



**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**  
**COUNCIL WEEKLY CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION**

**INDEX**

Friday, April 10, 2026

|                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Pages</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. <b><u>CWCD 2026-61</u></b>                                                                                                                                                       | 1            |
| Warrant of Committal for Unpaid Public Offences Act Fines                                                                                                                           |              |
| 2. <b><u>CWCD 2026-62</u></b>                                                                                                                                                       | 4            |
| Summary of Active Bid Solicitations                                                                                                                                                 |              |
| 3. <b><u>CWCD 2026-63</u></b>                                                                                                                                                       | 7            |
| Competitive Procurement Awards In Excess of \$100,000 - Q1 2026                                                                                                                     |              |
| 4. <b><u>CWCD 2026-64</u></b>                                                                                                                                                       | 13           |
| Linhaven Redevelopment                                                                                                                                                              |              |
| 5. <b><u>CWCD 2026-65</u></b>                                                                                                                                                       | 16           |
| Sudbury & Districts Public Health Resolution - Requesting The Ministry of Health to Update the Healthy Smiles Ontario Fee Schedule and Access to Dental Care for Children and Youth |              |
| 6. <b><u>CWCD 2026-66</u></b>                                                                                                                                                       | 19           |
| Better Regional Governance Act, 2026 - Letter from the Honourable Robert J. Flack                                                                                                   |              |

|           |                                                                                                                                 |           |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>7.</b> | <b><u>CWCD 2026-67</u></b>                                                                                                      | <b>21</b> |
|           | Windsor-Essex County Health Unit - Letters in Support of Advancing Bill C-63<br>Online Harms Act, to Protect Children and Youth |           |
| <b>8.</b> | <b><u>CWCD 2026-68</u></b>                                                                                                      | <b>25</b> |
|           | Niagara Children's Centre Invitation to Flag Raising for Help Kids Shine<br>Campaign Kick-off                                   |           |
| <b>9.</b> | <b><u>CWCD 2026-69</u></b>                                                                                                      | <b>26</b> |
|           | AMO Watchfile April 9, 2026                                                                                                     |           |

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](mailto:accessibility@niagararegion.ca) (email).

---

**Memorandum**

**CWCD 2026-61**

**Subject:** Warrants for Committal for Unpaid POA Fines

**Date:** Friday, April 10, 2026

**To:** Regional Council

**From:** Miranda Vink, Associate Director, Court Services

---

**Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum is to respond to an inquiry raised by Council at Corporate Services Committee on March 11, 2026, during discussion of CSC- C 6- 2026 (*Recommendations from the Joint Board of Management – Niagara Courts meeting held on February 19, 2026*) regarding whether the Region could utilize warrants of arrest (warrants of committal) for unpaid fines under the Provincial Offences Act (POA) as a deterrent measure.

**Summary**

Warrants of committal are referenced in the Provincial Offences Act (POA) in limited circumstances; however, they are not an enforcement tool that municipal POA programs can operationalize or rely on as a deterrent under the POA transfer agreement framework. The authority to issue a committal warrant rests with the judiciary, and custodial enforcement mechanisms remain outside municipal control.

**Legislative Framework and Municipal Authority**

The POA references warrants of committal in limited circumstances. Section 69(14) provides that where certain conditions are met, a Justice of the Peace may issue a warrant for committal (or order other steps to enforce the fine).

However, section 165(3) of the POA, which forms part of the legislative framework governing POA transfer agreements, clarifies that municipalities administering POA courts do not assume the full range of enforcement powers held by the Province. Under this framework:

- Municipal partners are responsible for the administration and collection of fines
- Warrants of committal are not a tool that municipalities can initiate, direct, or rely upon in routine collections practices

As a result, while section 69 exists in the Act, the Ministry of the Attorney General has confirmed that under 165(3) warrants of committal are not an enforcement mechanism that municipal POA programs can operationalize for fines governed by the transfer agreement.

### **Practical and Operational Considerations**

In addition to the legislative framework above, warrants of committal are exceptionally rare across Ontario. This reflects the fact that incarceration is generally viewed as a measure of last resort, particularly where other tools are available that are effective in securing payment and compliance.

Additional considerations include:

- **Judicial discretion and threshold:** The decision rests entirely with the justice and requires a high evidentiary threshold.
- **Public interest considerations:** Incarceration for fine default can raise issues of proportionality and fairness, including the risk of penalizing individuals for circumstances beyond their control.
- **Policing and corrections impacts:** Service/apprehension and downstream detention impacts require significant system resources, diverting capacity from higher-priority public safety responsibilities.

