



## **Correspondence Items Presented for Information February 12, 2024**

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- 1) Correspondence from the following municipalities re: Support of Bill C-310 to increase the amount of tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services.
  - a) Tay Township
  - b) Township of Ryerson
- 2) Correspondence from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry re: *Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act* regulation changes for special projects and well security.
- 3) Correspondence from the following municipalities re: Social and economic prosperity review.
  - a) Town of Orangeville
  - b) United Counties of Prescott and Russell
  - c) Town of Hanover
- 4) Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) re: Policy update – 2024 pre-budget submission.
- 5) Correspondence from the Senior Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Operational Effectiveness, City of Owen Sound re: Social economic and prosperity review support of AMO's 2024 pre-budget submission.
- 6) Correspondence from the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) re:
  - a) Advocacy update – AMCTO at the 2024 Roma Conference.
  - b) Advocacy update – 2024 pre-budget submission.
- 7) Correspondence from the Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses re: Monthly femicide in Ontario fact sheet.
- 8) Correspondence from the President, Enbridge Gas Inc. re: Ontario Energy Board's decision on phase 1 of the Enbridge Gas 2024 rebasing application.
- 9) Correspondence from the President and CEO, Georgian College re: Response to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) policy changes to the International Student Program.
- 10) Correspondence from the Orangeville Police Services Board re: Intimate partner violence.

11) Correspondence from the Municipality of Calvin re:

- a) Provincial cemetery management support request.
- b) Provincial and national fire fighting strategy.

# TAY TOWNSHIP

450 Park Street  
PO Box 100  
Victoria Harbour, Ontario  
L0K 2A0



January 25, 2024

Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs  
520 Westney Road South, Unit 22  
Ajax, ON, L1S 6W6

sent via email [info@oafc.on.ca](mailto:info@oafc.on.ca)

## Re: Resolution of Support of Bill C-310

Good afternoon,

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, during the Regular Meeting of Council, the Council of the Township of Tay passed the following resolution:

That Council receive and support the resolution from the Municipality of Wawa related to Bill C-310 and that a letter of support be distributed accordingly.

Please see enclosed the resolution passed by the Municipality of Wawa to call upon the Government of Canada to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsections 118.06 (2) and 118.07 (2) of the Income Tax Act in order to increase the amount of the tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

Sent on behalf of the Township of Tay Council.

Kind regards,



Katelyn Johns, MPPA  
Municipal Clerk  
Enclosure

Cc: Algoma Mutual Aid Association, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Ontario municipalities.



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Resolution # RC23265	Meeting Order: 10
Moved by: <i>Cathy Fannon</i>	Seconded by: <i>J. M. Al</i>

**WHEREAS** Canada has 90,000 volunteer firefighters who provide fire and all hazard emergency services to their communities; in addition, approximately 8,000 essential search and rescue volunteers respond to thousands of incidents every year; and

**WHEREAS** many of these individuals receive some form of pay on call, an honorarium, or are given some funding to cover expenses, but they do not draw a living wage from firefighting; and;

**WHEREAS** without volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers, thousands of communities in Canada would have no fire and emergency response coverage; and;

**WHEREAS** in 2013, the federal government initiated a tax credit recognizing these individuals, and calling on the federal government to increase this tax credit from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and;

**WHEREAS** volunteer firefighters account for 71% of Canada's total firefighting essential first responders;

- The tax code of Canada currently allows volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers to claim a \$3,000 tax credit if 200 hours of volunteer services were completed in a calendar year;
- This works out to a mere \$450 per year, which we allow these essential volunteers to keep of their own income from their regular jobs, \$2.25 an hour;
- If they volunteer more than 200 hours, which many do, this tax credit becomes even less;
- These essential volunteers not only put their lives on the line and give their time, training and efforts to Canadians, but they also allow cities and municipalities to keep property taxes lower than if paid services were required;

*p.2...*



# The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

### RESOLUTION

- It would also help retain these volunteers in a time when volunteerism is decreasing.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa call upon the Government of Canada to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsections 118.06 (2) and 118.07 (2) of the Income Tax Act in order to increase the amount of the tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and;

**FURTHERMORE THAT** a copy of the resolution be shared with the Association of Fire Chiefs of Ontario, Algoma Mutual Aid Association, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities.

