



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COUNCIL WEEKLY CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION

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Friday, March 27, 2026

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If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend or participate in meetings or events, please contact the Accessibility Advisor at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 (office), 289-929-8376 (cellphone) or accessibility@niagararegion.ca (email).

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-50

Subject: Council Motion Niagara-on-the-Lake regarding York Road at Four Mile Creek Road Roundabout Construction

Date: Friday, March 27, 2026

To: Council

From: Frank Tassone, Director, Transportation Services

In 2020, staff began a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) to review options for the Intersection Improvement of York Road and Four Mile Creek Road in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The purpose of the MCEA was to examine options to improve intersection operations and geometry, and to accommodate significant development planned/occurring in the general Mile area surrounding the intersection.

The project fell within the requirements of a Schedule C MCEA. As such, staff undertook a rigorous public consultation process focused on geometric improvements, improved conditions for all modes of transportation and reduction of traffic delays for both current and future operations.

Results of the in-depth consultation process can be found in the following appendices from report, [Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Intersection Improvements to York Road and Four Mile Creek Road](https://www.niagararegion.ca/projects/regional-road-100/default.aspx)

(<https://www.niagararegion.ca/projects/regional-road-100/default.aspx>):

- Appendix A Consultation
- Appendix B Transportation Assessment
- Appendix G Intersection Evaluation
- Appendix H Active Transportation

The project report was filed for public review in June 2022, and no opposition to the project was received by the Minister.

Detailed design for the project commenced in late 2023 and is approaching 65% completion.

On January 27, 2026, at its regular Council Meeting, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council passed the following motion (attached as Appendix 1).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake formally requests that Niagara Region place a hold on the St. Davids roundabout project until the completion of the forthcoming Transportation Master Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT an additional safety review or community consultation be requested from the Region based off the Regional Transportation Master Plan.

As a follow-up to the attached motion Region staff have or will be undertaking the following tasks:

- Respond to the Town Clerk notifying Niagara-on-the-Lake that the York Road at Four Mike Creek Road project will proceed as planned.
- Perform a safety audit as part of the subject project, implementing any suggestions from such audit.
- Execute a robust road user training program focused on the proper use of Roundabouts, with specific emphasis on education for school-aged children in collaboration with St. Davids Public School.

For Council's awareness, the Transportation Master Plan is a macro level study. As such, it won't be recommending treatments for individual intersections. There is no benefit to placing this project on hold to wait for the completion of the ongoing Transportation Master Plan as it will not provide any information that would alter the treatment at the intersection of York Road and Four Mike Creek Road.

For further information related to the MCEA or to view a copy of the study report, please visit the [Project Webpage](https://www.niagararegion.ca/projects/regional-road-100/default.aspx) (https://www.niagararegion.ca/projects/regional-road-100/default.aspx).

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Frank Tassone, C.E.T.
Director, Transportation Services

Appendices

Appendix 1 Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Motion

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

February 26, 2026

Regional Municipality of Niagara
1815 Sir Issac Brock Way,
Box 1042
Thorold ON
L2V 4T7

Attention: Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk

Dear Ms. Norio:

RE: Niagara Region Transportation Master Plan

Please be advised the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the Lake, at its regular meeting held on January 27, 2026, approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of Niagara has a proposed design for a traffic roundabout in St. Davids; and

WHEREAS safety should be a core consideration moving forward in the design and implementation of the roundabout; and

WHEREAS it would be prudent for any major investment or construction on the roundabout to align with the updated Transportation Master Plan once finalized;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake formally requests that Niagara Region place a hold on the St. Davids roundabout project until the completion of the forthcoming Transportation Master Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT an additional safety review or community consultation be requested from the Region based off the Regional Transportation Master Plan.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact my office at 905-468-6488.

Sincerely,



Grant Bivol
Town Clerk/ Manager of Legislative Services

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-51

Subject: Summary of Active Bid Solicitations

Date: Friday, March 27, 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Bart Menage, Director, Procurement Services

Please be advised that the Bid Solicitations included in Appendix 1 are currently active.

