The erosion of fiscal tools and planning processes critical to managing growth responsibly, and
4. The loss of public voice in development decisions

Municipalities are partners in economic development. The Province should look to empowering municipalities to participate meaningfully—rather than circumventing their role. Doing so will lead to more durable, efficient, and community-aligned growth outcomes.

Conclusion on Bill 17

Bill 17 represents a significant step by the Province of Ontario to accelerate housing development and streamline municipal processes amid the ongoing housing affordability crisis. By amending a wide range of legislative frameworks and proposing new models for service delivery, the Province aims to reduce barriers and enhance the efficiency of development approvals and infrastructure financing.

The proposed changes to the Development Charges Act reflect a strong emphasis on flexibility and simplification, such as deferring charges until occupancy and enabling streamlined by-law amendments. However, these changes may pose challenges for municipal cash flow, financial planning, and transparency, potentially shifting costs away from developers and onto existing ratepayers or alternative funding sources. The exemptions for certain development types, including long-term care homes, further complicate municipal revenue models and underscore the need for innovative fiscal strategies.

Future amendments, including adjustments to indexing methods and standardized approaches to benefit to existing deductions, highlight ongoing provincial efforts to balance regional equity with the diverse realities of municipal infrastructure needs. Expanded reporting requirements may increase administrative burdens but could also improve fiscal accountability and project delivery oversight.

The growth management framework revision, driven by updated provincial population forecasts, signals a renewed focus on consistency and long-term alignment between municipal planning and provincial growth objectives. While this approach promises better coordination and data-driven decision-making, it also raises practical challenges for municipalities—especially lower-tier jurisdictions—in applying broad census division forecasts to local contexts and adapting Official Plans in a timely manner.

Lastly, proposed changes to inclusionary zoning policies reflect a tension between improving market feasibility for new developments near transit hubs and preserving the long-term supply of affordable housing. Municipalities will need to carefully navigate these policy shifts to continue promoting inclusive and sustainable communities.

In summary, Bill 17 and the associated growth management initiatives mark a substantial recalibration of Ontario's housing and infrastructure policy landscape. Municipalities will require enhanced tools, data systems, and financial strategies to adapt effectively to these reforms while ensuring balanced growth and equitable service delivery for their residents.

Conclusion on Bill 30

Bill 30 aims to protect Ontario's workforce and economy through workplace safety enhancements, job scam protections, flexible layoffs, and streamlined immigration for skilled workers. In reference to community planning, the bill presents both opportunities and challenges:

It may lead to safer construction sites, a more reliable workforce, and economic stability support urban development goals, particularly for infrastructure and housing projects. However, exemptions from municipal planning laws and other local regulation threaten local control, potentially leading to misaligned developments.

At the time of writing of this report, Bill 17 passed third reading, Bill 5 has been ordered for third reading and Bill 30 has been ordered for second reading.

All of which is Respectfully Submitted

Approved for Submission

Mat Vaughan
Director of Planning and Development

Blaine Parkin
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

Nicolas Loeb
Director of Legal Services

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 3, 2025

Powering Ontario's Economic Engine: WOWC Launches 2025–2027 Strategic Priorities at Queen's Park

Meetings with Provincial Ministers and Evening Reception Highlight Collaborative Work between WOWC and Province of Ontario

TORONTO — The Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC) brought regional leadership to Queen's Park on Monday, June 2, for a series of strategic meetings with Ontario Cabinet Ministers, culminating in an evening reception attended by Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), staff, and key partners.

The Caucus officially launched its **2025–2027 Strategic Priorities: Powering Ontario's Economic Engine**, a forward-looking roadmap to support the long-term prosperity, connectivity, and resilience of Western Ontario. Representing 15 upper and single-tier municipalities and 1.6 million residents, the WOWC is a strong voice for rural and mid-sized communities across the region, which collectively drive more than \$226 billion in exports through more than 250,000 businesses.

"This week marks a pivotal moment for our region," said Amy Martin, Chair of the WOWC and Mayor of Norfolk County, during remarks at the reception. "We are proud to launch our new Strategic Plan at Queen's Park, in partnership with the Provincial government, to help advance solutions for the people and businesses powering Ontario's economy."

As part of the day's advocacy, WOWC held targeted meetings with key Provincial Ministers to discuss the Strategic Priorities and identify opportunities for collaboration across multiple sectors, including:

- **Hon. Rob Flack**, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- **Hon. Kinga Surma**, Minister of Infrastructure
- **Hon. Trevor Jones**, Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness
- **Hon. Victor Fedeli**, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- **Hon. Graydon Smith**, Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The WOWC's **2025–2027 Strategic Priorities** focus on four key areas critical to the long-term health and prosperity of Western Ontario:

1. Infrastructure Development and Funding

Rural municipalities are experiencing unprecedented growth pressures but lack the financial tools and support to maintain and expand critical infrastructure such as roads, water systems, broadband, and transit. The WOWC is calling on the Province to significantly increase funding and partnership opportunities to help communities upgrade aging infrastructure and invest in new projects essential to future development.

2. Housing Affordability and Availability

Western Ontario's housing market is outpacing infrastructure and affordability, making it increasingly difficult for workers, families, and seniors to find suitable homes. The WOWC is advocating for provincial support to help stabilize the housing supply, accelerate development approvals, and implement innovative financing models that ensure housing remains attainable and appropriately scaled for rural and mid-sized communities.

3. Workforce Development and Preservation

A resilient local economy depends on a strong, skilled, and accessible workforce. The WOWC is emphasizing the need for strategic investments in regional training opportunities, transportation infrastructure, and digital connectivity. Additionally, housing that supports workers and their families must be prioritized to attract and retain talent across sectors—from manufacturing and agriculture to healthcare and tourism.

4. Mental Health Services and Support

Municipalities across Western Ontario are increasingly on the front lines of a growing mental health and addictions crisis. With rising demands on social services and homelessness response, municipalities are calling for a coordinated, well-funded provincial approach. The WOWC is urging the Province to provide sustainable funding and wraparound supports that address the root causes and relieve local governments of disproportionate financial burdens.

"These are not just local challenges, rather they are Ontario-wide priorities that require meaningful collaboration between all levels of government – and we're here to offer practical, evidence-based solutions that reflect the realities of Ontario's municipalities," said Chair Martin. "Let's ensure that those powering Ontario's economy have the infrastructure, people, and support systems they need not just to keep going—but to thrive. By working together, we can continue to power Ontario's economic engine."

The WOWC remains committed to its core values of non-partisanship, regional unity, and solution-oriented advocacy, and looks forward to ongoing collaboration with the Province of Ontario.

For more information on the WOWC and its 2025–2027 Strategic Priorities, visit: www.wowc.ca.

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Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus

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About

The ***Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC)*** is a not-for-profit organization representing 15 upper and single-tier municipalities in Southwestern Ontario, representing more than 1.6 million residents. The WOWC aims to enhance the prosperity and overall wellbeing of rural and small urban communities across the region. Caucus members work collectively to influence federal and provincial legislation and programs through advocacy, research, analysis and education. For more information, visit www.wowc.ca.