RESOLUTION RESULT		RECORDED VOTE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield		
<input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED	Cathy Cannon		
<input type="checkbox"/>	RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon		
<input type="checkbox"/>	PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann		
<input type="checkbox"/>	WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opato		

#### Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

- ☐ Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

MAYOR – MELANIE PILON	CLERK – MAURY O'NEILL



## CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RYERSON

Date: November 28, 2023

Resolution Number: R-186-23Moved by: Councillor ~~Miller~~ ABBOTT

Seconded by: Councillor Patterson

Be it resolved that Ryerson Township Council supports resolution number RC23265 dated November 7, 2023, from the Municipality of Wawa calling the government to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsections 118.06 (2) and 118.07 (2) of the Income Tax Act in order to increase the amount of the tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

Carried ☒ Defeated ☐

(Chair Signature)

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by: \_\_\_\_\_

RECORDED VOTE					
Vote called by Clerk in random order, Chair to vote last					
Members of Council		Yea	Nay	Abstention	Absent
Councillors	Beverly Abbott				
	Glenn Miller				
	Delynne Patterson				
	Dan Robertson				
Mayor	George Sterling				



**Ministry of Natural Resources and  
Forestry**

Resources Planning and Development  
Policy Branch  
Policy Division  
300 Water Street  
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

**Ministère des Richesses naturelles et  
des Forêts**

Direction des politiques de planification et  
d'exploitation des ressources  
Division de l'élaboration des politiques  
300, rue Water  
Peterborough (Ontario) K9J 3C7

January 23, 2024

**Subject:** *Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act* regulation changes for special projects and well security

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Hello,

Last fall we shared information about proposed regulation changes under the *Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act* related to:

- Establishing a framework to allow projects to test or demonstrate new or innovative activities in Ontario – called special projects - to pursue authorization under the *Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act*.
- Well security caps and exemptions for all wells under this act.

Today, we are writing to let you know that a decision has been made to proceed with these changes. The new regulation for special projects will allow businesses interested in pursuing projects to test, assess, pilot or demonstrate carbon storage projects to pursue special project designation, and if designated, apply for authorizations for their project. While this new regulation applies to both private and Crown lands, initially, special projects for carbon storage will only be enabled on private land because further legislative changes will be necessary to access Crown lands for carbon storage.

The changes are being made subject to the following modifications that were made in response to feedback received:

- Municipal source water protection authorities have been included as one of the parties to be circulated on applications for special projects.
- In response to a request from Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO), the qualifications of people that may be approved by the ministry to conduct examinations of special projects has been expanded to include individuals holding a limited licence under the Professional Engineers Act. A limited licence is issued by PEO to an individual who, as a result of at least eight years of specialized experience, has developed competence in a certain area of

professional engineering, and holders may include individuals with academic qualifications other than a university engineering degree.

- The proposed changes that would have eliminated security exemptions and caps where a well licence is transferred were removed to allow more time to assess potential implications identified by operators / industry.

These changes came into effect on January 1, 2024. More details on the decision, the feedback received, and the original proposal can be viewed in the decision notice on the Environmental Registry of Ontario: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-7507>.

Carbon storage is new to Ontario, and we want to ensure the activity is undertaken responsibly. That is why we are taking a phased approach to developing a framework to regulate this activity.

With Phase 2 – Enabling Demonstration – of our [roadmap towards regulating geologic carbon storage](#) now complete, the province is now turning to the development of the commercial scale framework and is taking a measured approach as to options for facilitating access to the underground pore space that is used for carbon storage. Ontario aims to have a commercial framework in place by summer 2025, with opportunities for public consultation beginning this year.

If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact Andrew Ogilvie, Manager of Resources Development Section, at 705-761-5815 or through email: [Resources.Development@ontario.ca](mailto:Resources.Development@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,



Jennifer Keyes  
Director, Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch



**Town of Orangeville**

87 Broadway, Orangeville, ON L9W 1K1

Tel: 519-941-0440

Fax: 519-415-9484

Toll Free: 1-866-941-0440

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**Corporate Services**

January 26, 2024

**Re: Social and Economic Prosperity Review**

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Orangeville, at its Regular Council Meeting held on January 22, 2024, approved the following resolution:

**WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life; and**

**WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year; and**

**WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation; and**

**WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure; and**

**WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises; and**

**WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity; and**

**WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income redistribution programs for those most in need; and**

**WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities; and**

**WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration; now**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Orangeville requests the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario; and**

**FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion is sent to the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford; the MPP, Sylvia Jones; and all municipalities in Ontario.**

**Carried.**

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raylene Martell".

Raylene Martell  
Town Clerk

Resolution  
Regular Council Meeting



**Agenda Number:** 6.7

**Resolution Number:** 2024-009

**Title:** Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Policy Update - Social and Economic Prosperity Review

**Date:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024

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**Moved by** Mario Zanth

**Seconded by** Geneviève Lajoie

Whereas current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life;

And whereas nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility, and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year;

And whereas municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation;

And whereas unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure;

And whereas municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges, like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers, and addressing the mental health and addictions crises;

And whereas inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity;

And whereas property taxpayers, including people on fixed incomes and small businesses, cannot afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need;

And whereas the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;

And whereas municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration.