As per the Procurement By-law 2025-57, section 19. Reporting, item 19.1 The Director, Procurement Services shall:

(a) report to Council on a weekly basis via Councillor Weekly Correspondence Distribution:

(i) a summary of active Bid Solicitations.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Bart Menage
Director, Procurement Services

Appendices

Appendix 1 Summary of Active Bid Solicitations

Bid Number	Name	Closing Date
2026-RFP-21	Transportation Biennial Bridge Condition Study Engineering Services for Bridge and Culvert Inspection	March 26, 2026
2025-T-44	Port Colborne Water Treatment Plant UV Upgrades	March 30, 2026
2026-T-14	Thorold Transportation Building Renovation Project – Construction Contractor	March 31, 2026
2026-RFP-13	Tree Supply and Tree Planting Services Contract	April 02, 2026
2026-Q-36	Adobe Software License Renewals for NRPS	April 07, 2026
2026-RFI-34	Customer Relationship Management System	April 07, 2026
2026-T-18	Niagara Region LTC - Commercial Kitchen Equipment Replacement & Upgrades	April 09, 2026
2026-T-2	Supply & Installation of Decals on Niagara Transit Commission Vehicles	April 09, 2026
2025-RFP-199	HVAC Demand and Preventive Maintenance Services for Long-Term Care Homes	April 13, 2026
2026-RFP-27	Supply, Delivery Maintenance and Commissioning of Dual-View Inductively Coupled Plasma -Optical Emission Spectrometer (ICP-OES) for the Niagara Region Environmental Laboratory (NREL)	April 14, 2026
2026-T-31	Supply of Sewer Flow Meter Equipment for Gravity Sewer Mains	April 14, 2026
2024-T-194	St. Catharines Train Station – Exterior/Interior Alterations – Phase II	April 16, 2026
2025-RFP-247	Niagara Homelessness Service System – Geneva Supportive Housing	April 16, 2026
2025-T-222	Park Road Reservoir Generator Replacement	April 21, 2026
2026-T-22	6271 Glengate St., Branscombe Child Care, Interior/Exterior Renovation for Service Expansion	April 21, 2026
2026-RFP-23	RR16 Sodom Road - Lyon's Creek Rd to Willick Rd - Road Reconstruction	April 22, 2026

Bid Number	Name	Closing Date
2026-T-38	Supply and Delivery of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems and Accessories for the Niagara Regional Police Service	April 22, 2026
2025-RFP-217	Provision for Security Consulting Services on Video Surveillance	April 24, 2026
2025-T-243	Landfill Manhole Safety Gratings	April 27, 2026

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-52

Subject: Champions for Seniors Services Charity Golf Tournament

Date: March 27, 2026

To: Public Health and Social Services Committee

From: Paolo Varias, Director, Seniors Services

This correspondence is to inform members of Council of the upcoming Champions for Seniors Services Charity Golf Tournament, taking place on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at Rockway Vineyards Golf Course. This inaugural event has been established to support initiatives that enhance the quality of life, connection, and engagement of seniors across our community.

The tournament will feature a 1 p.m. shotgun start, with a BBQ lunch served between 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., followed by an evening dinner at 6 p.m. at Windows on Rockway, overlooking the vineyard grounds.

Many seniors in long-term care and community-based programs experience social isolation and limited access to meaningful recreational opportunities. Proceeds from this event will directly support initiatives that expand engagement and enrich the lives of those we serve, including enhanced recreation programming, community outings, and Adult Day Program initiatives.