Photos

Photo 1: WOWC Chair, Mayor Amy Martin; Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack



Photo 2: Image of Strategic Priorities Postcard



Photo 3: Warden Luke Charbonneau Bruce County; Minister of Natural Resources Mike Harris; Mike Scheiner, Leader of the Green Party; Warden Janet Horner Dufferin County; Warden Andrea Matrosovs Grey County; WOWC Chair Amy Martin Norfolk County; Minister of Rural Affairs Lisa Thompson; MPP Will Bouma (Brantford-Brant), MPP Robert Bailey (Sarnia-Lambton), Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Graydon Smith, MPP Brian Riddell (Cambridge)





POWERING ONTARIO'S ECONOMIC ENGINE

The Western Ontario Wardens Caucus Inc. (WOWC) serves as a unified voice for the 15 upper and single tier municipalities in Southwestern Ontario, advocating for their collective interest.



WOWC'S VISION

To realize Western Ontario's full potential for sustainable economies and prosperous communities.



WOWC'S MISSION

To advocate with a unified voice to all levels of government, advancing common needs and opportunities through collaboration and evidence-based solutions, ensuring a prosperous and connected future for Western Ontario.

The WOWC recently adopted its strategic advocacy approach for 2025-2027 and identified a series of key priorities for the coming year. This information is intended to continue building on the collaboration with the member municipalities in rural Western Ontario.

The WOWC has conducted significant research on its priority issues and is proposing concrete solutions to address the challenges in rural Western Ontario. Being part of the process and the conversation will be crucial as we move forward. Governments need to be all in this together – this partnership will ensure collective success for Western Ontario.



 **300**
COMMUNITIES SERVED
ACROSS 15 UPPER-TIER AND
SINGLE-TIER MUNICIPALITIES

 **250k**
**BUSINESSES
OPERATING**

 **1.6m**
PEOPLE REPRESENTED

WOWC STATEMENT ON TARIFFS

Our communities in Western Ontario thrive when we work together. Supporting our local producers, manufacturers, and farmers is critical to ensuring continued growth and sustainability. The WOWC will remain a vocal advocate for solutions that protect our industries and communities, as we are committed to working with all levels of government to safeguard our region's economic future.

Western Ontario's economy is closely linked to trade, particularly with the United States, but also within Canada. Western Ontario's exports outside of the region totaled over \$226 billion in 2022. Exports outside the Western Ontario region in the largest industry – manufacturing – totaled \$145 billion in 2022, representing 64% of total regional exports. Tariffs on agriculture and food also present substantial risks to the regional economy.

The WOWC will remain a vocal advocate for solutions that protect our industries and communities and is committed to working with all levels of government to safeguard our region's economic future. As part of this, the WOWC strongly supports efforts to develop and implement procurement policies that alleviate some of the financial and administrative burdens on municipalities.

By collaborating with other levels of government we can together work towards policies that streamline procurement, promote local economic development, enhance the efficiency of public investments, and make the region prosper, benefiting all of Ontario and all of Canada.

Western Ontario's strength comes from our ability to adapt and respond as a region – and, through its priorities such as housing, infrastructure, and workforce, strengthening the region's economy. The WOWC remains dedicated to partnering with all stakeholders to achieve our common objectives and to ensure our communities remain strong and resilient.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDING



PRINCIPLES

- Rural municipalities do not have the per capita tax revenue to fund the water/wastewater systems, lane kilometers of roads, bridges and culverts needed to keep the municipality in a state of good repair.
- Infrastructure Drives Growth – Roads, water, broadband, and transit attract housing and business investment.
- Demand Outpaces Capacity – Rapid population growth and workforce expansion strain existing infrastructure, limiting housing supply.
- Provincial and federal funding propose subsidies to infrastructure to support rural communities, Western Ontario's contribution to the provincial GDP must be taken to account as this funding is allocated.

GOALS

- Secure provincial support for municipalities to maintain and improve existing infrastructure projects, in addition to funding for new infrastructure.
- Demonstrate the importance of robust transportation options to connect individuals to their workplaces and recreational activities in other communities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND AVAILABILITY



PRINCIPLES

- The relationship between infrastructure and housing creates a cycle of availability and affordability challenges for WOWC municipalities.
- Strained infrastructure stalls housing expansion, limited municipal budgets and slow provincial/federal funding create delays, reinforcing housing shortages, existing housing stock becomes out of reach for Ontario families.
- High Costs Reduce Affordability – Municipal infrastructure costs are passed to developers, increasing home prices and rents.
- Affordability Challenges Slow Development – Rising prices push workers and families out of the region, affecting economic growth and workforce stability.
- The Cycle Repeats – When infrastructure catches up, demand surges again, restarting the cycle.

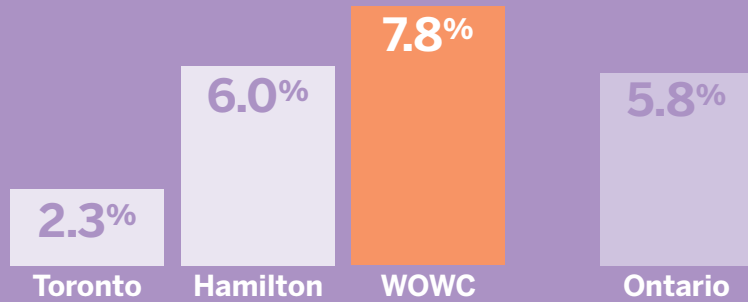
GOALS

To stabilize housing availability and affordability, WOWC municipalities must:

- Secure sustained infrastructure funding from senior governments to match county growth.
- Leverage innovative financing (*P3s, tax increment financing*) to expand services. Prioritize smart growth by building housing near existing infrastructure and transit.
- Advance caucus planning and advocacy to align housing, workforce, and economic growth strategies.

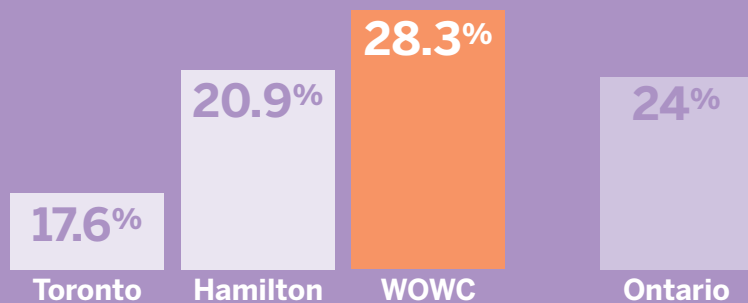
POPULATION GROWTH

BETWEEN
2016 TO 2021



ADDITIONAL HOUSING UNITS

ADDED
2016 TO 2021



POPULATION GROWTH

BETWEEN
2016 TO 2021



In **2022** the annual value of building permits in WOWC was **\$8.9 billion** with **\$6.4 billion** allocated to **residential permits.**