Be it resolved that the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this Resolution be circulated to all the municipalities in Ontario.

**Carried as amended**

Mélissa Cadieux, Clerk



341 10th St. Hanover ON N4N 1P5

☎ 519.364.2780 | ☎ 1.888.HANOVER | 📠 519.364.6456 | [hanover.ca](https://www.hanover.ca)

February 1, 2024

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

Via Email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier Ford:

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**Re: Social and Economic Prosperity Review**

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Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Hanover adopted the following resolution at their meeting of January 15, 2024 regarding the above noted matter;

**Moved by COUNCILLOR KOEBEL      Seconded by COUNCILLOR HOCKING**

**Whereas** current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life;

**Whereas** nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year;

**Whereas** municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation;

**Whereas** unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure;

**Whereas** municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises;

**Whereas** inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity;

**Whereas** property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need;

**Whereas** the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;

**Whereas** municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration;

**Therefore be it resolved that** the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario;

**And further that** a copy of this motion be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

**CARRIED**

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully,



Tanya Patterson  
Deputy Clerk

/tp

cc: Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Honourable Rick Byers, MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Ontario Municipalities



## POLICY UPDATE

AMO has released its [pre-budget submission](#), calling on the provincial government to sit down with municipalities and work together on a joint review of municipal finance, including a detailed analysis of Ontario's infrastructure investment and service delivery needs.

The full pre-budget submission builds on the ongoing discussions AMO has been leading across the province around the stability and sustainability of municipal finances, including a [presentation](#) on the plenary stage at the 2024 ROMA Conference.

We need *your* help.

Municipal councils are encouraged to support AMO's ongoing advocacy efforts by:

- Highlighting the need for this review when meetings with local MPPs and community members, using key messages included in [AMO's pre-budget backgrounder](#).
- Passing a [council resolution](#) at your next meeting, calling on the province to commit to this review in its upcoming provincial budget
- Sharing your support with local media channels using [our news release template and social media messaging](#)

February 8, 2024

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvey, Minister of Finance Province of Ontario  
[Minister.fin@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.fin@ontario.ca)

**Re: Social Economic and Prosperity Review Support of AMO's 2024  
Pre-Budget Submission**

Dear Minister:

City Council, at its meeting held on January 19, 2024, considered the above-noted matter, and passed Resolution No. R-240129-006 approving the following:

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CM-24-003 respecting ROMA Delegation and AMO Pre-Budget Submission for the 2024 Provincial Budget, City Council:**

- 1. Calls on the Province of Ontario to commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario; and**
- 2. Directs staff to send a letter to the leaders of the provincial Liberal Party, New Democrat Party, and Green Party, in addition to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Finance, and the Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MPP."**

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michelle Palmer, PMP, DASM, CSCMP, CPPB  
Senior Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Operational Effectiveness

cc: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Hon. MPP Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Hon. MPP Catherine Fife NDP Critic – Finance  
Hon. MPP Stephanie Bowman Liberal Critic – Finance  
Hon. MPP Mike Schreiner Green Critic - Finance  
Hon. MPP Rick Byers, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound



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## Advocacy Update

Learn more about our work as we advocate on behalf of AMCTO members

January 26, 2024

## AMCTO at the 2024 ROMA Conference

The Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) held its conference from January 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> in Toronto and AMCTO was proud to represent our members' interest in delegation meetings, attend plenary and concurrent sessions, and have the chance to connect with our members and other delegates at the conference tradeshow.

Unlike some municipal conferences, the Government did not take this opportunity to make large-scale announcements for municipalities. Premier Ford did however announce that the 10% share of the Building Faster Fund for small, rural and northern municipalities without growth targets will be dedicated to infrastructure-focused projects, will be an application-based program, and that more details can be anticipated soon. He also shared that unused funds from the Building Faster Fund will be made available for municipalities to apply for to use on housing-enabling infrastructure.



During the conference, there was some discussion related to strengthening municipal codes of conduct including a question during the Ministers' Forum and commitments from all three opposition parties during leaders' speeches. However, no firm commitment was made from the Government, though Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra, did say that the Government was exploring options. On a related note, AMCTO recently passed a motion in support of the [Women of Ontario Say No Campaign](#).

The main focus of our delegation meetings throughout the conference was drawing the Government's attention to outdated legislation that places unnecessary operational and administrative burden on municipal staff. Specifically, we spoke about the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)* and the *Municipal Elections Act (MEA)*. We encourage you to [review our MFIPPA submission](#) and [use our member toolkit](#) to support us in advancing this work. Stay tuned for more details to be announced related to our forthcoming *MEA* submission.