While this correspondence is intended for information purposes, members of Council are welcome to participate should they wish. Opportunities include registering a foursome, sponsoring the event, or contributing a raffle prize. More information regarding this event can be found at [Champions for Seniors Services Charity Golf Tournament - Niagara Region, Ontario](https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/seniors/golf-tournament/default.aspx) (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/seniors/golf-tournament/default.aspx>)

Should you require additional information or wish to explore participation opportunities, please contact Jodi Healey, Tournament Chair, at seniorsevents@niagararegion.ca.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Paolo Varias, RN, GNC, MSc, MMgt/IMHL
Director, Seniors Services

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-53

Subject: 2026 Provincial Budget Analysis

Date: Friday March 27, 2026

To: Niagara Regional Council

From: Rachael Ball-Condron, Government Relations Program Manager

On March 26, 2026, the provincial government released Budget 2026, [A Plan to Protect Ontario](https://budget.ontario.ca/2026/contents.html) (<https://budget.ontario.ca/2026/contents.html>). This memo summarizes notable funding announcements and provides an analysis of potential impacts for Niagara Region.

Key themes throughout Budget 2026 include:

- Supporting a competitive, resilient and self-reliant economy amid heightened trade and geopolitical tension.
- Addressing cost-of-living and housing affordability concerns through continued program spending cuts and tax cuts. This includes removing the full 13 per cent HST for first-time home buyers purchasing a home valued up to \$1.85 million, as well as removing the 8 per cent provincial portion of the HST on qualifying purpose-built rental housing.

Niagara Mentions

Niagara received eight notable mentions within Budget 2026. These mentions highlighted the following provincial investments within the region.

- Infrastructure investments, including:
 - Water and wastewater projects supported through the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program, as well as investments in irrigation pipelines.
 - Transportation and transit infrastructure, specifically the twinning of the QEW over the Welland Canal and continued efforts to expand two-way, all-day GO train service to Niagara, Hamilton and the GTA.
 - The construction of a new elementary school in Lincoln, as well as the South Niagara Hospital in Niagara Falls.

- Supporting strategic investments from automakers, including Asahi Kasei's manufacturing facility in Port Colborne.
- Public Safety investments, including building modular facilities to increase the capacity of provincial jails and the HART Hub investment.

Notable Announcements

Destination Niagara Strategy

- Budget 2026 reaffirmed the Government of Ontario's intention to grow annual tourism visits to Niagara to 25 million, doubling Niagara's tourism impact and adding about \$3 billion to Ontario's gross domestic product (GDP) each year. Key priorities include enhancing tourism attractions, while also offering world-class gaming, wine and culinary experiences, arts and culture and transportation improvements.
- Upcoming initiatives include procurements for a new observation wheel, revitalization of the Niagara Parks Marina, redevelopment of the Ontario Power Generation Station, exploration of a signature theme park and a fully accessible, all-season Niagara River Line tram. Transportation initiatives include expanding the QEW, twinning the Garden City Skyway Bridge, increasing GO service and exploring enhanced air access at Niagara District Airport.

Expanding Access to Affordable and Supportive Housing

- Housing start projections for 2026 are 64,800 units, down by 10,000 units from what was forecast in Budget 2025.
- \$53 million over three years will be allocated to expand supportive housing initiatives for vulnerable populations and enhance access to critical mental health services and housing supports. No details were provided regarding how these funds will be operationalized.
- Budget 2026 confirmed the province is working with the federal government to launch a new funding program to support municipalities in increasing the supply of housing, if they agree to significantly reduce development charges. While no further details were provided, this likely connects to the Building Canada Strong Fund, Provincial-Territorial Stream announced in the 2025 Federal Budget. See [CL-C 71-2025 Government of Canada 2025 Budget Analysis](http://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=45866) ([http://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId= 45866](http://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=45866)) for more detail.

Health Services

- Spending growth was announced for hospitals (\$1.1 billion), home and community care (\$1.1 billion over three years), and long-term care (\$139.4 million), but no changes to local share requirements for hospital development were included.
- A \$139.4 million injection for annual long-term care funding will maintain existing services for residents (\$95.3 million starting in 2026-27) and ensure residents receive four hours of direct care per day from nurses and personal support workers (\$44.1 million starting in 2026-27).