### **Current Enforcement Tools in Use**

Court Services staff actively utilize all available and appropriate enforcement mechanisms provided under the POA and related legislation. These include, but are not limited to:

- Suspension of driver's licenses
- Plate denial
- Use of third-party collection agencies
- Addition of unpaid fines to the tax roll through partnerships with local area municipalities
- Civil enforcement measures, including:
  - Garnishment of wages
  - Garnishment of bank accounts
  - Filing of Writs of Execution to secure property owned by the defendant

These tools are applied strategically and based on individual circumstances to maximize compliance and recovery while remaining fair and proportionate.

Court Services' Collections Unit has successfully leveraged these available tools to achieve the following:

- \$3.64 Million in delinquent fine revenue collected in 2025
- \$2.17 Million collected through tax rolls since 2014
- \$5.49 Million collected through Writs of Execution since 2003

Court Services' current collections framework reflects provincial best practices and emphasizes compliance, effectiveness, fiscal responsibility, and fairness, supported by a highly skilled and dedicated Collections Unit.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

---

Miranda Vink

Associate Director, Court Services

---

## **Memorandum**

**CWCD 2026-62**

**Subject:** Summary of Active Bid Solicitations

**Date:** Friday, April 10, 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

| <b>Bid Number</b> | <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Closing Date</b> |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2026-T-18         | Niagara Region LTC - Commercial Kitchen Equipment Replacement & Upgrades                                                                                                               | April 09, 2026      |
| 2025-RFP-199      | HVAC Demand and Preventive Maintenance Services for Long-Term Care Homes                                                                                                               | April 13, 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      |
| 2026-T-2          | Supply & Installation of Decals on Niagara Transit Commission Vehicles                                                                                                                 | 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      |
| 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      |
| 2025-T-233        | Supply & Delivery of Bus Shelter Replacements                                                                                                                                          | April 28, 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 28, 2026      |
| 2025-T-213        | Regional Road 38 (Martindale Rd) – Replacement of J.R. Stork Bridge (Structure 038205) Over Richardson's Creek in the City of St. Catharines                                           | April 29, 2026      |

| <b>Bid Number</b> | <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Closing Date</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2026-T-45         | Annual Inspection, Lubrication, Cleaning and Maintenance of Biogas Trains at Wastewater Locations                                                                              | April 30, 2026      |
| 2026-T-47         | Real Estate Listing Services for Niagara Region Owned Property – 401A Lakeshore Road, St. Catharines                                                                           | May 01, 2026        |
| 2026-RFP-46       | Baker Road WWTP EA Outfall Geophysical Survey                                                                                                                                  | May 05, 2026        |
| 2026-T-19         | Niagara Falls Water Treatment Plant Roof Replacement                                                                                                                           | May 06, 2026        |
| 2026-T-40         | NRPS HQ/D2 Visual Fire Alarm Upgrades                                                                                                                                          | May 06, 2026        |
| 2026-RFP-15       | Niagara Region Roadway Asset Operational Review                                                                                                                                | May 07, 2026        |
| 2026-RFP-42       | Schedule “B” Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Intersection Improvements to Thorold Stone Road (Regional Road 57) and Dorchester Road, in the City of Niagara Falls | May 08, 2026        |
| 2026-T-28         | Supply and Delivery of Bulk Sodium Chloride (Highway Coarse Rock Salt) and Treated Sodium Chloride                                                                             | May 08, 2026        |

---

## Memorandum

**CWCD 2026-63**

**Subject:** Competitive Procurement Awards in Excess of \$100,000 – Q1 2026

**Date:** Friday, April 10, 2026

**To:** Regional Council

**From:** Bart Menage, Director, Procurement Services

---

Niagara Region's Procurement By-law 2025-57 came into effect on March 1, 2026. In accordance with the reporting requirements set out in this by-law, the Competitive Procurements included in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 have been awarded.

**Appendix 1: Competitive Procurement Awards between \$100,000 and \$10,000,000 for March 2026**

- As per the Procurement By-law 2025-57, section 19, Reporting, item 19.2 the Director of Procurement Services shall: (b) report to Council on a monthly basis via the Councillor Weekly Correspondence Distribution, all Competitive Procurement Awards between \$100,000 and \$10,000,000, excluding VAT.