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### [Delegation with Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery](#)

ROMA was the first opportunity to share our submission on *MFIPPA* modernization with Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery, Todd McCarthy, in person. We took the opportunity to highlight some of the most problematic areas of *MFIPPA* and walked him through our recommendations for reform.

Minister McCarthy asked some important questions about the nature and volume of frivolous and vexatious requests. While he did not commit to a comprehensive review at this time, he agreed that many aspects of the *Act* are outdated and indicated his interest in looking into this matter further. We will continue to be available to the Minister and his team to answer questions regarding our submission and will continue to press for our recommended changes to *MFIPPA* to support our members in advancing accountability and transparency at the local level.

### [Delegation with Ministry of Red Tape Reduction](#)

We also shared the *MFIPPA* submission with the former Minister of Red Tape Reduction, Parm Gill (note, Minister Gill has since announced his resignation in favour of seeking federal nomination), emphasizing that navigating outdated legislation is an example of red tape effecting municipalities and residents. As an additional example of administrative burden, we spoke on municipalities' mandatory public notice requirements that are made in newspapers and the challenges with this as a result of recent changes in the Canadian media landscape. The Minister's staff advised that

the ministry would be undertaking an exercise to look at regulatory red tape affecting multiple sectors not just businesses.

### Delegation with Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing

With Minister Calandra, we highlighted that *MFIPPA* reform would help municipalities achieve the Ministry's goals for increased municipal-efficiency, and asked for his support around the Cabinet table should Minister McCarthy bring forward reforms.

We also took this opportunity to let the Minister know that we have been reviewing the *MEA* and will be bringing forward a legislative submission in the coming months. We noted that clear, modern legislation would assist voters, candidates, contributors, and advertisers to understand their responsibilities as well as help improve overall legislative compliance. Improvements to the *MEA* will also help reduce operational administrative burden for election administrators. We provided Minister Calandra with examples related to election staffing and how third-party provisions have been working on the ground, and he said he looks forward to learning more from our upcoming submission.

### Delegations with Opposition Parties

With the NDP, Liberal and Green caucuses, we highlighted some of the key issues with *MFIPPA*, our rationale behind the submission, and asked for their support should the Government introduce legislation in favour of our submission. We also let them know about our upcoming *MEA* submission and shared some of the long-standing issues our members have with the legislation. All three parties took the chance to ask our thoughts on some ongoing municipal issues such as municipal workforce retention, strong mayor legislation, and municipal codes of conduct.

### Next Steps

With all of our delegations, we reiterated AMCTO's commitment to collaborate with the government to co-design policies and programs that would meet the needs of the municipal sector. We will be following up with government officials on these important files, continuing to bring forward the expertise of our members.

To read more about other highlights from the ROMA Conference, check out our [blog post](#).

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## Advocacy Update

Learn more about our work as we advocate on behalf of AMCTO members

February 6, 2024

### Advocacy Update: 2024 Pre-Budget Submission

We were pleased to participate in the Province's Pre-Budget consultation, providing recommendations focused on ensuring our members have access to the tools and resources they need to fulfill 2024 government requirements.

More and more, it is becoming challenging for municipalities to provide efficient and effective services and respond to provincial requirements with complex and outdated legislation. The application of certain legislation and subsequent reporting requirements are needlessly burdensome. Municipalities and their staff have also been challenged with provincial funding that has not kept pace with inflation or reflects the increased costs of service provision and investment in aging and new infrastructure. We need a Provincial budget that responds to and addresses these challenges in a meaningful way.

Our 2024 Pre-Budget recommendations are:

- Ensure that legislative and reporting requirements are modern and meet the needs of the provincial government, while making best use of municipal resources

- Re-start the Municipal Modernization Program and Audit and Accountability Fund with a focus on project implementation
- Protect and expand existing funding streams and work with municipalities and their associations to explore new funding arrangements
- Co-design solutions and collaborate with municipalities and their associations to ensure that the Province understands local impacts and opportunities before introducing new policies or programs

We encourage the Province to consider ensuring that the framework in which municipalities operate is modern to favour efficient use of resources and service delivery. As always, we offer to bring forward the expertise of our members to inform policy and program design emphasizing that collaboration with municipalities should not be an after-thought.

**READ OUR FULL 2024 PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION**

For more information, [please contact us](#).

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Femicides in Ontario  
December 2023

WE COUNT

**FEMICIDE**

BECAUSE...