Program Investments

Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF)

- As announced in the 2024 Fall Economic Statement, the province increased OMPF investments by \$100 million over two years, bringing the total funding envelope to \$600 million by 2026.
- **Potential Niagara Impact:** dedicated to small, rural and Northern municipalities, the OMPF supported all area municipalities within Niagara in 2024 and 2025.

Operation Deterrence 2.0

- Building on Operation Deterrence launched in 2025, \$32.5 million will be invested in 2026-27 to enhance border policing capacity. This investment will establish two new border security grants including:
 - The Border Security Grant to support municipalities in acquiring specialized assets, such as drones, marine vessels and surveillance technologies.
 - The Border Integrity Investigation Fund to provide targeted operational funding to police services to address border-related enforcement gaps.
- **Potential Niagara Impact:** as a border municipality, there is potential for the Region to explore funding opportunities once program details are released.

Analysis

The majority of spending priorities announced in Budget 2026 are a continuation of commitments made in the Fall Economic Statement. This includes progress updates on investments in critical mineral expansion through the Ring of Fire and fast-tracking mining projects through a One Project, One Process framework. Budget 2026 also

provided updates on the province's multi-year Tax Action Plan, such as \$3.5 billion in tax relief over four years to qualifying businesses.

Budget 2026 enhances previous private sector investment through top-ups for the Life Sciences Scale-Up Fund (\$24 million over three years, starting in 2026-27) and the Ontario Research Fund (\$117.1 million over three years, starting in 2026-27). It also establishes the Protect Ontario Account Investment Fund through a \$4 billion injection that will be used to identify and execute economy-enabling investment opportunities in industries such as defence, advanced manufacturing and AI.

Background

General remarks on Canada's economic health include the following:

- Total revenue is projected to increase from \$226.2 billion in 2024–25 to \$254.1 billion in 2028–29, representing an average annual growth rate of 3 per cent.
- A deficit of \$12.3 billion is projected for 2025-26 (\$2.3 billion less than reported in the 2025 Budget). Over the medium term, the government is projecting deficits of \$13.8 billion in 2026–27 and \$6.1 billion in 2027–28, before planning for a surplus of \$0.6 billion in 2028–29, including reserve and contingencies.
- Ontario's program expense outlook is expected to grow from \$212.1 billion in 2024-25 to \$231.3 billion in 2028-29.
- Ontario's real GDP is projected to grow by 1.0 per cent in 2026, 1.7 per cent in 2027, 1.8 per cent in 2028 and 2.0 per cent in 2029.
- In 2025, Ontario's employment increased by 80,900 net jobs (a decrease of 59,100 net jobs from 2024), while the unemployment rate averaged 7.7 per cent, up from 7 per cent in 2024.
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rose by an average of 1.9 per cent in 2025, following an increase of 2.4 per cent in 2024. Energy inflation fell by 7.4 per cent, while food inflation rose by 3.2 per cent.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Rachael Ball-Condron, MPA
Government Relations Program Manager

March 12th, 2026

The Honourable Rosemary Moodie, Senator
Chair, Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology
The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A4

Sent via email: Rosemary.Moodie@sen.parl.gc.ca

Dear Senator Moodie,

Re: Endorsement of Middlesex-London Health Unit Policy Position on Alcohol Labelling

On behalf of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) Board of Health, we are writing to formally express our strong support for the Middlesex-London Health Unit's (MLHU) Policy Position on Alcohol Labelling and the recommendations outlined in Report No. 0526, including support for federal action through Bill S-202, *An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (warning label on alcoholic beverages)*.

We commend the Middlesex-London Board of Health and Health Unit staff for their leadership in promoting an evidence-informed policy position to address the substantial and preventable health harms associated with alcohol use. Alcohol continues to be a major contributor to chronic disease, injury, and premature mortality in Canada, and it remains the only legalized psychoactive substance that is not required to display comprehensive, regulated health warning labels.

Alcohol Harms in Windsor-Essex County

The concerns outlined by MLHU closely reflect the situation in Windsor-Essex. Alcohol-attributable harms place a significant and ongoing burden on our local health system, emergency services, and community wellbeing.