**Appendix 2: Competitive Procurement Awards between \$100,000 and \$5,000,000 for January and February 2026**

- At the June 11, 2025, Corporate Services Committee meeting, Staff received a request to provide information reports to the Corporate Services Committee identifying all competitive procurement awards between \$100,000 and \$5,000,000, excluding VAT.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

---

Name: Bart Menage

Title: Director, Procurement Services

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1    Awarded Competitive Procurements between \$100,000 and \$10,000,000  
                  – March 2026
- Appendix 2    Awarded Competitive Procurements between \$100,000 and \$5,000,000 –  
                  January – February 2026

| <b>BID NUMBER</b> | <b>PROJECT NAME</b>                                                                                                                                                            | <b>AWARD VALUE<br/>(PRE-TAX)</b> | <b>SUPPLIER</b>                   | <b>REGISTERED<br/>SUPPLIERS</b> | <b>COMPLETED<br/>SUBMISSIONS</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2025-RFP-144      | NEMS Hub & Spoke EMS<br>Speciality Consultant                                                                                                                                  | \$213,950.00                     | Salter Pilon<br>Architecture Inc. | 13                              | 4                                |
| 2025-RFP-226      | Consulting Assignment to<br>Undertake a Schedule C<br>Municipal Class Environmental<br>Assessment Study for Regional<br>Road 39 (North Service Road) in<br>the Town of Lincoln | \$599,991.00                     | CIMA Canada Inc.                  | 5                               | 2                                |
| 2025-RFP-245      | Landfill Illumination Design                                                                                                                                                   | \$143,366.00                     | Chisholm Fleming &<br>Associates  | 5                               | 4                                |
| 2025-T-147        | Jordan Valley Sewage Pumping<br>Station Upgrades in the Town of<br>Lincoln                                                                                                     | \$1,040,466.00                   | Stolk Construction<br>Ltd.        | 49                              | 9                                |
| 2025-T-249        | Supply and Delivery of Power<br>Supply Cabinets                                                                                                                                | \$127,650.00                     | B&M Manufacturing<br>Inc.         | 10                              | 2                                |

## **NOTES**

NRPS, NRH and NTC are not included in the datasets outlined herein as these agencies operated under their own Procurement By-law and/or Governing Bodies.

Registered supplier data is unaltered and includes construction agencies as registered suppliers.

Completed submission data includes all submissions received, including those that were determined to be non-compliant.

Competitive procurements are counted based on the procurement process rather than the number of suppliers awarded. A single competitive process that results in multiple supplier awards is reported as one competitive procurement in the *Competitive Procurement Awards between \$100,000 and \$10,000,000* report. However, each individual award is identified in the appendix for reference.

**Awarded Competitive Procurements between \$100,000 and \$5,000,000**  
**January - February 2026**

**CWCD 2026-63**  
**Appendix 2**

| <b>BID NUMBER</b> | <b>PROJECT NAME</b>                                                                                                                         | <b>AWARD VALUE<br/>(PRE-TAX)</b> | <b>SUPPLIER</b>                             | <b>REGISTERED<br/>SUPPLIERS</b> | <b>COMPLETED<br/>SUBMISSIONS</b> |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2025-RFP-153      | Pharmacy Services for Long Term Care Facilities                                                                                             | \$150,000.00                     | CareRx Corporation                          | 6                               | 2                                |
| 2025-RFP-158      | Regional Development Charges Background Study and By-law                                                                                    | \$236,900.00                     | Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.         | 5                               | 2                                |
| 2025-RFP-186      | Welland WWTP - Condition Assessment and Sustainability Upgrades                                                                             | \$634,288.50                     | Arcadis Professional Services (Canada) Inc. | 4                               | 2                                |
| 2025-RFP-191      | Bemis Elevated Tank Modelling                                                                                                               | \$225,432.20                     | Arcadis Professional Services (Canada) Inc. | 2                               | 2                                |
| 2025-RFP-206      | Dietitian Services for Long Term Care Facilities                                                                                            | \$754,260.00                     | Orange Lily Group Inc.                      | 9                               | 6                                |
| 2025-RFP-214      | Bridge Rehabilitation Design at Multiple Niagara Region Locations                                                                           | \$341,665.00                     | Gannett Fleming Canada ULC                  | 5                               | 5                                |
| 2025-T-152        | Anger Avenue WWTP Biosolids Storage Tanks Valves Upgrade                                                                                    | \$601,900.00                     | Ritestart Limited                           | 21                              | 2                                |
| 2025-T-173        | Supply and Delivery of Three (3) Three-Quarter Tonne Pick-up Trucks                                                                         | \$231,840.03                     | Mohawk Ford Sales (1996) Limited            | 18                              | 7                                |
| 2025-T-211        | Traffic Signal Rebuild on Portage Road at Morrison Street Within the City of Niagara Falls                                                  | \$279,700.82                     | TT Galbraith Electric                       | 15                              | 3                                |
| 2025-T-219        | Geotechnical Materials Testing Services for Contract No. 2025-T-18 Water and Wastewater Welland Canal Crossing in the City of Port Colborne | \$523,575.00                     | GHD Limited                                 | 3                               | 2                                |