MONTHLY  
FEMICIDE IN  
ONTARIO  
FACTSHEET

DECEMBER 1ST - DECEMBER 31ST, 2023

#WeCountFemicideBecause



Ontario Femicides  
(since Nov. 26 2023)

Item 7

## Quick Facts

- OAITH's femicide definition includes a gender-based killing of a woman, child, trans woman, 2-Spirited Person, or gender non-conforming individual where a man has been charged in relation to the death

OAITH Femicide Data- Femicide Type (Year to Date)					
Intimate Partner	Family	Known	Relationship Not Reported	No Prior Relationship	Total
1	0	0	0	0	1

## Unconfirmed Femicides

Total: 2

### Central Region



**Jane Doe, Unknown Age - East Gwillimbury, ON**

National Media: <https://bit.ly/JaneDoeEastGwillimburyTorontoStar>

Local Media: <https://bit.ly/JaneDoeEastGwillimburyNewmarketToday>

Television Media: <https://bit.ly/JaneDoeEastGwillimburyCTVNews>

### North Region



**Jenna Ostberg, 21 - Thunder Bay, ON**

National Media: <https://bit.ly/JennaOstbergNationalPost>

Local Media: <https://bit.ly/JennaOstbergTBNewsWatch>

Television Media: <https://bit.ly/JennaOstbergCBCNews>

## Newly Confirmed Femicides From Previous Months

Total : 1

### Central Region



**Xu Guo, 34 - Markham, ON**

National Media: <https://bit.ly/XuGuoTorontoStar>

Local Media: <https://bit.ly/XuGuoNewmarketToday>

Television Media: <https://bit.ly/XuGuoCTVNews>





Femicides in Ontario  
December 2023

WE COUNT

**FEMICIDE**

BECAUSE...

DECEMBER 1ST - DECEMBER 31ST, 2023

#WeCountFemicideBecause

**MONTHLY  
FEMICIDE IN  
ONTARIO  
FACTSHEET**



Ontario Femicides  
(since Nov. 26 2023)

## MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT



### OAITH Releases 2022-2023 Femicide Media Analysis

In December 2023, no femicide cases have been confirmed, however we continue to monitor media reports for further police disclosure on two unconfirmed femicide cases. Additionally, there was one case, from November 28th, which has been confirmed as a femicide within the current reporting year.

As a part of our femicide research, OAITH, in partnership with Dr. Mavis Morton and the University of Guelph have developed a media analysis framework to examine and code news coverage of femicides. Since 2015 - 2016 an annual analysis of national, local and television coverage of Ontario femicides has been conducted. In December OAITH released the 2022-2023 Femicide Media Analysis. This year there have been some notable changes in how femicides are reported and framed within media reporting. Specifically, there has been a decrease in the use of some negative media frames, including racialization and victim-blaming that uphold racial and gendered stereotypes. This can misrepresent the issue of femicide and misdirect blame by placing blame or responsibility onto the victim as opposed to male's violence and the men responsible for these killings. There have also been notable improvements over the last few years in how femicide cases are contextualized within media reports, with identification of the root causes of violence and the connection between these killings and a gendered-social problem. Another notable shift that has been seen is the use of the term femicide within media coverage. Not only does this connect these killings to gender-based violence but also helps to identify the rates of femicides within the province for the general public.

The media has an invaluable role to play in shifting public understanding and awareness of the issue and facilitating connection to services, and the improvements that have been seen in media reporting have been welcomed. To assist with media reporting on femicide, OAITH and the University of Guelph developed a resource including a number of existing recommendations and best practices for media reporting on this issue.

The 2022 - 2023 Annual Media Analysis can be accessed here:  
[2022 2023 Annual Femicide Media Analysis](#)

The Femicide Reporting Recommendations can be accessed here:  
[English](#)  
[French](#)

[mulberryfinder.ca](https://mulberryfinder.ca)

To locate phone/chat/text support  
through gender-based violence  
services in Ontario

**Suggested Citation:**

Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH).  
2023. December Monthly Femicide in Ontario Factsheet.

**Annual Lists:** [bit.ly/AnnualFemicideLists](https://bit.ly/AnnualFemicideLists)

**Learn More:** [bit.ly/WeCountFemicideBecause](https://bit.ly/WeCountFemicideBecause)

**Media Tips:**

[bit.ly/FemicideMediaTips](https://bit.ly/FemicideMediaTips)

**Monthly  
Snapshots:**

[bit.ly/MonthlyFemicideReports](https://bit.ly/MonthlyFemicideReports)



**BUILDING A  
BIGGER WAVE**  
Ontario Network for VAW  
Coordinating Committees

Questions, Errors or Omissions: [info@oait.h.ca](mailto:info@oait.h.ca)



Enbridge Gas Inc.  
500 Consumers Road  
North York, Ontario M2J 1P8  
Canada

January 24, 2024

Your Worship and Members of Council,

I am writing to inform you of our concerns with the [Ontario Energy Board's \(OEB\) decision on Phase 1 of the Enbridge Gas 2024 rebasing application](#), issued on December 21, 2023. The disappointing decision puts future access to natural gas in doubt and sets a deliberate course to eliminate natural gas from Ontario's energy mix. This decision is about the millions of Ontarians who rely on natural gas to keep their homes warm, and the many businesses throughout Ontario who depend on natural gas for day-to-day operation.