Local surveillance and provincial estimates further highlight the impact of alcohol in Windsor-Essex:

- 62% of residents report regular alcohol use.
- Over 2,000 emergency department visits in 2024 were attributable to alcohol, far exceeding opioid-related visits.
- Annual alcohol-related rates include:
 - 416.13 emergency room visits per 100,000 residents, and
 - 260 hospitalizations per 100,000 residents, which exceeds the provincial average.
- Public Health Ontario (2023) estimates alcohol contributes annually to:
 - 142 deaths,
 - 560 hospitalizations, and
 - 4,395 ER visits in Windsor-Essex.

These harms also contribute to pressures on local emergency response services, including potential impacts during Code Black periods linked to high call volumes and offload delays.

Together, these data reinforce that alcohol-related harm is a significant and persistent public health concern in our region and underscores the need for strengthened alcohol policy measures at the national level.

Rationale for Alcohol Labelling

We strongly support MLHU's position that mandatory, standardized alcohol labelling is a modest yet highly effective measure to improve consumer awareness and reduce harm. Evidence demonstrates that clear, well-designed labels:

- Increase awareness of cancer and chronic disease risks, even at low levels of consumption;
- Improve understanding of alcohol strength and standard drink size;
- Support informed decision-making at the point of purchase and consumption; and
- Complement Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health in a format accessible across socioeconomic groups.

Alcohol labelling is consistent with Canada's approach to other legalized substances, including tobacco and non-medical cannabis, which must display standardized health warnings and product details. Closing this policy gap for alcohol represents an important, evidence-based measure to help reduce preventable harm.

Endorsement and Call to Action

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Board of Health fully endorses:

- The Middlesex-London Health Unit Policy Position on Alcohol Labelling (Appendix C, Report No, 0526), and
- The Statement from Provincial and Territorial Chief Medical Officers of Health on Labelling of Alcohol Products.

Both of which call for mandatory alcohol labels that include:

1. Prominent, rotating health warning messages;
2. Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health; and
3. Clear standard drink information per container and per serving.

A coordinated national approach to alcohol labelling will help reduce preventable harms, strengthen health equity, and support Canadians in making informed choices.

Thank you for your leadership on this important public health issue. We look forward to continued collaboration to advance evidence-based policy that protects and promotes the health and wellbeing of Canadians.

Sincerely,



Joe Bachetti

Chair; Board of Health, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit

References

Public Health Ontario. (2023). *Burden of health conditions attributable to smoking and alcohol by public health unit in Ontario (Appendix A: Estimates)*. <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Health-Topics/Health-Promotion/Tobacco/Smoking-Alcohol>

Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction. (2023). *Canada's guidance on alcohol and health: Final report*. https://www.ccsa.ca/sites/default/files/2023-01/CCSA_Canadas_Guidance_on_Alcohol_and_Health_Final_Report_en.pdf

Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction. (2025, November 21). *Statement from the Provincial and Territorial Chief Medical Officers of Health on labelling of alcohol products*. Drink Less Live More. <https://drinklesslivemore.ca/en/statement-provincial-territorial-chief-medical-officers-health-labelling>

Windsor-Essex County Health Unit. (2025). *Alcohol/Smoking Dashboard* <https://www.wechu.org/reports/alcoholsmoking-dashboard>

CC:

Board of Health for the Middlesex-London Health Unit

Board of Health for the Northwestern Health Unit

The Honourable Flordeliz (Gigi) Osler, Senator

The Honourable Dawn Arnold, Senator

The Honourable Victor Boudreau, Senator

The Honourable Patrick Brazeau, Senator

The Honourable Sharon Burey, Senator

The Honourable Margo Greenwood, Senator

The Honourable Katherine Hay, Senator

The Honourable Marty Klyne, Senator

The Honourable Marilou McPhedran, Senator

The Honourable Tracy Muggli, Senator

The Honourable Chantal Petitclerc, Senator

The Honourable Paulette Senior, Senator

Harb Gill, Member of Parliament for Windsor West

Kathy Borrelli, Member of Parliament for Windsor- Tecumseh- Lakeshore

Chris Lewis, Member of Parliament for Essex

Dave Epp, Member of Parliament for Chatham-Kent-Leamington

Andrew Dowie, Member of Provincial Parliament for Windsor-Tecumseh

Lisa Gretzky, Member of Provincial Parliament for Windsor West

Anthony Leardi, Member of Provincial Parliament for Essex

Trevor Jones, Member of Provincial Parliament for Chatham -Kent- Leamington

City of Windsor

County of Essex

Ontario Boards of Health

Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa)



The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby

Administration

Office of the Town Clerk

160 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby, ON L3M 0J5

Phone: 905-945-9634 Ext. 2171 | **Fax:** 905-945-5010

Email: vs Steele@grimsby.ca

Thursday, March 26, 2026

SENT VIA E-MAIL

premier@ontario.ca

Attention: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

RE: Niagara Governance Update

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby at its meeting held on Monday March 26, 2026, approved the following motion:

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the Town of Grimsby supports the motion passed by Regional Council on February 26, 2026, regarding the governance review;
2. Resolved that Council endorse a reduction in Council size from eight (8) Councillors to six (6) for the 2026 municipal election and implementing Option 2B or 3 from the 2021 Council Structure and Ward Boundary Review Final Report, and a peer-review be completed to confirm projections, boundary rationale, and effective representation principles remain valid, **if mandated by the Province;**
3. Resolved that the Town Clerk be directed to confirm with the Premier and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing that without provincial intervention, the above changes cannot take place until the 2030 election; and
4. That the Town Clerk be directed to circulate this motion to the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Premier of Ontario.

CARRIED



The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby

Administration

Office of the Town Clerk

160 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby, ON L3M 0J5

Phone: 905-945-9634 Ext. 2171 | **Fax:** 905-945-5010

Email: vsteele@grimsby.ca

If you require any other additional information, please let me know.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'V Steele'.

Victoria Steele
Town Clerk

CC:

Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Regional Municipality of Niagara

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416 585-7000



234-2026-881

March 26, 2026

Robert Foster
Acting Regional Chair
Regional Municipality of Niagara
robert.foster@niagararegion.ca

Dear Robert Foster:

On March 11, 2026, Niagara Regional Chair Robert Gale resigned from his position as head of council for The Regional Municipality of Niagara. I have accepted his resignation.

Considering the vacancy, I am writing to advise Niagara Regional Council of my intention to make an order under section 218.3 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, to appoint a new Chair of Niagara Region to serve for the remainder of the current term of council.

I will share details about the intended appointee in the coming weeks.

We are committed to working collaboratively with the Region and will be providing further details as we work to finalize the appointment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nathaniel Aguda, Regional Director, Municipal Services Office Central, Priority Projects Branch at nathaniel.aguda@ontario.ca or 647-287-0637.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Flack".

Hon. Robert J. Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

cc: Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, MMAH
Laurie Miller, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division, MMAH
Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal and Housing and Operations Division, MMAH
Ron Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer
Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk



Office of the Regional Chair | Bob Gale
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042 Thorold, ON L2V 4T7
Telephone: 905-980-6000 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-685-6243
Email: Bob.Gale@niagararegion.ca
www.niagararegion.ca

CWCD 2026-56

March 11th, 2026

Dear Minister Flack,

As a lifelong resident of Niagara, I was deeply honoured to take on the important work of being Chair of Niagara Region, and I took the responsibility to undertake a governance review seriously.

As everyone knows, I am a passionate historian with a broad collection of historical art and artifacts. My collection includes an 1859 letter from anti-slavery advocate John Brown, a letter from George Washington, a letter from Winston Churchill and Vatican archives. I also have a signed copy of the first book in 1685 about Niagara Falls by Father Hennepin.

Today, a member of the communist party circulated a dated document that listed my name as the owner of a historical book found in many libraries.