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PRESERVATION



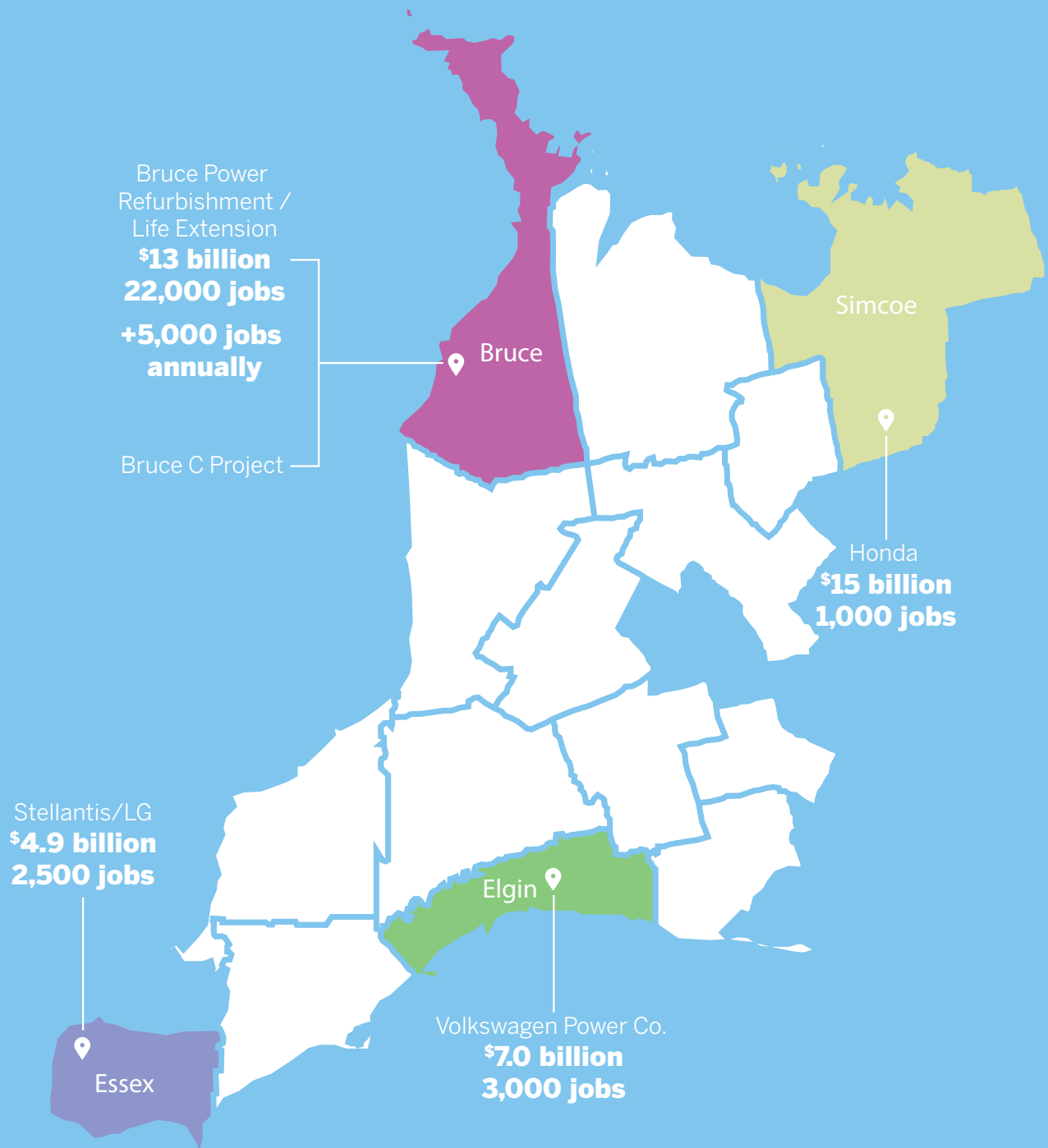
PRINCIPLES

- Southwestern Ontario is the economic engine of Ontario. It is home to concentrations of critical industries like agriculture and manufacturing not found elsewhere in the province.
- The tourism industry in Western Ontario is also a major driver for seasonal jobs and on farm diversified uses (e.g. farmers' markets/wineries/cideries).
- The ongoing trade war with the United States reinforces the need for Ontario to protect and develop provincial industry and workforce.

GOALS

- Expand Workforce Housing – Increase affordable and attainable housing to attract and retain skilled workers, ensuring businesses can fill critical positions.
- Enhance Regional Workforce Training – Strengthen partnerships with colleges, universities, and industry to align training programs with local job market needs.
- Invest in Rural Infrastructure & Broadband – Improve transportation, digital connectivity, and servicing to support business expansion, remote work, and economic growth.
- Advocate for Sustainable Economic Incentives – Work with governments to secure funding, tax incentives, and policies that attract investment and support local businesses.

INVESTMENTS IN WESTERN ONTARIO



TOTAL
\$40 billion | 30,000 jobs

Top 5 In-Demand Sectors



MANUFACTURING



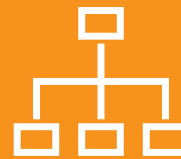
**HEALTH CARE
& SOCIAL ASSISTANCE**



CONSTRUCTION



RETAIL TRADE



**ADMINISTRATION
& SUPPORT**

Forecast Additional Jobs by Sector, 2030

*WOWC region includes replacement and growth demand. Source: EMSI



29,922

MANUFACTURING



28,265

**HEALTH CARE
& SOCIAL ASSISTANCE**



21,304

CONSTRUCTION



20,286

RETAIL TRADE



12,355

**ADMINISTRATION
& SUPPORT**

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND SUPPORT



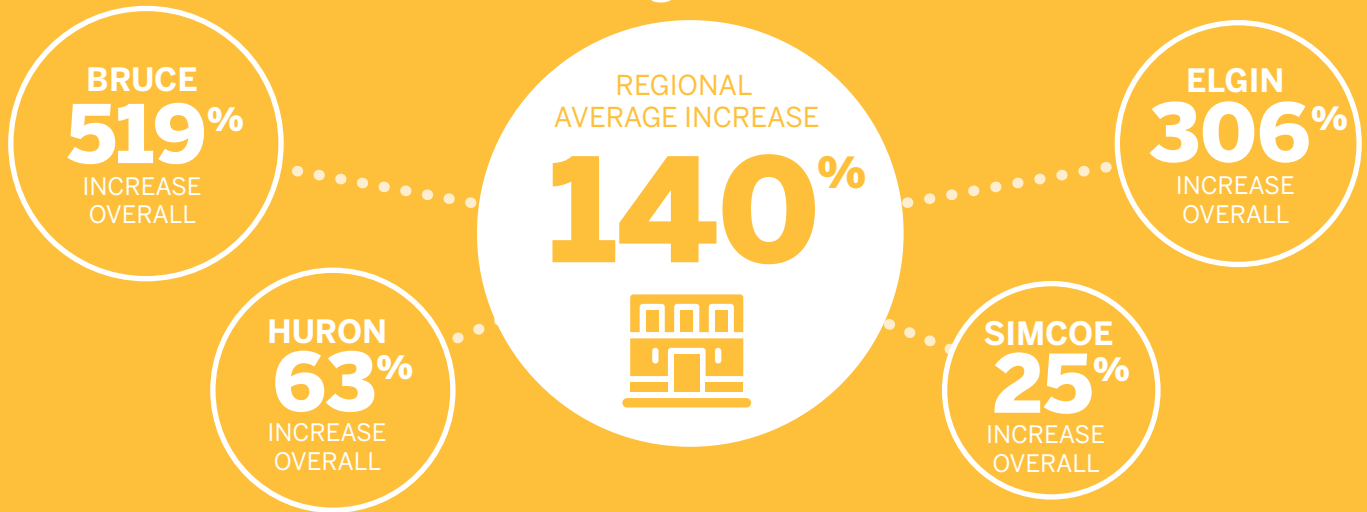
PRINCIPLES

- Mental health and addictions challenges are the result of a convergence of factors, many of which require broader societal change to address.
- Although the provision of health care is a provincial government responsibility, municipalities have been forced to take an outsized role in address mental health and addictions challenges, with limited fiscal ability to do so.
- The rate at which municipalities allocated resources to mental health and homelessness supports is unsustainable and diminishes their ability to respond to other key issues.

