

Government Relations Matters

City Council
May 14, 2025



Emergency Management Program Committee

Thursday, 15 May 2025 @ 11:00 AM | Meeting agenda is available [here](#).

The next Regional Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2025 @ 9:30 AM

May 6, 2025

Ontario Investing \$1 Billion in Skills Development Fund to Protect Workers

- The government is expanding the Skills Development Fund (SDF) by \$955 million over three years starting in 2025–26 to help Ontario workers gain in-demand skills and practical hands-on experience:
 - This includes \$705 million in new funding through the 2025 Ontario Budget to train more workers through the SDF Training Stream.
 - In January 2025, the government announced \$100 million for the SDF Training Stream.
 - Through the upcoming 2025 Ontario Budget, the government is also providing \$150 million over three years starting in 2025–26 to support increased demand in the SDF Capital Stream.
- These investments are intended to support industries expected to face pressures from U.S. tariffs, including manufacturing and health care.
- The SDF Capital Stream investments will help more organizations build, expand, and retrofit their training facilities, delivering better training programs and helping more workers get better jobs.



The 2025 Ontario Budget is to be tabled on Thursday, May 15. The government has indicated that the Budget will outline its plan to protect Ontario, grow the economy, and attract investment. Staff will analyze the budget document and work with departments to identify any impacts to the City.

May 12, 2025

Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025

- The government has introduced legislation intended to streamline development processes and reduce costs to help speed up the construction of new homes and infrastructure.
- The announcement also included additional \$400M in immediate funding to the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF) and Municipal Housing Infrastructure Fund (MHIP) bringing it from \$1.9B for a total of nearly \$2.3B over four years across the HEWSF and the MHIP.
- The Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act aims to:
 - Spur new construction by simplifying and standardizing development charges based on measures that were developed in consultation with municipalities.
 - Remove barriers for Canadian manufacturers who want to introduce innovative materials, systems, and building designs that could reduce construction costs and expedite projects.
 - Streamline and improve planning and delivery for transit-oriented communities, creating more jobs and housing options near transit.
 - Reduce costs and speed up project approvals with consistent building construction standards across Ontario municipalities.



May 12, 2025

Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025 (Continued)

- Additional target outcomes for the legislation include:
 - Speed up getting shovels in the ground to build major transit projects by extending measures in the *Building Transit Faster Act, 2020* to all provincial transit projects.
 - Simplify, streamline, and bring consistency and transparency to development applications, land use planning approvals, and contents of municipal official plans.
- Ontario's road building standards may differ across the province's 444 municipalities, causing unnecessary cost and delays. The province will consult with municipalities and stakeholders by fall 2025 on framework legislation for greater harmonization and clarified governance of municipal standards, which should lead to cost savings through more efficient design and technical review, greater construction efficiencies, and streamlined procurement processes.



Staff are analyzing the newly introduced legislation for the anticipated impacts to the City. Staff will provide a fulsome update to Council once regulations and additional details are available. Staff will develop an appropriate advocacy plan as required.

Staff welcome the additional \$315M for HEWSF and \$85M for MHIP, while awaiting details and eligibility criteria for this new funding.

Past intakes for the two funds included limits of one application per intake, per applicant. The City has received \$29.8 million through the HEWSF towards Riverwalk project to support future housing and economic development. The City has also applied for provincial funding through the Housing Enabling Core Services Stream of MHIP.

Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025 (Initial Staff Commentary)

Proposed changes to the Planning Act and Development Charge Act will have notable implications for the City of Brampton. Staff will provide a more detailed briefing to Council when the full proposed legislative changes are made available.

- To create more consistent and predictable requirements across municipalities, MMAH would have the regulation-making authority to create to modify/limit what planning studies are required for development applications.
- The legislation will require municipalities to allow minor variances to be permitted “as-of-right” if the proposal falls within a prescribed percentage, which would be described in the legislation
- Possible changes to growth projections could have implications on infrastructure planning.

The legislation includes further changes, however the above will limit Brampton’s ability to determine ‘what’s right’ for our own municipality to study. Allowing minor variances to be permitted “as-of-right” will further exacerbate the ongoing issue with ARU’s and driveway widenings.

Changes to the Development Charges Act will require Council, the Chief Budget Officer, and Treasurer to reevaluate the City’s planned capital program. Further, it will require a re-examination of the Region’s planned capital program.

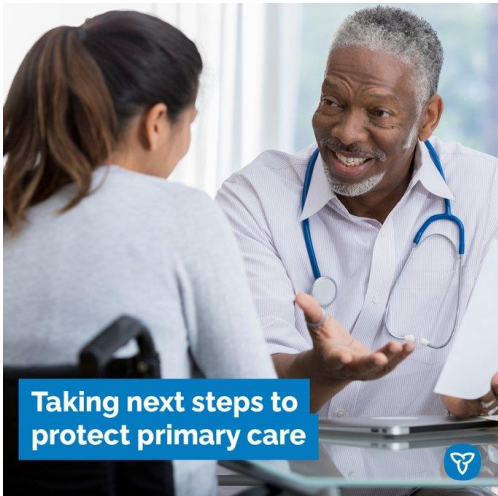
- Shifting the collection of Development Charges from Building Permit to Occupancy stage will impact the timing of monies coming into the City.
- Expanded Development Charge Credits to Developers are proposed where they have provided eligible infrastructure, impacting current DC forecast calculations.
- Defining “local service” – more impactful to City level DCs, where certain categories (community centers, etc.) may no longer be eligible to be paid for by DCs

The province committed to work with municipalities to continue simplifying, streamlining, and reducing costly local development fees.