**Awarded Competitive Procurements between \$100,000 and \$5,000,000**  
**January - February 2026**

**CWCD 2026-63**  
**Appendix 2**

| <b>BID NUMBER</b> | <b>PROJECT NAME</b>                                                                      | <b>AWARD VALUE<br/>(PRE-TAX)</b> | <b>SUPPLIER</b>                     | <b>REGISTERED<br/>SUPPLIERS</b> | <b>COMPLETED<br/>SUBMISSIONS</b> |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2025-T-246        | Supply and Delivery of Four Compact SUVs                                                 | \$138,144.00                     | 12699273 Canada Inc.                | 15                              | 10                               |
| 2025-T-250        | Supply and Delivery of Five (5) Aluminum Trailers                                        | \$116,250.00                     | 2055495 Ontario Inc.                | 11                              | 5                                |
| 2025-RFP-193      | Three Year Traffic Counting Program (2026-2028) for The Regional Municipality of Niagara | \$337,845.00                     | Traffic-Survey-Analysis Inc.        | 8                               | 4                                |
| 2025-RFP-200      | Niagara Region Community Energy Plan                                                     | \$152,700.00                     | Aladaco Consulting Inc.             | 20                              | 8                                |
| 2025-RFP-210      | 2025-RFP-210 Lister Road Gravity Sewer Upgrade-Detailed Design                           | \$245,051.25                     | R.J. Burnside & Associates Limited  | 3                               | 3                                |
| 2025-T-121        | Supply and Delivery of Various Pick-up Trucks                                            | \$993,381.18                     | Downtown Autogroup                  | 15                              | 3                                |
| 2025-T-197        | Rose Hill WTP Lighting Upgrade                                                           | \$120,348.00                     | GTA POWER TECH INC.                 | 23                              | 8                                |
| 2025-T-218        | Supply and Installation of Artwork at Linhaven Long Term Care Home                       | \$148,430.00                     | GTC Canada Limited                  | 7                               | 2                                |
| 2025-T-240        | 68 Church Street – Abatement, Demolition and Soil Remediation                            | \$1,371,930.00                   | Lanmar Environmental Solutions Inc. | 5                               | 5                                |

**NOTES**

NRPS, NRH and NTC are not included in the datasets outlined herein as these agencies operated under their own Procurement By-law and/or Governing Bodies.

Registered supplier data is unaltered and includes construction agencies as registered suppliers.

Completed submission data includes all submissions received, including those that were determined to be non-compliant.

Competitive procurements are counted based on the procurement process rather than the number of suppliers awarded. A single competitive process that results in multiple supplier awards is reported as one competitive procurement in the *Competitive Procurement Awards between \$100,000 and \$5,000,000* report. However, each individual award is identified in the appendix for reference.

---

## **Memorandum**

**CWCD 2026-64**

**Subject:** Linhaven Redevelopment

**Date:** Friday, April 10, 2026

**To:** Regional Council

**From:** Paolo Varias, Director, Seniors Services

---

As part of our commitment to transparency and ongoing engagement, we continue to keep residents, families, and stakeholders informed of progress, timelines, and key developments related to the Linhaven redevelopment project. Attached is the progress letter shared with the family members and residents this week.

We recognize the significance of the Linhaven redevelopment for our residents, their families, and the broader community, and we remain focused on ensuring clear, timely, and compassionate communication throughout each phase of this work.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

---

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

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1              Progress Letter

**Corporate Services**

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 344  
Thorold, ON L2V 3Z3  
905-980-6000 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215

---

April 9, 2026

Dear Residents and Family Members,

We wanted to share an update on the progress of the new Linhaven Long-Term Care Home.

We want to thank you for your patience as we progress through this project. We share the common goal of wanting to ensure your loved ones are housed and cared for in a safe, high-quality environment.

The project continues to move forward, and the building is now at 97 per cent completion. Once the interior of the building is completed, the next phase of preparation begins. This will include the full cleaning of the building, testing all the building systems, training for all staff, inspections by Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), including the Ministry, and move in of all furniture and equipment.

In saying that, there are still a few key components that need to be finalized before we can officially open the building in late 2026 pending the approval of the Ministry of Long-Term Care.

As construction continues to move forward, many key components have been completed such as the installation of wall partitions, final flooring touches and painting finishes. There are many key external elements that have been completed since our last update as well. Essential exterior updates such as privacy fencing, sidewalks, curbs and asphalt have all been completed, preparing the building grounds for opening.