GOALS

- Secure dedicated funding for wraparound community supports in small and rural communities, echoing the supports offered by the HART hub model found elsewhere in Ontario.
- Funding relief from other orders of government for the root causes of homelessness, to ensure the burden does not disproportionately fall to municipalities.

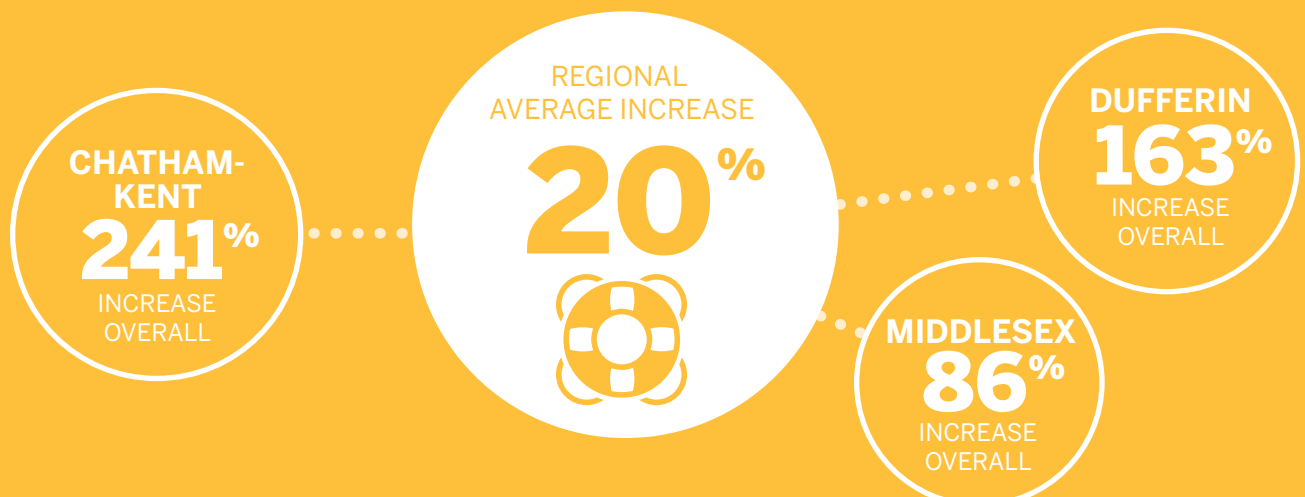
Shelter Usage Over 5 Years



Housing Wait List Over 5 Years



Social Assistance Clients With No Known Address Over 5 Years



The WOWC strives for partnership, collaboration, and dialogue with other levels of government—and embodies these values in its advocacy efforts in the spirit of maintaining and supporting these critical relationships. Investing in municipal services will lay foundations for the continued recovery and future prosperity of our communities.



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Chair
amy.martin@norfolkcounty.ca

Warden Kevin Marriott
Vice-Chair
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May 22, 2025

Warden Jones and Members of Elgin County Council

**RE: LETTER OF INTENT – TOWN OF AYLMER - ELGIN COUNTY LIBRARY
BRANCH CONSTRUCTION POLICY**

On May 21, 2025, Aylmer Council adopted the motion below to initiate the Elgin County Library Branch Construction Policy. Aylmer Council appreciates the public consultation undertaken by the County upon different locations. This consultation has been beneficial to Aylmer Council determining the public interest in maintaining a library branch in the downtown core. The resolution of Aylmer Council represents a substantial commitment from the Town to strategically prioritize a library redevelopment. We look forward to working with the Director of Community and Cultural Services and County staff throughout the process and believe this input is important in the formation of a formal proposal for County Council consideration.

RES.

That Council approve in principle the construction of an 8000 square foot building to be leased to the County of Elgin for library purposes; and,

That a "letter of intent" as required by the County of Elgin be sent; and,

That the County of Elgin be asked for a long-term lease of 20 years; and,

That the County of Elgin be asked to establish a fundraising committee for this building; and,

That Council single source the design of the new library to the Town's appointed engineering firm (GEI Consultants) to proceed as soon as possible in 2025; and,

That GEI be directed to place priority upon a design that connects the Old Town Hall on both floors and is in keeping with the existing character and design of the Old Town Hall; and,

That GEI also be directed to examine costing for a standalone library build in close proximity to the Old Town Hall; and,

That interior design considerations be in collaboration with the County of Elgin; and,

That a 2025 budget amendment of \$250,000 be approved by Council towards the detailed engineering and architectural design sufficient to meet grant requirements and that this amount be funded through the Council Initiatives Reserve.

Thank you for your attention to this matter of significant importance to our community.

Warm Regards,

DocuSigned by:

78A3E6BAFA44482...

Jack Couckuyt
Mayor Town of Aylmer

cc. Brian Masschaele – Director Community and Cultural Services

June is Seniors Month

Fit, Active and Healthy Seniors

Information for Seniors in Ontario

The [Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility](#) works with community organizations to offer supports and services to help seniors stay active, safe and socially connected. Seniors and their families can find the information they need to connect to government services and community supports at ontario.ca/Seniors.

Seniors Community Grant Program

This program funds local not-for-profit community groups and organizations to deliver projects, supports and resources for seniors that provide opportunities for greater social inclusion, volunteerism and community engagement. Find information about the [program online](#).

Seniors Active Living Fairs

Seniors can find information about government programs and services as well as information about healthy aging and active lifestyles to keep them active and engaged. Learn more about [seniors fairs in your community](#).

Seniors Active Living Centre programs

Seniors Active Living Centre programs help local seniors stay active, become more involved in their community, and meet new friends in person or online.

These programs include:

- unique social activities
- learning and educational opportunities
- recreational programming
- online/remote programming.

The government is expanding the number of programs in 2025, so more seniors across the province can get the services that meet their needs close to home. This year, there are more than 400 programs across the province.

To find a Seniors Active Living Centre program, please:

- visit the [Seniors Active Living Centre locator map](#)
- contact your municipality
- call 2-1-1.

June is Seniors Month

Fit, Active and Healthy Seniors

Age-friendly communities

Age-Friendly Communities are inclusive, accessible environments with programs and services that help seniors stay connected. These communities can include improved transit and housing, as well as opportunities for civic and social participation.

Learn more at ontario.ca/AgeFriendly.

Health 811

Health 811 is a free, secure and confidential service Ontarians can call or access online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to receive health advice from qualified health professionals, such as a registered nurse, locate local health services and find trusted health information.

This service is available in both English and French, with translation support offered in other languages.

- Call: 811
- Toll-free TTY: 1-866-797-0007
- Chat live online
- Visit ontario.ca/Health811

Seniors Safety Line

Seniors Safety Line is a 24/7, confidential and free resource. It provides counselling, information, safety planning and referrals in 240 languages for seniors in Ontario who are experiencing, or are at risk of, any type of abuse or neglect.

Call Toll-free: 1-866-299-1011. or
TTY 1-866-299-0008

More information

Learn more about:

- Seniors Month at ontario.ca/SeniorsMonth.
- ministry programs and services at ontario.ca/msaa.
- resources for seniors with the updated [Guide to Programs and Services for Seniors in Ontario](#).
- for other programs and services available in your area visit: 211ontario.ca.
- Seniors' INFOline
Call: 416-326-7076
Toll-free: 1-888-910-1999
TTY: 1-800-387-5559

Follow us on social  [@SeniorsON](#)  [@SeniorsOntario](#)  [@Seniors and Accessibility](#)

June is Seniors Month

Fit, Active and Healthy Seniors

Tips on how you can support Seniors Month 2025

Thank the seniors in your life for all their hard work and show them just how much they are appreciated:

- Send a "Thank You" message, either in person, over the phone, by mail or email, or on social media.
- Nominate a senior in June for an [Ontario Senior Achievement Award](#).
- Post a message on your social media channels and tag us on X (Twitter): [@SeniorsON](#) or Facebook: [@SeniorsOntario](#).