When I undertook the necessary work to start fixing the issues at the Niagara Region, there was a strong vocal minority who decided they would stop at nothing in order to keep their fiefdoms and addiction to power and tax dollars. They wish to paint a picture that is untrue and hurtful to my family, my friends, and those in Niagara that believe in the hard work I have undertaken.

This work is bigger than any one person, including me. This is about making the changes for the people of Niagara who desperately need and deserve change.

I want to thank the Regional staff for their dedication, and the Mayors who supported my recommendations.

Please accept this letter as my formal resignation from my position as Regional Chair of the Niagara Region, effective immediately.

The Churchill piece in my collection states the following: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

I hope that you will continue this path in support of taxpayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bob Gale".

**Ministry for Seniors
and Accessibility**

Minister

College Park
777 Bay Street
5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1S5

**Ministère des Services aux
aînés et de l'Accessibilité**

Ministre

College Park
777, rue Bay
5e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1S5



March 2026,

Dear Mayor, Reeve and Members of Council:

I am writing to invite you to [nominate](#) an exceptional local senior for the 2026 Ontario Senior of the Year Award.

This award provides each municipality the opportunity to honour one outstanding senior for their contributions to enriching the social, cultural, and civic life of their community.

The deadline for nominations is April 15, 2026.

For more information on how to submit a nomination online, please visit the [Ontario Senior of the Year](#) webpage. Once your nomination is submitted, a personalized certificate with your nominee's name will be sent to you. I encourage you to present this certificate to your nominee in June during Seniors Month.

The Ontario government is proud to celebrate Seniors Month with municipalities across the province. Seniors generously give their time, knowledge and expertise making Ontario the best place in this country to live and work. It is important to take the time to celebrate our older population and acknowledge their invaluable contributions.

If you have any questions regarding the 2026 Ontario Senior of the Year Award, please contact Ontario Honours and Awards at OntarioHonoursAndAwards@ontario.ca.

Thank you for supporting the civic engagement of your local seniors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond Cho".

Raymond Cho
Minister for Seniors and Accessibility



March 26, 2026

In This Issue:

- AMO Launches Campaign to encourage participation in municipal elections.
- Annual Report - Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF).
- Take a look at AMO's Fostering Civility at the Council Table Handguide.
- Proposed Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards
- Ontario Heritage Framework Transformation: Archaeology Program changes
- Proposed Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards
- Applications Open for EASE Grant
- Feedback Requested: Expanding the Canadian Navigable Waters Act.
- Supporting your Run for Municipal Office in 2026: Resources and Workshops
- Indigenous Candidates Thinking of Running for Office
- Better Rural Data for Better Municipal Decisions - join ROMA April 2.
- OSUM 2026: The Small Urban Approach to Municipal Challenges
- Preventing Escalated Behaviours Workshop: Practical Strategies for Safer Municipal Workplaces
- AMO Conference 2026: Registration is open!
- On the Road Again: LAS staff visit Ontario.
- Risk Management Grant - Apply by May 1.
- Apply now: AMCTO-Mitacs Municipal Innovation Internship Program.
- IPAC Emerging Leaders Conference.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO has launched its province-wide campaign, [When You Believe, They Believe](https://whenyoubelieve.ca), to showcase the everyday leadership of Ontarians and how it can translate into municipal office. Visit whenyoubelieve.ca to learn more.

AMO released its [CCBF Annual Report](#) summarizing results from investment of the Fund. Further detail on CCBF activities including progress on Asset Management can be found in the [Outcomes Report](#).

AMO's [Fostering Civility at the Council Table Handguide](#) provides principles, tips, and tools for managing conflict, being an active bystander, adopting civility pledges, and how to build effective working relationships with your council colleagues. This is one of

seven guides found within AMO's Leading with Respect Handguides, which all provide practical tools to help councils and staff manage conflict and foster a culture of civility.

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Transportation is seeking feedback on a proposed regulation that would set mandatory road construction standards for municipalities. [Provide feedback by March 30](#). The Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism is proposing changes to Ontario's Heritage.