Over the next few months, the Contractor will be primarily focused on finishing the interior elements for move-in preparation before transitioning to completing all remaining exterior work. This includes inspections and commissioning of building systems such as generators and life safety systems. Peak season cooling monitoring will be conducted from the warmer summer months into the fall to ensure optimized systems are in place.

In noting all of this, we are anticipating residents to be able to move into the home by the end of this year.

As we progress towards the opening of the new building, the existing home continues to be a safe, comfortable and vibrant place for Linhaven residents. Since our last update, there has been an increase in monitoring and preventative maintenance of existing building systems such as roof inspections to ensure that existing residents experience the highest quality care possible.

We are incredibly empathetic towards the weight that these delays may carry – for you, your loved ones and our Niagara community. Our goal continues to be creating a modern, welcoming and high-quality home that residents, families and staff can be proud of.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding. We will share another update in the summer as the final touches are completed, and the official opening of our beautiful new building can commence.

Sincerely,



---

Bradley Ray,  
Associate Director,  
Construction, Energy and Facilities Management



---

Paolo Varias,  
Director,  
Seniors Services



March 31, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Honourable Sylvia Jones  
Minister of Health of Ontario  
Ministry of Health  
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M5G 2C8

Dear Honourable Minister Jones:

**Re: Healthy Smiles Ontario fee schedule and access to dental care for children and youth**

Our Board thanks your government for its ongoing leadership in expanding access to dental care, particularly through the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program.

At its meeting on February 19, 2026, the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts passed resolution #15-26 requesting that the Ministry of Health update the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) Schedule of Dental Services and Fees to improve provider participation and access to dental care for children and youth. The full resolution is attached as an appendix.

Untreated dental disease in children contributes to pain, disrupted eating and sleep, ultimately impacting school performance and the long-term success of children. Complications of untreated dental disease are the leading cause of surgery in children, and among the most common reasons for pediatric day surgery requiring general anesthesia.

The HSO program, by preventing and treating dental disease early, reduces more severe impacts on children and relieves the health care system of the burden of treating complications.

#### **Sudbury**

1300 rue Paris Street  
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3  
t: 705.522.9200  
f: 705.522.5182

#### **Elm Place**

10 rue Elm Street  
Unit / Unité 130  
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3  
t: 705.522.9200  
f: 705.677.9611

#### **Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est**

1 rue King Street  
Box / Boîte 58  
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0  
t: 705.222.9201  
f: 705.867.0474

#### **Espanola**

800 rue Centre Street  
Unit / Unité 100 C  
Espanola ON P5E 1J3  
t: 705.222.9202  
f: 705.869.5583

#### **Île Manitoulin Island**

6163 Highway / Route 542  
Box / Boîte 87  
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0  
t: 705.370.9200  
f: 705.377.5580

#### **Chapleau**

34 rue Birch Street  
Box / Boîte 485  
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0  
t: 705.860.9200  
f: 705.864.0820

#### **toll-free / sans frais**

1.866.522.9200

[phsd.ca](http://phsd.ca)



Letter

Healthy Smiles Ontario – Fee Schedule and Access to Dental Care for Children and Youth  
March 31, 2026

At approximately 40 cents on the dollar as compared with the Ontario Dental Association Suggested Fee Guide, the current HSO reimbursement structure deters provider participation and has created a province-wide access challenge, leaving many families struggling to obtain timely dental treatment. While some families who are eligible for the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) can use it as a co-benefit mitigating this cost barrier, many families are not eligible for the CDCP.

Preventive oral health care for children reduces avoidable emergency department visits, limits progression to more complex and costly treatment, and supports school attendance and parental workforce participation. These upstream investments reduce downstream pressures on both the health and social service systems.

We respectfully request that the Ministry update the HSO Schedule of Dental Services and Fees to ensure appropriate funding, increased provider capacity, and equitable access to dental care for children and youth across Ontario.

This request builds on the government's strong leadership in improving access to dental care for seniors, now extending it to children. It also aligns with the Government of Ontario's stated priority of improving outcomes for children through prevention and early intervention, and with its commitment to ensuring children have the supports they need to succeed and thrive.

We would welcome the opportunity for our staff to support this work in any way helpful, including by sharing local insights on access challenges and opportunities for effective implementation.