Tell us what you are doing during Seniors Month

- Join our Seniors Month conversation on X and Facebook by using **#SeniorsMonth2025**.
- Post photos or videos of your Seniors Month celebrations and tag us on X (Twitter): [@SeniorsON](#), and Facebook: [@SeniorsOntario](#).
- Seniors volunteering and helping in their neighbourhood? Tell us about it! Tag us on X (Twitter): [@SeniorsON](#), and Facebook: [@SeniorsOntario](#).

Promote Seniors Month to your friends and family

- Share health and fitness tips for seniors.
- Post info about seniors' events taking place during Seniors Month (via link to community centres/municipalities).
- Feature topics of interest to seniors (retirement, financial scams and fraud, elder abuse, housing, driving, health and well-being) in your posts.
- Provide Seniors Month resources to celebrate the month: poster, factsheet or ideas to celebrate Seniors Month.

ST. THOMAS • ELGIN
Local Immigration Partnership

Moving Forward Report

2025

Building Welcoming, Caring, and Inclusive Communities



Building Welcoming, Caring, & Inclusive Communities.

Our Vision

St. Thomas and Elgin County communities will be a culturally diverse, welcoming, caring, and inclusive community that will retain current residents, welcome newcomers, and provide them the opportunity to successfully integrate, contribute to, and benefit from social, cultural, and economic inclusion.

Our Mission

We are a collaborative community initiative that aims to build welcoming, caring, and inclusive communities by supporting the integration of immigrants and promoting the value of diversity.



Our Principles

Inclusivity – Our work will be inclusive of all immigrants in the St. Thomas-Elgin community regardless of their immigration status, citizenship, age, gender, health status, sexual orientation, and number of years in the community. We will work towards equal participation while promoting social justice.

Collaboration – Our work will emphasize developing a strong and respectful relationship with immigrant communities to ensure a welcoming, caring, and inclusive environment.

Empowerment – Our work will strive to support new immigrants' capacity to provide for themselves and their families through their own means and their own decisions.

Sustainability – Our work will be planned and evaluated to ensure continued effectiveness and long-term feasibility.



#CultureLivesHere



2024-2025 STELIP Council

"We want St. Thomas and Elgin County to be the most accepting and welcoming place to live, work, and play. Our goal is to create space for everyone to be involved in building community together." -

Paul Jenkins, STELIP Council Member

Reflections from 2024-2025

This year marks the final year of our 5-year strategic plan. It has also been a year marked with a great deal of uncertainty. Globally, we have seen ongoing international conflicts, as well as the recent trade war escalation with the United States. Nationally, we saw cuts to the federal immigration levels plan, which also translated into funding cuts across the immigration sector. Locally, we continue to see commitment to growth and development with the incoming PowerCo electric battery plant, with some estimates putting St. Thomas' growth at a population of nearly 80,000 by 2051. This would see the population nearly double in the next 25 years.

Regardless of the uncertainty and change on the horizon, we know that immigrants are still critical for our community. Not only do they account for around 90% of Canada's population growth and 80% of all labour force growth, but they also bring new and valuable ideas, perspectives, and ways of doing things. Immigrants are also our neighbours, friends, family, and colleagues; about one in every 10 St. Thomas-Elgin residents was born outside Canada.

Over the past five years, we have seen St. Thomas-Elgin become more diverse, and we anticipate that trend to continue in the future. The racialized population across the region grew by 53% between 2016 and 2021. Accordingly, we have seen the growth of local ethnocultural and faith groups and have worked to strengthen our relationships with them in recent years. We have seen many community leaders emerge to champion diversity and inclusion in St. Thomas-Elgin.

As we look towards creating a new strategic community plan for 2025-2028, we will continue to affirm that immigrants are a valued part of our community and that it is worthwhile to work together to support immigrants in St. Thomas-Elgin. As a community collective, together we will rise to meet both the challenges and opportunities that the future holds.

Strategic Outlook

Back in 2019, looking ahead to a new 5-year strategic plan, we set the aspirational target that, by 2025, 80% of newcomers to St. Thomas-Elgin would progress from settlement to integration within five years of arriving in St. Thomas and Elgin County. While it is hard to exactly measure this outcome, our community collectively worked towards this goal for the past five years. We strengthened workforce development and employer supports, community readiness, equitable supports, education, and civic and social inclusion to improve newcomers' settlement outcomes in our community. Our 2023 Immigrant Survey showed some encouraging results: 75% of respondents shared they had a positive settlement experience and expressed a strong sense of belonging, while 77% considered staying permanently

Impact Statement

By 2025, 80% of newcomers to St. Thomas-Elgin will progress from settlement to integration within five years of arriving in St. Thomas and Elgin County.

Priorities

Workforce
Development
& Employer
Supports

Community
Readiness

Equitable
Supports

Education

Civic and
Social
Inclusion



Workforce Development & Employer Supports

As St. Thomas-Elgin continues to grow, workforce development and employer supports are increasingly important. We work to ensure both employers and the broader workforce have the tools and supports they need to succeed, including immigrant jobseekers, employees, and employers. A strong, inclusive workforce supports the whole community.

We worked closely with WILL Immploy on a number of initiatives to connect potential mentors and mentees to their employment mentorship program, most notably an event in December that was unfortunately cancelled due to weather. A representative from WILL Immploy attended our Newcomer Potluck event and presented at YWCA Settlement Services' Newcomer Networking Circles to share information about the mentorship program. A total of 90 immigrant clients accessed employment services across our partner employment agencies. Ten newcomers accessed business counselling, and three more newcomers accessed business loans/grants through the Elgin Business Resource Centre.

We published five articles in the St. Thomas & District Chamber of Commerce's Business Beat, which sits within the This Month in Elgin publication. One article explored what employers should know about hiring immigrant employees and highlighted the assets immigrants bring to the workplace, with input from an immigration consultant.

We continued to have a regular presence at the St. Thomas and District Chamber of Commerce's Business After 5 networking events to connect with local businesses and organizations. During the special Women's History Month Business After 5, we were invited to have a booth showcasing our work as STELIP, as a women-led organization.



Community Readiness

A welcoming community is a place that accepts and celebrates all of its members—where people feel like they can integrate and belong. ‘Welcoming’ is a two-way street. We support both newcomers and established community members in St. Thomas-Elgin with practical knowledge and community-building opportunities to create a truly welcoming place for all to call home.

Along with our council and other community partners, we held a successful Welcoming Week in September. We kicked off the week with a flag raising at St. Thomas City Hall, where the mayor read a proclamation in support of the spirit of Welcoming Week. The St. Thomas Public Library hosted two bilingual storytimes again this year, with community volunteers sharing a story in a language they speak. These events introduced children to new languages and cultures and highlighted the library’s multilingual collection.

Employment Services Elgin offered two job search workshops during Welcoming Week, while the St. Thomas Police Services and St. Thomas & District Chamber of Commerce aligned pre-existing events with the week—an Open House and Business After 5, respectively. Additionally, Welcoming Week coincided with Mennonite Heritage Week, which included Mennonite Community Services’ Soup Cook-Off event. We concluded the week with another flag raising and proclamation with Elgin County.