Framework to streamline archaeological assessments and set criteria for evaluating Licensed Consultant Archaeologists' compliance records. [Provide feedback by April 5](#).

The Ministry of Transportation is seeking feedback on a proposed regulation that would set mandatory road construction standards for municipalities. [Provide feedback by March 30](#).

The Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant awards up to \$60,000 for small capital projects for people with disabilities and older adults. Applications are open until May 7 at Ontario.ca/EaseGrant.

Federal Matters

Transport Canada needs feedback from the public on their discussion paper on the proposed expansion of the Minor Works Order under the Canadian Navigable Waters Act. [Submit your comments by April 3rd](#).

Education Opportunities

AMO is offering programs designed to support aspiring candidates and returning elected officials. Whether you are considering your first run for office, seeking re-election, representing an underrepresented community, or a youth, we have a program tailored for you. Resources range from helping you make the decision to run or run again, to building your team, crafting your message, and getting out the vote, and includes the Lead Where You Live guide for key steps in the process. [Register for workshops and access resources here](#).

AMO has expanded their Healthy Democracy Leadership Series. AMO is offering a series of workshops for urban Indigenous peoples thinking about running for municipal office in the October 2026 elections. These sessions will provide insights and strategies to build your understanding and confidence around how to become a candidate and run a campaign. [Register here](#).

HEAR Initiative (Health, Economics, Adaptation in Rural Communities Initiative) is developing a new province-wide rural data platform designed to support more informed decision-making in rural communities. Join ROMA for an interactive information

session on Thursday, April 2 at 12:00 p.m. to learn how household-level rural data can help strengthen municipal planning, funding applications, council decisions, advocacy efforts, and long-term community resilience across rural Ontario. [Register for the free session here.](#)

The OSUM conference, April 29 – May 1 in Parry Sound is the only place where issues such as housing and homelessness, infrastructure challenges, incivility, weakened journalism, and strong mayor powers are addressed and discussed from the unique small urban municipal perspective. [View program outline and register now.](#)

Delivered by the Public Services Health & Safety Association, Preventing Escalated Behaviours is an interactive workshop that introduces practical, person-centered strategies to help recognize early signs of escalation, strengthen communication, and confidently and professionally respond to difficult situations. [Register for the two-part May 7 and May 28 workshop now.](#)

Municipalities carry significant responsibilities. The AMO Conference is your opportunity to gain a clear understanding of key issues and develop a support network for shared solutions to help you effectively lead in your community. [Don't miss it, register today.](#)

LAS

LAS staff are on their spring roadtrips, learning how we can better help municipal staff and talking about our programs. Want to meet? [Contact us](#) to set up an in-person or virtual meeting.

The All Risk Municipal Grant recognizes and supports innovative risk management practices within municipalities. [Learn more and submit your proposal by May 1](#) for a chance to receive \$10,000 towards your project.

Municipal Wire*

Don't miss your chance to apply for the next intake of the AMCTO-Mitacs Municipal Innovation Internship Program. This program offers municipalities a cost-effective way to identify, advance, and address innovation or research challenges by partnering with a post-secondary student interested in a career in local government. To learn more or to submit an application, [Click Here.](#)

The Institute of Public Administration of Canada is hosting a professional development event focused on service delivery excellence on April 21. [Register for virtual or in-person attendance.](#)

Careers

[Program Advisor, Infrastructure Asset Management - Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\)](#). **Closing Tomorrow:** March 27, 2026.

[Manager, Information, Privacy and Elections/Deputy City Clerk - City of Guelph](#).
Closing Date: April 9, 2026.

[Director, External Relations - City of Thunder Bay](#). Closing Date: April 14, 2026.

[Intergovernmental Advisor - City of Guelph](#). Closing Date: April 12, 2026.

About AMO

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario's and Canada's political system. Follow [@AMOPolicy](#) on Twitter!

AMO Contacts

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#)

[Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions](#)