Our 2024 rate rebasing application was designed to provide our customers with safe and reliable natural gas at a reasonable cost, in addition to measured steps to help Ontario advance a practical transition to a sustainable energy future. Natural gas plays a critical role in Ontario's energy evolution mix while supporting the reliability of Ontario's electricity system. Natural gas meets 30 percent of Ontario's energy needs, which can not be easily or quickly replaced.

**We are taking action to secure the future of natural gas in your communities. We are filing a motion in late January to review evidence with the OEB and seeking a judicial review of this decision.**

Without natural gas, communities across Ontario will feel the impacts of this decision in their everyday lives – the stakes are high.

- **Energy Affordability:** Those looking to connect to natural gas will be required to pay an upfront fee, which creates a significant financial barrier to all forms of residential and commercial development. This resulting fee adds thousands of dollars to individual consumers' cost to obtain or expand gas service.
- **Economic Growth:** This decision will put economic developments in your community at risk. The decision limits the ability of future expansion projects to support regional investment to meet the ever-growing energy needs in your community and communities across Ontario. That includes greenhouses, grain dryers, industrial parks, and any new businesses or housing developments seeking access to natural gas.
- **Energy Access:** Preserving customer choice is critical. Constraining access to natural gas through a reduction in capital will significantly limit the future development of essential energy infrastructure vital to moving manufacturing, agriculture, and the consumer goods industry in Ontario.
- **Energy Security:** On an annual basis, natural gas delivers twice the energy to Ontario than electricity, and five times the maximum peak capacity of Ontario's electricity grid at a quarter of the cost. Even in the worst weather conditions, our reliable natural gas system delivers.

**As local leaders across the province, your voice matters, and we encourage you to take action.**

Reach out to your MPP to share your support for the government's [quick action](#) and write the OEB about the consequences of reduced access to the natural gas grid to support economic development, housing growth, energy reliability. Use your voice to acknowledge the need for natural gas and infrastructure in Ontario today and into the future while we take a measured step towards energy transition.

We ask that you reach out to your municipal advisor or find us at [municipalaffairs@enbridge.com](mailto:municipalaffairs@enbridge.com) to get started.

Sincerely,

Michele Harradence  
President  
Enbridge Gas Inc.

Jan. 25, 2024

Mayor Ian Boddy  
City of Owen Sound  
808 2nd Ave. E.  
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4

Dear Mayor Boddy:

On behalf of Georgian College, I want to draw your attention to [the major reforms](#) to the International Student Program recently announced by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and the significant impacts they could have on the college, our students, local employers and communities.

IRCC introduced a cap of 360,000 new permits for 2024, a 35% reduction from 2023. Individual provincial and territorial caps have been established, weighted by population, which will result in much more significant decreases in provinces where the international student population has seen the most growth. In Ontario, we could see close to 50% fewer permits issued. While the rationale for this policy change is rooted in understandable concerns around housing and health-care capacity, the impact of this on communities across Canada should not be underestimated. International students are vital contributors to our economy, our labour market and add diversity and vibrancy to communities from coast to coast to coast.

**Of particular grave, immediate concern is IRCC's implementation of a moratorium on student visa processing until March 31, 2024 – the deadline for provinces to introduce a system to manage attestation letters for international students.** This processing moratorium is creating much uncertainty about the outlook for not just September, but even spring enrolment. Put bluntly, by halting processing, IRCC is jeopardizing our ability to attract new students to the region next year. This is a critical time of year when students across the world decide where they will travel to study, and right now, the disruption in the system is already hurting Canada's hard-earned global reputation as a leader in providing international education and creating uncertainty among local businesses and communities. Right now, the situation is generating significant concerns and anxiety here at the college and we know that students are worried.

Out of Georgian's 12,488 full-time students, 6,300 are international students from 86 countries, speaking 50+ languages. International students enrich our classrooms, campuses and regions – and many will stay after graduation to build a life in Canada. These students are choosing us because of our high-quality education, wrap-around support services and inclusive environment. We need them to meet the demands of our local labour force and to help grow and strengthen our economy. We're committed to doing our part to ensure they feel seen, heard, valued, know they belong and have access to the resources and supports needed to flourish.



International students contribute \$22B to the Canadian economy and the financial repercussions these caps are going to have will negatively impact our community. Depending on how they are implemented, these policy changes could represent a loss of up to \$50 million for our college and, by extension, our communities.