We participated again this year in St. Thomas-Elgin EarlyON's Children's Festivals in St. Thomas, Aylmer, and West Lorne. We connected with around 300 caregivers and their families. Children could stop at our booth and make buttons with messages of inclusion. We also connected with the community and shared information about STELIP at various other events, including the St. Thomas & District Chamber of Commerce's Picnic and a local youth-led event called Breaking the Ice, which encouraged inclusion in sport.

We continued to support the St. Joseph's Catholic High School Multicultural Club. We facilitated making buttons at their club meeting for Asian Heritage Month. We also connected with a local community member and owner of Taste of the Caribbean, Maribel Corcho, who wanted to hold some events in celebration of Black History Month in Aylmer. She took part in the Elgin County Library's Stories We Tell Q&A session, sharing about the rich and diverse stories behind Caribbean cuisine and how her dishes bring the stories and traditions of her ancestors to life.

We were active in planning the YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin's annual Women's Day event, connecting the planning committee with diverse workshop volunteers. This year, a number of immigrant community members volunteered their time to teach attendees everything from salsa dancing to leadership skills. We also had a STELIP table at the event during lunchtime to share information with attendees, in addition to donating a copy of our cookbook—featuring recipes from local immigrants—for every attendee.



Global Flavours

Global Flavours celebrates the diversity of food—and people—in the St. Thomas Elgin region. Together with Railway City Tourism and Elgin County Tourism, we partner with immigrant-owned/cultural restaurants for the month of February. When patrons visit the participating restaurants, they can check in using an app or a “passport” stamp card. At the end of the month, a minimum of two check-ins or stamps makes them eligible for a prize draw. As a community, we embrace trying new “global flavours” and learning about the people who make them.

26 participating restaurants

100+ participants

10 prizes

166,000+ points claimed

50+ stamps submitted

5th annual event








Equitable Supports

Everyone deserves to have their needs met. This means we need to have services and supports in our community that are equitable—that are accessible and ensure similar outcomes for everyone, accounting for our differences or unique barriers. Together, we work to identify and dismantle barriers and build equitable supports for all.



We supported the Central Community Health Centre with their “Community Connections” Newcomer Fair for Wellness Month. Representatives of various community agencies attended to share information about local services with newcomers. There were also cultural performances, speakers, and food.

This year, we had introductory meetings with many community agencies and organizations, including the West Elgin Community Health Centre, Elgin Community Health Hub and the Filipino-Canadian Association of St. Thomas to establish partnerships and communication going forward. Our new STELIP Community Development Manager also met with many council member organizations, in addition to bringing on new partners to the STELIP Council: Latinos in St. Thomas ethnocultural group and St. Thomas-Elgin Social Services - Ontario Works.

We took part in community mental health planning workshops organized by the Elgin-Ontario Health Team. Over the course of these two workshops, we ensured newcomers’ mental health needs and experiences were considered. We also had the opportunity to share some information about existing supports for newcomers offered through settlement services (Newcomer Networking Circles, Newcomer Youth Club, Canada Connects).

Walk With Me

Walk With Me is an annual event that enhances local service providers' ability to effectively serve newcomer and immigrant clients. It's a service provider networking event that provides opportunities for attendees to connect with other service providers and participate in professional development. This year, WILL Immploy led a session about intercultural communication. Ultimately, this event increases referrals between agencies by increasing front line service providers' knowledge of community programs, resources, and services. This especially benefits newcomers, who often require more community supports and have less familiarity with their new community.

80+ participants

30 agencies represented

93% know how to make referrals to local services after WWM 2025

98% are more familiar with local services after WWM 2025



Education

Access to education is essential for newcomers and immigrants in our community. Whether it's English language classes, adult literacy supports, or formal postsecondary training, education builds the skills needed to communicate, find employment, make connections, and overall integrate into the community. We work to strengthen access to relevant education opportunities for all immigrants in St. Thomas-Elgin.

We attended Fanshawe College's St. Thomas/Elgin Campus International Student Orientation and their Ask Us Information Fair. We shared information about STELIP and about resources and supports available in our community with incoming international students. Overall, Fanshawe College has 157 international students enrolled at their St. Thomas/Elgin Campus.

We continued to support local partners who provide education for newcomers and immigrants in our community. The YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin offered English language classes (LINC) at two different locations, St. Thomas and Aylmer. Across four classes, they supported 48 learners. They also offered English Conversation Circles to further help learners build skills and confidence. Additionally, 51 immigrants were supported by Fanshawe College's adult upgrading programs.

Mennonite Community Services, in partnership with YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin and Fanshawe College, continued to offer the Family Education and Support Program Aylmer (FESPA). This program helps build skills and offers social opportunities for newcomer women and their preschool-aged children, particularly Low German Speaking Mennonite women.





Civic & Social Inclusion

Including newcomers and immigrants in the civic and social life of a community is imperative. Not only does civic and social inclusion ensure the community reflects the needs and perspectives of all members, including immigrants, it also contributes to each individual's sense of belonging and purpose. Together, we create opportunities for inclusion in community life and strengthen immigrants' civic and social participation.

The YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin continued to offer Newcomer Networking Circles to strengthen connections to local agencies, provide information about important settlement topics like banking, fraud, fire safety, and job searching, and offer social opportunities. They ran 13 sessions, with 220 participants. Additionally, they ran a Newcomer Youth Club to likewise strengthen youth's social connections and build skills. This year, the club met three times with a total of 16 youth, enjoying activities like board games, sports, and pumpkin carving.

Welcoming Week this year also offered opportunities for civic and social inclusion, particularly with the public flag raising and welcoming proclamation held by both the City of St. Thomas and Elgin County. Additionally, newcomer and immigrant community members had the opportunity to volunteer as story readers for the bilingual storytimes at the St. Thomas Public Library, as well as participate in the Mennonite Soup Cook-Off (also for Mennonite Heritage Week).

Two newcomers were nominated for the St. Thomas and District Chamber of Commerce's Impact Awards.

Local immigrant-led groups also continued to grow and facilitate social events in our community. The Indo-Can Punjabi Cultural Association of Ontario was very active, with activities this past year including Summerfest, free pizza for all to mark the occasion of Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurupurab, walking in the St. Thomas Santa Claus Parade, and more.

Latinos in St. Thomas hosted various Spanish social events, including a Christmas event at a local restaurant. They were also a strong supporter of the Salsa in the City event series, organized in part by a local immigrant business owner. Both organizations have joined our STELIP council in the past few years, with Latinos in St. Thomas joining this past year.

The St. Thomas Malayali Association held a very well-attended Christmas and New Year celebration, in addition to holding community outreach events like a free tax clinic. We also have an active Kerala Association of St. Thomas Ontario (KASTO) and a small Filipino-Canadian Association of St. Thomas.



Newcomer Gatherings

Together with YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin Settlement Services, we held events to connect newcomers and immigrants to each other and to their community, including two Newcomer Potlucks and one BBQ. The Newcomer Potlucks in May and February saw a combined turnout of 120, with participants sharing food from their cultures and enjoying fun activities. EarlyON St. Thomas-Elgin attended the February potluck to provide children's activities and information about their programs.

In June, we held our annual Newcomer BBQ with a participation of 180 people. We shared a barbeque meal, cooked by volunteers from the Kinsmen of St. Thomas, and enjoyed fun activities like face paint and temporary tattoos, tours of the St. Thomas Fire Department trucks, and outdoor children's activities facilitated by EarlyON St. Thomas-Elgin.