May 7, 2025

The Primary Care Act, 2025

- The government has introduced the *Primary Care Act, 2025*, which establishes a framework for a publicly funded primary care system so that people in Ontario know what to expect when accessing primary care services.
- This legislation is part of the government's Primary Care Action Plan, to connect two million more people to publicly funded primary care in the next four years.
- As part of the upcoming 2025 Ontario Budget, the government is committing up to \$300 million to build up to 17 new and expanded community-based primary care teaching clinics in communities with high rates of unattachment to primary care.
 - This includes support for two new teaching clinics at Toronto Metropolitan University's School of Medicine in Brampton, helping to advance two Integrated Health Centres that will bring innovative, inclusive, and integrated primary care to the City and the Region of Peel. In the first two years, these clinics will help connect nearly 17,000 patients to care.



Taking next steps to protect primary care

The City's formal 2025 pre-budget submission included a call on the province to provide investment in support of the Toronto Metropolitan University's School of Medicine and expand access to care for Brampton residents. The City continues its advocacy for equitable health care services in Brampton.

May 7, 2025

First Ministers' Meeting

- The Prime Minister, Mark Carney, met virtually with provincial and territorial premiers.
- The discussion focused on two pillars: the Canada-U.S. relationship and reinforcing Canada's strength at home.
- The PM updated the premiers on his meeting with President Trump in Washington, D.C. He emphasized Canada's openness to building a new economic and security relationship with the United States – based on respect, built on common interests, and to the benefit of both nations.
- The discussion also included building projects of national interest to diversify the economy, create higher-paying jobs, and build one Canadian economy instead of 13.
- The Prime Minister reaffirmed his commitment to table federal legislation to eliminate federal trade barriers by Canada Day.
- The Prime Minister will meet with the premiers again on June 2, 2025, in Saskatoon.



This was the first meeting between the PM and First Ministers since the recent election.



May 13, 2025

Federal Cabinet Sworn-in

- **Dominic LeBlanc** - President of the King's Privy Council for Canada and Minister Responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs and One Canadian Economy
- **François-Philippe Champagne** - Minister of Finance and National Revenue
- **Anita Anand** - Minister of Foreign Affairs
- **Chrystia Freeland** - Minister of Transport and Internal Trade
- **Gregor Robertson** - Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and Minister responsible Pacific Economic Development Canada
- **Shafqat Ali (Brampton—Chinguacousy Park)** - President of the Treasury Board
- **Maninder Sidhu (Brampton East)** - Minister of International Trade

The new 28-person federal Cabinet includes two Members representing the City of Brampton. There are also 10 Secretaries of State to support the Cabinet, including **Ruby Sahota (Brampton North—Caledon)** who will focus on Combatting Crime. A detailed briefing note has been provided for Council Members. Staff will engage with Members of the Cabinet on key City priorities.

May 12, 2024

Proposed Legislation on Planning Approvals & Development Charges

- AMO broadly supports provincial efforts to standardize and streamline development approvals to boost housing and economic growth, a shared priority for municipalities. DCs are a critical tool for ensuring that municipalities can fund the infrastructure necessary to support growth, but modernization is needed.
- AMO observes that the proposed legislation includes joint AMO and the Ontario Home Builders' Association (OBHA) recommendations for DC modernization, in addition to other proposals that go beyond AMO recommendations.
- AMO also points out this legislation is a marked departure from Bill 23, which introduced significant across the board reductions and discounts to DCs. This new bill provides the framework changes and room to consult on how to best accomplish them in future regulations.

AMO will participate in the Bill's Standing Committee process. At oral depositions and beyond, AMO will continue to advocate for predictable, sustainable and adequate funding for municipal infrastructure to support an unprecedented pace and scale of growth, address aging assets and increase resilience to climate change.

Update



May 12, 2025

2025 FCM Conference

- The annual FCM Conference and AGM will take place on May 29 to June 1, 2025, in Ottawa.
- More than 1,500 elected officials from across the country will join for FCM's 2025 Annual Conference and Trade Show—Canada's largest pan-Canadian gathering of elected officials.
- A wide range of discussion panels and workshops provide a valuable opportunity for the exchange of best practices and solutions, including:
 - Responding to homeless encampments
 - Increasing housing stock in your municipality
 - Building healthy and resilient communities
 - Building tomorrow's infrastructure with today's budgets

Government Relations staff, in collaboration with department staff, are preparing briefing material and an advocacy booklet highlighting the City's key priorities.



THANK YOU!

