

Government Relations Matters

Committee of Council
January 15, 2025



The next Regional Council Budget meeting is scheduled for:

Thursday, January 23, 2025 @ 9:30 AM

The next Regional Council meeting is scheduled for:

Thursday, January 23, 2025 @ 1:00 PM

January 7, 2025

Ontario Launches New Energy Efficiency Program

- The Ontario government is launching new energy efficiency programs, including the new **Home Renovation Savings Program**, to help families and businesses save money.
- The new Home Renovation Savings Program will launch on January 28, 2025, and offer rebates of up to 30 per cent for home energy efficiency renovations and improvements, including new windows, doors, insulation, air sealing, smart thermostats, and heat pumps, as well as rooftop solar panels and battery storage systems for people who want to generate and store energy at home.
- The government's Affordable Energy Act, which came into force on December 4, 2024, ensures the new Home Renovation Savings Program, and other program offerings, will be expanded to homeowners who heat their homes by propane and oil, instead of being restricted to those who heat with electricity, as it was under previous governments.

Later in 2025, the program will expand to include rebates for energy efficient appliances, including refrigerators and freezers.

January 9, 2025

Premier directs Metrolinx to study GO Transit Expansion by Diverting Freight Rails

- Premier Doug Ford has directed Metrolinx to study expanding GO Transit service along the Kitchener and Milton lines by diverting freight rails.
- The expansion, dubbed GO 2.0, could also create new GO lines and stations, Premier Doug Ford stated in a letter to Metrolinx on Thursday, January 9.
- Premier Ford stated that the freight rail bypass could be built between the Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) main line near Trafalgar Road in Milton and the Canadian National (CN) Bypass line at Bramalea.
- The letter also urged Metrolinx to do a preliminary analysis of the benefits of GO 2.0 for passenger rail operations, compared to existing GO train expansion plans.

Transit staff are supportive of the province's direction to explore the diversion of freight rail traffic away from the existing CN rail line that operates through Brampton. Diverting this traffic will free up capacity in the corridor, prioritizing passenger rail traffic to all three GO Transit stations in Brampton.



Pre-Budget Submission Briefing with Brampton Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs)

- The Government Relations team arranged a briefing session with Brampton MPPs on **February 3, 2025**.
- This is an opportunity for Members of Council to provide an overview and discuss the City's provincial pre-budget submission and key priorities.
- Topics that will be highlighted within this briefing include:
 - Transit Priorities
 - Auto Insurance
 - Housing
 - Healthcare
 - Climate Action
 - Active Transportation
 - Municipal Fiscal Sustainability

January 3, 2025

Government of Canada announces border security exercises with provinces and territories, starting with Ontario

- The federal government announced the launch of a series of Government of Canada-led exercises with provincial and territorial governments designed to further strengthen our ability to take action and respond to events at the border.
- The goal of these exercises is to assess preparedness, test coordination, determine adequacy of resources and ensure effective inter-agency communication and federal-provincial-territorial coordination.



The Government Relations team will continue to monitor developments as it relates to border security and any further measures taken to address auto-theft.

Pre-Budget Submission Briefing with Brampton Members of Parliament (MPs)

- The Government Relations team arranged a briefing session with Brampton MPs on **January 21, 2025**.
- This is an opportunity for Members of Council to provide an overview and discuss the City's federal pre-budget submission and key priorities.
- Topics that will be highlighted during the briefing include:
 - Transit Priorities
 - Housing
 - Healthcare
 - Climate Action
 - Active Transportation
 - Municipal Fiscal Sustainability



January 6, 2025

Prime Minister's Departure

- On January 6, 2025, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his departure as the leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and will step down once the Liberal party selects the new leader.
- The Liberal Party says a new leader will be picked on March 9, 2025.



December 20, 2024

Federal Cabinet Shuffle

- The federal government announced changes to the Cabinet, some key changes include:
 - **Ruby Sahota** becomes Minister of Democratic Institutions and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.
 - **Nate Erskine-Smith** becomes Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities.
 - **David J. McGuinty** becomes Minister of Public Safety.
 - **Kamal Khera** retains her post as the Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities.



January 9, 2025

Municipalities Under Pressure: The Growing Human and Financial Cost of Ontario’s Homelessness Crisis



- AMO released a comprehensive report that reveals the unprecedented and growing toll of homelessness on individuals, families, communities, and governments.
- The study’s findings indicate that Ontario is at a tipping point in its homelessness crisis.
- More than 80,000 Ontarians were known to be homeless in 2024, a number that has grown by more than 25 percent since 2022.
- Without significant intervention, homelessness in Ontario could double in the next decade, and reach nearly 300,000 people in an economic downturn.
- The report proposes a fundamentally new approach that focuses on long-term housing solutions over temporary emergency measures and enforcement.

Government Relations in collaboration with Community Safety will continue to monitor updates on the homelessness and housing issues. Some of the points will be included in the City’s advocacy during this year’s AMO conference and prebudget meetings with MPs and MPPs.

THANK YOU!