300 attendees

4 community partners

9 languages shared at the potluck:
English, Spanish, Nepali, Chinese,
Portuguese, Ukrainian, German & Kurdish





Southwestern Ontario LIPs

We are part of the Southwestern Ontario LIPs (SWOLIP) collective, which meets regularly to share information and promising practices and collaborate on joint initiatives. We met twice this year. Together with the Hamilton Immigration Partnership and Waterloo Region Immigration Partnership, we developed a toolkit for LIPs about incorporating a Gender-Based Analysis (GBA) Plus approach into their work, with a focus on reporting using a GBA Plus lens. After sharing this toolkit through our regional and national LIP channels, we also presented it at Metropolis conference as part of a presentation on demystifying evaluation processes and GBA Plus with Toronto North LIP and Hamilton Immigration Partnership.



Members of SWOLIP have also continued to be active in collaborating on research activities, particularly the bi-annual Immigrant Survey, which aims to hear from local immigrants to understand their perspectives and needs.

The Communications Roundtable subcommittee of SWOLIP also met four times to share learnings and promising practices, including topics like Welcoming Week, producing a podcast, and graphic design. We hosted one of the meetings, facilitating roundtable updates and open discussion about Welcoming Week plans.

Committees

Workplace - YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin

EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Committee

Women's Day Event Committee

St. Thomas-Elgin

Community Action Network for Children and Youth Elgin

Elgin Children's Network

Elgin County Drowning Prevention

Elgin - Ontario Health Team Coordinating Committee

Elgin-St. Thomas Workforce Development Network

Regional

Low German Speaking Mennonite Community of Practice of Elgin, St. Thomas, Oxford, and Norfolk

Low German Speaking Mennonite Community of Practice of Elgin, St. Thomas, Oxford, and Norfolk - Steering Committee

Southwestern Ontario Local Immigration Partnerships (SWOLIP)

Southwestern Ontario Local Immigration Partnership - Communications Roundtable

Ontario 211 Discrimination Reporting Committee

National LIP Secretariate Community of Practice

Communications

This year we had 4100 unique visitors to our stelip.ca website between March 2024 and March 2025. We saw 16 new subscribers to our newsletter, as we transitioned to putting out a monthly newsletter from a quarterly publication. We put out 9 newsletters in 2024-2025 to a total of 306 subscribers.

We saw growth across all three of our active social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. We decided to wind down our usage of X (Twitter) and won't be posting new content to that platform in the coming year. Facebook continues to be our most popular platform, with 1022 followers (increase of 22 this year), while the greatest increase in both followers and cumulative reach was on LinkedIn (118 total followers with an increase of 32).



Council & Project Team

We are a collaborative community initiative. Our work is guided by our council, which comprises community members and representatives from local agencies and organizations. The council met five times over the course of the fiscal year, providing direction on projects, giving perspectives on community trends, and collaborating on relevant community initiatives.

STELIP Council

Central Community Health Centre	Catalina Friesen
Elgin Business Resource Centre	Jennifer Grigg
Elgin County Economic Development	Carolyn Krahm
Elgin County Library	Séanin Steele (Chair)
Elgin Middlesex Oxford Workforce Planning and Development Board	Petrusia Hontar

Elgin/St. Thomas Small Business Enterprise Centre	Emily Mason
Employment Services Elgin	Jodi Annett-Kish
Fanshawe College Community Career and Employment Services	John Griffiths
Fanshawe College St. Thomas/Elgin Campus	Joel Van Bynen
Indo-Can Punjabi Cultural Association – St. Thomas	Lakhwinder Kathuria
Latinos in St. Thomas	Michelle Carmona
Mennonite Community Services	Anna Bergen
Newcomer Representative	Chiyemenma (Chichi) Kejeh
Service Canada	Élisabeth Brito
St. Thomas & District Chamber of Commerce	Paul Jenkins
St. Thomas Economic Development	Mike Kerkvliet
St. Thomas-Elgin Social Services – Child Care	Teresa Sulowski



St. Thomas-Elgin Social Services –
Ontario Works

Carrie Escaf

St. Thomas Police Service

Samantha Wakefield

St. Thomas Public Library

Dakota Smith

St. Thomas Islamic Centre

Zena Chaudhry

Thames Valley District School Board

Michael Tamasi

WILL Immploy

Devin Munro

YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin

Shelley Harris

YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin Settlement
Services

Umair Ahmad

STELIP Project Team

Communication Coordinator

Fiona Murray

Community Development Manager

Nadia Li

Director of Education and Settlement

Shelley Harris

Acknowledgements

As our five-year strategic planning period comes to an end, we're reflecting on all the work that has been done to make St. Thomas and Elgin a welcoming, caring, and inclusive community in that time. Despite ongoing challenges and barriers, we have seen many community members and organizations work to make our community better: celebrating diversity, welcoming newcomers, and building inclusive community supports.

We're especially grateful for our council members, who share their expertise, knowledge, skills, and resources as part of the STELIP collective. Together, we have collaborated on projects, built bridges, and strengthened partnerships in the community.

We are also thankful for the continued commitment and funding from Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada to support immigrant integration in communities across Canada.

Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada



Municipal Flag Protocol and Proclamation Policy (1.3) Request Form

Please complete this form and submit it to adminteam@elgin.ca.

Organization: Elgin County Drowning Prevention Coalition

This Organization is:

☐ **Charitable Organization**

☒ **Not-for-profit Organization**

Event/Occasion: National Drowning Prevention Week & World Drowning Prevention Day

Purpose of Event/Occasion:

National Drowning Prevention Week promotes awareness of the drowning prevention problem in Canada, and the need for individuals, communities, organizations, and government to take action to save lives. Drowning is preventable! World Drowning Prevention Day is on July 25th.

Proposed Date for Flag Raising and/or Proclamation: July 18th or 21st

(all flag raisings/proclamation dates are subject to availability in accordance with the Policy).

Contact Name: Briar McCaw

Phone Number: 519-902-9785

Email Address: ecdrowningprevention@gr

My organization is requesting (please check all that apply):

☒ **Flag Raising**

☒ **Proclamation**

☒ **Lighting the Elgin Administration Building**

If your organization has a written proclamation you wish to be read, please include a copy with this form.



Please describe your organization/group:

The Elgin County Drowning Prevention Coalition is a volunteer-led organization dedicated to drowning prevention education, awareness, and research. Its mandate is 'to prevent the incidence of fatal and non-fatal drownings and other water related injuries in Elgin County.' The coalition collaborates with with local organizations such as hospitals, immigration partnerships, conservation areas, childrens organizations, and more to share relevant water safety information with local residents.

Has your organization achieved national or international distinction, made a significant contribution to the community, or helped to enhance the County of Elgin in a positive manner? Please describe:

The Elgin County Drowning Prevention Coalition (ECDPC) has made a significant impact locally and has gained recognition at both national and international levels. Established in response to disproportionately high drowning rates in Elgin County, the ECDPC unites stakeholders from healthcare, aquatics, emergency services, and newcomer support sectors to lead evidence-informed water safety initiatives. Locally, the coalition has implemented tailored education programs, including free public swims, lifejacket fitting clinics, and the translation of water safety materials to support culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Its work has been featured in The Lifeline, the Ontario Lifesaving Society's provincial newsletter, and its research has been incorporated into advanced aquatic leadership training programs across the London, Ontario region. Internationally, research featuring the ECDPC and done by a local resident has been accepted for both oral and poster presentation at the World Conference on Drowning Prevention (WCDP 2025) in Egypt. This global platform will highlight Elgin County's leadership in applying the WHO Non-Fatal Drowning Categorization Framework and the Utstein-style reporting standards to strengthen aquatic surveillance and prevention systems in Canada.