This shift will bring severe and long-term impacts reducing access to postsecondary for domestic and international students, increasing unemployment across our region and further aggravating already substantial labour market shortages in critical sectors such as health care, skilled trades and technology. The economic impact for our region could also be compounded as our college will be unable to run some programs as student numbers are reduced. This will result in fewer program offerings for Canadian students and will hinder the college sector's ability to respond to the needs of local employers.

I ask that you reach out to the Minister of IRCC and relay your concerns about the unintended and far-reaching consequences this policy will have here in our region and to, at a minimum, lift the moratorium on study permit processing for college student applicants.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to working together to ensure that our communities continue to thrive.

Kind regards,



Kevin Weaver  
President and CEO



# ORANGEVILLE POLICE SERVICES BOARD

c/o Town of Orangeville – 87 Broadway, Orangeville L9W 1K1 Telephone: (519) 941-5650

Fax: (519) 940-8275

**Chair T. Taylor • Vice-Chair I. McSweeney • L. Post • K. Krakar**

January 30, 2024

On January 16, 2024, the Orangeville Police Services Board passed the following resolution:

***“WHEREAS*** the safety and well-being of the Orangeville community and its residents are of paramount importance to the Orangeville Police Services Board and;

***WHEREAS*** Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) also known as domestic violence, poses a significant threat to the security and welfare of individuals within our community, involving any use of physical or sexual force, as well as emotional and psychological abuse in intimate relationships and;

***WHEREAS*** on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Justice Minister Arif Virani acknowledged gender-based violence as an epidemic and committed to addressing this issue comprehensively at the federal level and;

***WHEREAS*** it is imperative for local law enforcement to actively contribute to community safety and well-being by addressing the rising incidents of Intimate Partner Violence, particularly considering the alarming increase during the COVID-19 pandemic;

***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:***

1. *The Orangeville Police Services Board receives and endorses the resolutions by both Orangeville Council and Dufferin County Council with regards to IPV.*
2. *The Orangeville Police Services Board recognizes IPV as a significant concern affecting the safety and welfare of Orangeville residents.*
3. *The Orangeville Police Services Board commits to prioritizing the prevention and response to IPV within the community.*
4. *The Orangeville Police Services Board will collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including local government, community organizations, and social support services, to ensure that the prevention and response to IPV is prioritized in the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan including specific action steps to address IPV.*
5. *The Orangeville Police Services Board will actively engage in public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives aimed at preventing IPV and promoting healthy relationships within the community.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:***

*The Executive Assistant for the Orangeville Police Services Board be directed to share this resolution with the Town of Orangeville, the County of Dufferin, all Ontario Municipalities, and Police Services Boards.”*

Sincerely,

The Orangeville Police Services Board

Cc      Orangeville Town Council  
          Dufferin County Council  
          Ontario Municipalities  
          Ontario Police Services Boards



# Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin

## Council Resolution

**Date:** January 30, 2024

**Resolution Number:** 2024- 30

**Moved By:** Councillor Manson

**Seconded By:** Councillor Grant

**Whereas** under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed;  
**And Whereas** over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of churches and local cemetery boards initiating processes to transfer ownership or abandon their owned and operated cemeteries to the local municipality due to such issues as high maintenance costs, inaccuracy of records, lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery, increased regulatory processes regarding training, selling of interment rights, financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.;

**And Whereas** municipalities experience the same issues and pressures that churches and local boards experience with the operation and maintenance of cemeteries within its jurisdiction, and additional transfers of cemetery lands only compound the burden on municipal taxpayers;  
**And Whereas** cemeteries are important infrastructure where the reasonable costs for interment rights, burials, monument foundations, corner stones and administration charges do not sufficiently support the general operation of cemeteries;

**And Whereas** the interest earned from the care and maintenance fund(s) of a cemetery do not provide adequate funding to maintain the cemetery with the rising costs of lawn and turf maintenance contracts and monument restoration;

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved** that Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

- Amending the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;

- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries;
  - Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
  - Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost;
- And that this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, MPP Jill Dunlop, MPP Vic Fedeli and all Ontario municipalities.

**Results: Carried**

<u>Member of Council</u>	<u>In Favour</u>	<u>Opposed</u>
Mayor Gould	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Grant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Latimer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Manson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Moreton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin Council Resolution

**Date:** January 30, 2024

**Resolution Number:** 2024-31

**Moved By:** Councillor Moreton

**Seconded By:** Councillor Manson

**Background:** Before Calvin township became a township, it was burned by numerous forest fires. This was before the time of fire towers, water bombers, and municipal fire departments. A 1881 report from Lawrence Tallan, Provincial Land surveyor, states: *"The township of Calvin has been traversed by repeated and severe fires – so well have the flames done their work that with the exception of an insignificant portion, scarcely a vestige of the original timber remains."*

History has a way of repeating itself, and now rural municipalities and remote areas need more than ever to be prepared to respond to forest fires. Invasive pests like the emerald ash borer and the spruce bud worm are killing large numbers of trees, leaving copious amounts of dry kindling in our forests just waiting for a careless human or a lightning strike. Our forests are choked with deadfall and forest fires are becoming increasingly difficult to control. Add to this the effects of rising temperatures and drier seasons, or climate change, and we could be facing increasingly disastrous forest fires. This is not the time to be caught short with limited forest fire-fighting resources.