Sincerely,



Mark Signoretti  
Chair, Board of Health

cc: Dr. M. M. Hirji, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer  
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario  
Dr. David A. Brown, Chair, Board of Directors and President, Ontario Dental  
Association  
Ontario Boards of Health

**Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts**  
**Resolution #15-26 | February 19, 2026**

***Healthy Smiles Ontario Fee Schedule and Access to Dental Care for Children and Youth***

**WHEREAS** children and youth in Ontario face significant barriers in accessing dental care through the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) program due to a fee schedule that results in reduced provider participation; and

**WHEREAS** acceptance of the Healthy Smiles Ontario program is at the discretion of individual dental providers, and many dental offices choose not to participate because reimbursement rates under the HSO Schedule of Dental Services and Fees are substantially lower than those outlined in the 2025 Ontario Dental Association (ODA) Suggested Fee Guide for General Practitioners; and

**WHEREAS** delayed or untreated dental issues can lead to pain, impaired concentration and school performance, disrupted eating and sleeping patterns, permanent tooth damage, the need for surgery under general anesthesia, and, in the most severe cases, life-threatening conditions; and

**WHEREAS** early prevention and timely detection of oral health issues significantly improve health outcomes and reduce strain on the health care system;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Health requests the Ministry of Health increase reimbursement rates outlined in the Healthy Smiles Ontario Schedule of Dental Services and Fees for dental providers so that they align with the 2026 Ontario Dental Association Suggested Fee Guide for General Practitioners, in order to encourage provider participation and improve access to dental care for children and youth; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Board directs the Acting Medical Officer of Health to engage in cross-agency collaboration with other local public health agencies and undertake agency-level advocacy to strengthen the case for improved Healthy Smiles Ontario fee scheduling.

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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

**Ministère des  
Affaires municipales  
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

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



234-2026-1052

April 2, 2026

Cherryl Ganann

[cheryl.ganann@niagararegion.ca](mailto:cheryl.ganann@niagararegion.ca)

Dear Acting Chair Ganann:

Municipalities play a key role in helping deliver shared priorities and building essential infrastructure, especially during times of economic uncertainty. That's why today I introduced legislation and proposed regulatory changes to give municipalities clearer direction and stronger tools to support growth.

The proposed *Better Regional Governance Act, 2026*, if passed, would provide the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing with the authority to appoint Regional Chairs in the regions of Durham, Halton, Muskoka, Niagara, Peel, Waterloo and York, plus the Warden of Simcoe County.

Through proposed regulatory changes, these individuals would also receive strong chair powers, mirroring strong mayor powers, as outlined in Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*. These tools would help regional governments to respond more quickly and effectively to economic and housing challenges by speeding up local decision-making and helping advance shared provincial-municipal priorities such as building more housing.

The proposed legislation introduces changes that would respond to feedback from local officials in Niagara Region that more efficient processes and a smaller council size are needed. If passed, by limiting regional council seats to lower-tier heads of council, the number of regional councillors would be reduced from 32 to 13, including the appointed Chair. To facilitate the transition to the new council structure and help ensure appropriate and effective representation, we will work with Niagara municipalities to develop a weighted voting framework.

.../2

-2-

If passed, these changes would come into effect for the 2026-2030 municipal council term, starting on November 15, 2026. The current composition of your council will remain the same until the new council is sworn in following the election.

For more information on these amendments, please see the [News Release](#). To share your comments on the proposed legislation, please see a posting on the [Regulatory Registry](#) that will be open for comments for 30 days.

The government is committed to working with municipalities to identify ways to strengthen local governance. Working together to advance shared provincial-municipal priorities helps advance housing and economic development, preparing both individual municipalities and the province as-a-whole for growth.

Sincerely,



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

- c. Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
[Robert.Dodd@Ontario.ca](mailto:Robert.Dodd@Ontario.ca)
- Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
[Martha.Greenberg@Ontario.ca](mailto:Martha.Greenberg@Ontario.ca)
- Laurie Miller, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division  
[Laurie.Miller@Ontario.ca](mailto:Laurie.Miller@Ontario.ca)
- Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal and Housing Operations Division  
[Sean.Fraser@Ontario.ca](mailto:Sean.Fraser@Ontario.ca)
- Ron Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer, The Regional Municipality of Niagara  
[ron.tripp@niagararegion.ca](mailto:ron.tripp@niagararegion.ca)
- Ann-Marie Norio, Clerk, The Regional Municipality of Niagara  
[ann-marie.norio@niagararegion.ca](mailto:ann-marie.norio@niagararegion.ca)

March 31, 2026

The Honourable Sylvia Jones  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
Ministry of Health  
College Park 5th Floor  
777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

The Honourable Paul Calandra  
Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education  
315 Front Street West  
Toronto, ON M7A 0B8

**Re: Provincial Action to Protect Children and Youth from Online Harms**

Dear Ministers,

The Windsor-Essex County Board of Health urges the Province of Ontario to strengthen protections that support healthy technology and social media use among young people. Our Board's resolutions in [February](#) and [March](#) 2026 reflect growing evidence that excessive screen time, harmful online content, and unregulated platform design are contributing to mental-health concerns, sleep disruption, and developmental impacts across Ontario, including in Windsor-Essex.