Sent by Email

June 4, 2025

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
MPP Pickering-Uxbridge
1550 Kingston Rd., Suite 213
Pickering, ON L1V 1C3
peter.bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org

Subject: Raising Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a Meeting held on May 26, 2025 and adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS individuals and families receiving income support through Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) are facing increasing challenges in meeting basic needs due to rising costs of living;

And Whereas Statistics Canada notes that people with disabilities have a higher poverty rate and a lower rate of employment than the overall population;

And Whereas the annual income support for Ontario Works is currently \$8,796.00 and \$16,416.00 for Ontario Disability Support Program. These supports have not increased sufficiently to keep up with inflation and the cost of living. Such costs are anticipated to continue increasing;

And Whereas the low income measure for a single person in Greater Toronto Area is estimated to be approximately \$27,343 annually, and the deep income poverty threshold is determined to be \$20,508;

And Whereas Food Banks, including our local Food Banks, provide a necessary service with increasing demands in our communities;

And Whereas the Pickering Food Bank served 1,722 adults, and 1,054 children in February 2025;

And Whereas food banks are already reducing their distribution capacity; and it is anticipated that due to developing economic circumstances, such as the current tariff war, there will be increased unemployment, increased food prices, and a heightened demand for food distribution, while donations continue to decline;

And Whereas these economic trends will continue to erode the purchasing power of OW and ODSP recipients, increasing reliance on food banks and placing additional pressure on municipalities and community organizations;

Now therefore it be resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering directs through the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer:

1. That staff send a letter to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Finance, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, and the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility, to strongly urge that the Ontario Provincial Government significantly raise the payments of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program and the increases be reflected in the upcoming Provincial Budget and that the increased amount aligns with inflationary costs and thereby decrease the pressure on food banks and the reliance on municipalities and taxpayers to supplement the gap in financial need; and,
2. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), the Regional Municipality of Durham, all Municipalities in the Province of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905.420.4660, extension 2019.

Yours truly



Susan Cassel
City Clerk

SC:am

Copy: Robert Cerjanec, MPP Ajax
Lorne Coe, MPP Whitby
Jennifer French, MPP Oshawa
Todd McCarthy, MPP Durham
Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock
Alexander Harras, Regional Clerk, Region of Durham
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

All Ontario Municipalities

Chief Administrative Officer



District of Parry Sound Municipal Association

c/o Township of McKellar, 701 Hwy 124 McKellar, ON P0G 1C0

President: Lynda Carleton **Secretary-Treasurer:** Karlee Britton

RE: Supporting Municipal Ethics Through Access and Education

The District of Parry Sound Municipal Association (DPSMA), representing the twenty-three Municipalities within the District of Parry Sound, held its Spring 2025 meeting on May 23, 2025, in the Municipality of Callander. At this meeting, the following resolution was carried:

Moved by: Kathy Hamer (Municipality of McDougall)

Seconded by: Daniel O'Halloran (Township of McMurrich Monteith)

Whereas democracy is an open process – one that requires ongoing engagement between citizens and their elected officials; and

Whereas ethics and integrity are at the core of public confidence in government and in the political process; and

Whereas proper policies and procedures protect the democratic process; and

Whereas sections 223.2 and 223.3, Municipal Act, 2001 state all municipalities are required to adopt a Code of Conduct for members of Council and to appoint an Integrity Commissioner; and

Whereas it is the role of the Integrity Commissioner to educate member of Council on the Councillor Code of Conduct policy as well as to investigate alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct, at the municipality's expense; and

Whereas there are many new elected officials each term of Council who need access to information and proper training in order to do the work effectively and responsibly; and

Whereas Municipal Affairs and the Ombudsman's Office are hesitant to give information, so there is nowhere to ask questions and learn; and

Whereas the only source of information is to pay for fee-for-service on a case-by-case basis from the Integrity Commissioner which is very cost-prohibitive for small municipalities; and

Whereas Council is expected to oversee the management of taxpayers money and taxpayers deserve to know where their tax dollars are being spent;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association calls upon the Ontario government to provide free access to information so that Councils can be effective in their role in our democratic system; and

Further That the DPSMA hereby requests that Municipal Affairs and/or the Ombudsman's Office and/or the Integrity Commissioner provide, if requested by a municipality, sufficient particulars of each investigation to permit the municipality to fully understand and address the subject matter of each investigation.

Further That this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka and to all Ontario Municipalities for support.

Forwarded on behalf of the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association; For questions and/or inquires, please contact:



Karlee Britton | Secretary-Treasurer
District of Parry Sound Municipal Association
clerk@mckellar.ca
(705) 389-2842 x4

cc:

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka
Municipalities within the District of Parry Sound
All Ontario Municipalities

COUNTY OF ELGIN

By-Law No. 25-24

"BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE TO BY-LAW NO. 24-19

BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE SPEED LIMITS"

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 128(2) of the Highway Traffic Act, being Chapter H.8, R.S.O. 1990, as amended, the Council of a municipality may by by-law prescribe a different rate of speed for motor vehicles driven on a highway or portion of a highway under its jurisdiction than is prescribed in Section 128(1a);

AND WHEREAS the County of Elgin did pass By-law No. 24-19 prescribing different rates of speed for motor vehicles on certain highways under its jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS By-law No. 25-24 was previously amended by By-law No. 25-04;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed expedient to further amend said By-Law to prescribe a different rate of speed on certain highways under its jurisdiction.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin enacts as follows:

- 1. THAT Schedule "E" be amended to include the following:

SCHEDULE "E"

MAXIMUM RATE OF SPEED 30 KILOMETRES PER HOUR

Road	Section	Description
26	B	From 50m north of Independent Street to 50m northwest of Hydro Road for a total distance of 460m.

- 2. THAT this by-law shall become effective once signage setting out the speed limit has been installed.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 10th DAY OF JUNE, 2025.

Blaine Parkin,
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk.

Grant Jones,
Warden.

COUNTY OF ELGIN

By-Law No. 25-25

**“BEING A BY-LAW TO CONFIRM PROCEEDINGS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF
THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF ELGIN AT THE
JUNE 10, 2025 MEETING”**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, the powers of a municipality shall be exercised by its Council;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 5.3 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, the powers of every Council shall be exercised by by-law;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed expedient that the proceedings of the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin at this meeting be confirmed and adopted by by-law.

NOW THEREFORE the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin enacts as follows:

1. THAT the actions of the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin, in respect of each recommendation contained in the reports and each motion and resolution passed and other action taken by the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin, at its meeting held on June 10, 2025 be hereby adopted and confirmed as if all such proceedings were expressly embodied in this by-law.
2. THAT the Warden and appropriate officials of the Corporation of the County of Elgin are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the actions of the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the County of Elgin referred to in the preceding section hereof.
3. THAT the Warden and the Chief Administrative Officer, or alternate, are authorized and directed to execute all documents necessary in that behalf and to affix thereto the seal of the Corporation of the County of Elgin.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 10TH DAY OF JUNE 2025.

Blaine Parkin,
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk.

Grant Jones,
Warden.