Jordan Omstead of the Canadian Press recently wrote: "But as Canada's water bombers age – and wildfire seasons are expected to intensify – some wildland



firefighters and emergency preparedness experts say the country needs to prop up its fleet of firefighting aircraft, even though several provinces are playing down concerns about capacity.” He quotes Eric Davidson, president of the Ontario Professional Association of Wildland Firefighters, “We’re really starting to see the effect of the aging fleet.”

The article further states the John Gradek, lecturer at McGill University estimates that almost half of the larger water bombers used to fight Canadian forest fires are nearing the end of their service life.

However, a Canadian company making a large skimmer-style water bomber is backed up with orders from European countries until the end of the decade.

Ontario has its own fleet of aircraft. They have 20 fixed-wing aircraft which includes 9 CL215 and CL415 water bombers that are 24 years old on average. The remaining 11 aircraft are an average of 54 years old. Melissa Candelaria, a spokesperson for Minister Graydon Smith says the MNR can handle Ontario fires with these aircraft, but Jennifer Kamau, communications manager for the Canada Interagency Forest Fire Centre, CIFFC, noted that other provinces contract out firebombers and last year there was a strain in Canada to get the resources to areas in need because there were so many fires across the country at the same time and very few aircraft available.

Peter Zimonjic of the CBC quoted the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) President Ken McMullen, “It's not often that the fire chiefs sound the alarm. We are very concerned about this impending crisis that the summer of 2024 and beyond is going to bring our sector.”

In 2023 we all smelled the smoke and saw the sky turn brown. Buildings can be replaced, but lives cannot. And once an area is burned it takes more than a lifetime for it to return to its original state.

**WHEREAS** Forest fires are a very real threat to rural municipalities.

**AND WHEREAS** smoke from forest fires put people's health at risk. This is especially true of children and the elderly. The David Suzuki Foundation reports that wildfires kill many thousands of people per year and most of the deaths are from smoke inhalation.

**AND WHEREAS** forest fires are a very real danger to the climate and according to The Guardian, in 2023 they emitted three times as much carbon as the entire carbon footprint of Canada.

**AND WHEREAS** according to the John Crace interview in The Guardian with William Kurz, a retired scientist with Natural Resources Canada, around two billion tonnes of carbon have been released into the atmosphere from forest fires in 2023.

**AND WHEREAS** carbon emissions from forest fires are not counted against Canada's Paris agreement commitments, according to Kurz, but they far exceeded all of the emissions tied to Canada's economy (670 mega tonnes, or 0.67 billion tonnes, according to Environment and Climate Change Canada).

**AND WHEREAS** that standing healthy forest serves as a carbon sink, drawing in carbon, but once destroyed by fire, even though second growth takes its place, it is much less effective for many decades.

**AND WHEREAS** the federal government owns no water bombers and assists the provinces through the CIFFC, Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, a spokesperson with CIFFC says that last year there were too many requests and not enough inventory to meet the needs of the country.

**AND WHEREAS** as reported by De Havilland Canada who manufacture the Canadian made water bomber, they have contracts with European countries for the next 22 of its new DHC-515 planes, which will take until 2029 or 2030 to complete and there will be very little production available to replace the aging water bombers in Ontario and the rest of Canada.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the council of the Corporation of Calvin Township urges and encourages the Federal Government to commit additional funds for cost sharing of provincial firefighting and to consider the development of a national strategy of firefighting. Furthermore, we urge the federal government to consider the measures necessary for acquiring a national fleet of Canadian-made waterbombers, with home bases strategically located to best serve and respond to the needs of rural communities, and a national fire administration to better coordinate and manage efforts across the country. We also encourage the introduction of a program similar to the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) which was ended in 2013.

And we encourage Minister Graydon Smith to step up the on-the-ground firefighting capability and water bomber acquisitions in Ontario.

**AND THAT** this resolution be forwarded to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of National Defence, The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry of Ontario, The Honourable Vic Fideli, Minister of Economic Development Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FMC) and the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO).

**AND THAT** this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario for their consideration and adoption.

**Results: Carried**

**Recorded Vote:**

<u>Member of Council</u>	<u>In Favour</u>	<u>Opposed</u>
Mayor Gould	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Moreton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Latimer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Grant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Manson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>