Ontario has taken steps through [PPM 128](#) to address digital safety in schools, but broader provincial action is needed to protect children and youth across all digital platforms.

Across Ontario, families, educators, and healthcare providers are observing growing challenges experienced by children and youth, including excessive screen use, exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, sleep disruption, and mental-health impacts. Locally, Windsor-Essex is experiencing similar trends, with increasing concerns about the effects of social media on emotional regulation, sleep, physical activity, and healthy development.

We recommend that Ontario:

- Establish minimum age limits for social media use.
- Mandate age-appropriate design standards that prioritize safety and privacy.
- Strengthen age-verification requirements.
- Increase platform accountability for harmful content and addictive design.

These actions would complement federal initiatives such as Bill C-63 and ensure a coordinated approach to online safety. The Windsor-Essex County Board of Health is committed to supporting this work through education, partnerships, and data.

These actions would complement federal initiatives such as Bill C-63 and ensure a coordinated approach to online safety. The Windsor-Essex County Board of Health is committed to supporting this work through education, partnerships, and data.

Thank you for your leadership in protecting Ontario's young people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joe Bachetti".

Joe Bachetti, Board Chair  
Windsor-Essex County Health Unit

March 31, 2026

The Honourable Marc Miller  
Minister of Canadian Heritage  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable Sean Fraser  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

**Re: Advancing Bill C-63 (Online Harms Act) to Protect Children and Youth**

Dear Ministers,

On behalf of the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health, I am writing to express our strong support for the advancement and strengthening of Bill C-63, the Online Harms Act, and to urge the federal government to implement comprehensive protections that prioritize the safety and well-being of children and youth in Canada.

Across the country, families, educators, and healthcare providers are observing growing challenges faced by children and youth due to digital dependence, harmful online content, cyberbullying, sleep disruption, and mental-health impacts associated with unregulated social media environments. Locally, Windsor-Essex is seeing similar patterns, with increasing concerns about excessive screen use, exposure to inappropriate content, and the effects of social media on emotional regulation, sleep, physical activity, and healthy development.

In [February 2026](#), the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health supported a resolution calling for action to support healthy technology habits among pre-school and school-aged children. This includes policies to support delayed use of technology, consistent protective messaging, early identification and enhanced support for families to support problematic technology use. Building on this, in [March 2026](#), the Board passed a second resolution focused specifically on children and youth social media use, urging federal and provincial governments to implement stronger regulatory measures protect children and youth online, including advancing Bill C-63, the Online Harms Act.

We urge the federal government to move forward swiftly and strengthen Bill C-63 to ensure meaningful protections, clear enforcement, and accountability for platforms.

The Windsor-Essex County Board of Health is committed to supporting this work through local education, data sharing, and community engagement, and would welcome the opportunity to provide further insights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joe Bachetti".

Joe Bachetti, Board Chair  
Windsor-Essex County Health Unit

# help kids shine

MAY 1-31

## Flag Raising Ceremony in support of niagara children's centre



 Friday, May 1, 2026

 12:00 to 12:30 p.m.

 **Niagara Region Headquarters**  
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold

Join us as we raise the  
Niagara Children's Centre  
flag to kickoff the 2026  
**Help Kids Shine** campaign!

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY:

**97.7**  
HTZ-FM

**dream**  
105.7

NEWSTALK  
**610**  
CKTB

 **niagara**  
children's centre™

therapy and support to help kids shine  
thérapie et soutien pour aider les enfants à briller



April 09, 2026

### In This Issue:

- AMO Board of Directors Elections.
- Building a Culture of Civility: AMO's Using Social Media and Online Platforms Handguide.
- Call for Nominations for the 2026 - 2028 OSUM Executive Committee Election.
- Explore AMO's one-of-its-kind candidate resource catalogue!
- Applications Open for EASE Grant.
- Northern Rideshare Framework.
- MMAH 2026 Election Guides.
- Ontario Webinar on Build Canada Homes.
- Mayor-Cao Relationship Series.
- OSUM 2026: The Small Urban Approach to Municipal Challenges.
- Preventing Escalated Behaviours Workshop: Practical Strategies for Safer Municipal Workplaces.
- Introducing AMO Conference 2026 Keynote: Curse of Politics.
- Indigenous Candidates Thinking of Running for Office – Join us April 9.
- Free Information Session for Youth Interested in Running for Municipal Council in October 2026.
- Is a Facility Lighting Upgrade in your budget?
- LAS Webinar: Introducing Road Patrol.
- Save on Your Employee Group Benefits Costs.
- Building Linkages in Emergency Management - June 2-3.
- Careers.

### AMO Matters

Nominations for the AMO Board of Directors election will open on April 21st. [Click here for more election information](#) and timelines or email [elections@amo.on.ca](mailto:elections@amo.on.ca) if you have any questions.

Through its Healthy Democracy and Workforce Development Projects, AMO has developed practical tools to help councils and staff manage conflict and foster a culture of civility. Our [Leading with Respect Handguides](#) offers resources over a series of seven key municipal areas of leadership. This week, we are profiling [Using Social Media and Online Platforms Handguide](#) that includes practical tools and guidance

related to moderating online platforms, navigating personal and official accounts and social media policies.

The Call for OSUM Executive Nominations election is open. Those interested in running for the 2026-2028 OSUM Executive Committee term are required to [fill out the attached nomination form](#). Nomination form deadline for return is 4:00 p.m. on April 10, 2026.

Through its [Healthy Democracy Project](#), AMO has launched a candidate attraction and voter turnout campaign: If You Believe. They Believe. In the [Get Started section of the website](#) you can view a one-of-its-kind catalogue of candidate resources for every phase of the campaign journey. Please explore the resources and share with your networks!

### **Provincial Matters**

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](https://Ontario.ca/EaseGrant).

MTO is proposing a pilot to establish provincial requirements for rideshare operators, drivers, and vehicles operating along the Northlander passenger train corridor. [Provide feedback by April 10](#).

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing have released their [guidance materials for the 2026 municipal elections](#) including the Voter's Guide, Candidate's Guide and Third-Party Advertiser's Guide.

### **Federal Matters**

On April 24th, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada will host a webinar explaining Build Canada Homes' portal and investment policy framework in Ontario. [Register now over Microsoft Teams](#).

### **Education Opportunities**

AMO and OMAA present the next installment of the Mayor–CAO Relationship Series. This session focuses on upper-tier governance, featuring experienced CAO–Warden teams sharing practical leadership insights. [Register here](#).

Join your small urban colleagues in the Town of Parry Sound, April 29-May 1, for the 70th Ontario Small Urban Conference. We have built a program featuring key issues small urban municipal leaders are facing today from the impact of strong mayor powers, housing and homelessness, infrastructure challenges, incivility, weakened local journalism and more. [View program outline and register now](#).

In partnership with the Public Services Health & Safety Association, AMO is pleased to offer its members an interactive workshop focused on Preventing Escalated Behaviours. This session introduces practical, person-centred 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.](#)

AMO is pleased to announce the Curse of Politics podcast as the 2026 AMO Conference keynote speaker. Get ready for a commotion of insights, arguments, opinions and an impossibly loud laugh or two. If you haven't already, [register today for the AMO Conference.](#)

AMO has expanded their Healthy Democracy campaign information workshops. We are now offering a series of workshops for urban Indigenous peoples interested in municipal office and running in the October 2026 elections. Facilitated by current and former elected officials, 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 for one of three sessions.](#)

Through AMO's Healthy Democracy Project, we are offering a series of free workshops for young people thinking about running for municipal office in the October 2026 elections. Facilitated by three current municipal leaders, these sessions will provide insights and strategies to build your understanding and confidence around how to become a candidate and running a campaign. [Register for the April 15 session here.](#)

## LAS

As budgets get approved, our [Facility Lighting Service](#) gets busy. Be sure to [let LAS know](#) if an LED Upgrade is in your future. We have a simple turn-key solution for that!

Building on our proven assessment program, LAS partner Citylogix is launching a [Road Patrol application](#) that delivers continuous visibility into road conditions — automatically, consistently, and in real time. Join our webinar on April 28th to learn how this new technology would work for your community. [Register Here.](#)

The [LAS Group Benefits program](#) offered by Mosey & Mosey helps reduce your employee group benefit costs. The plan offerings are customizable to your municipality's needs. For more information, you can visit Mosey & Mosey at the OMHRA Conference, April 14 to 16 in Niagara Falls.

## Municipal Wire\*

[Building Linkages in Emergency Management](#) is an event that you won't want to miss, dedicated to advancing emergency management practices. It provides a unique opportunity to network with a diverse group of professionals, including emergency managers, first responders, municipal leaders, and others with a role in emergency

management.

## Careers

[Senior Advisor - Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\)](#). Closing Date: April 14, 2026.

[Senior Planner \(Land Use Planning\) - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing](#). Closing Date: April 24, 2026.

[Field Officer - City of Greater Sudbury](#). Closing Date: April 17, 2026.

[Waste Program Coordinator - Town of Newmarket](#). Closing Date: April 23, 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](#)

---