



Briefing Note from Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer

Government relations activities:

Regional

- Chair Henry, CAO Elaine Baxter-Trahair and Regional staff participated in a Public Safety Roundtable hosted by MP Turnbull and the Hon. Gary Anandasangaree. The discussion focused on hate crimes, home invasions, senior safety, youth crime, bail reform and homelessness.
- A meeting between Chair Henry and MP Turnbull concluded a series of engagements with local federal MPs, discussing housing as a key priority for Durham Region.
- Regional priorities were discussed with Oshawa MP Rhonda Kirkland in a meeting with the Chair.
- CAO Elaine Baxter-Trahair met with federal Public Safety Canada Directors to emphasize the importance of continuing the Building Safer Communities Fund.
- Chair Henry sent a letter to Premier Ford on the democratic importance of the elected Regional Chair position.

Provincial

- The Hon. Todd McCarthy, in addition to his role as Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, is the interim Minister of Infrastructure, while Minister Kinga Surma is on leave.
- Chair Henry attended a provincial announcement increasing Durham's land ambulance funding by nine per cent.
- The [Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025](#), was released on October 23, 2025, and includes changes to streamline approvals, reduce regulations, and address delays at the Landlord and Tenant Board. Measures include standardizing municipal road construction, enabling a new water/wastewater delivery model in Peel, and seasonal farm worker housing.
- The [Building a More Competitive Economy Act](#), was released on October 20, 2025, and proposes changes to digital permitting, municipal water approvals and Automated Speed Enforcement.

Federal

- The [Bail and Sentencing Reform Act](#) was introduced October 23, 2025, and proposes over 80 targeted amendments to the Criminal Code to strengthen bail and sentencing laws for repeat and violent offenders. Key measures include new reverse onus provisions, revised bail conditions and sentencing for auto theft and extortion, and new aggravating factors for crimes against first responders and critical infrastructure.
- Prime Minister Carney announced a \$2 billion investment from the Canada Growth Fund to support construction of four small modular reactors, with Ontario contributing \$1 billion via the Building Ontario Fund at the [Darlington New Nuclear Project](#).

- The federal government announced a 24.2 per cent [reduction to General Motors' annual import quota](#) in response to scaled-back manufacturing commitments, including reduced production at its Oshawa facilities. Canada expects General Motors to uphold their contractual obligations.

Current items of interest:

- [Statement from the Region of Durham on Chair Henry's brief medical leave](#)
- [Encampments in Durham Region](#)
- [Region of Durham launches "Together Against Hate Durham" to combat hate and foster inclusion](#)
- [Engaging in local climate action: discover, connect and be inspired](#)
- [Durham's drinking water remains safe despite seasonal odours](#)
- [Register now to attend the Durham Region Disability Employment Conference](#)
- [Invitation for comment for the Lake Ontario Monitoring System Project at Whitby Water Supply Plant](#)
- [Community input needed in the development of a community-based hate reporting program](#)
- [Share your thoughts! Health Department launches survey for parents and caregivers](#)
- [Vendors! Showcase your business at the Durham Region Disability Employment Conference](#)
- [Fare-free travel for Canadian Armed Forces members](#)

Road work:

- [Lane restrictions for Bowmanville Avenue \(Regional Road 57\) reconstruction.](#)
- [Road closure on Church Street in the Town of Ajax, for the ongoing construction of a new watermain.](#)
- [Upcoming road closure on Wilson Road North in Oshawa, to safely install water and sanitary services.](#)
- [Road closures on Adelaide Avenue East and Wilson Road South in Oshawa due to watermain break.](#)
- [Road closure on Taunton Road in Clarington, for the removal and replacement of a concrete culvert.](#)
- [Lane restrictions on Liverpool Road in Pickering, for installation of Enbridge Gas infrastructure.](#)
- [Lane restrictions on Thickson Road in Brooklin, to install a watermain in support of new development.](#)
- [Lane restrictions on Stellar Drive in Whitby, to install a storm service in support of new development.](#)
- [Lane restrictions on Lake Ridge Road in the Township of Brock, to complete road paving.](#)
- [Lane restrictions on Simcoe Street North in the City of Oshawa, to safely remove a water service and install new streetscaping in support of new development.](#)

Key activities from October:

- Regional Chair statements:
 - [Regional Chair John Henry provides update on medical leave](#)
 - [Building a future rooted in trust and respect on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- [New pedestrian crossover at Cameron Street West and Ann Street in Cannington](#)
- [Durham Region Transit's On Demand services temporarily disrupted due to service outage](#)
- [Durham College student to represent DRT at national youth summit - Durham Region Transit](#)
- [Highlights from the October 2025 Transit Executive Committee meeting - Durham Region Transit](#)
- [Notice for amendment to By-law #42-2023](#)
- [Notice of the passing of a By-law to amend By-law #39-2022](#)
- [No one left behind: Durham Region's Transitional Support Program helps those in crisis](#)
- [Village of Brooklin – Town of Whitby – planned short duration of low water pressure – Zone 4](#)
- [Introducing Housing Durham! The new brand identity for Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation](#)
- [Countdown to DRIFF: Experience the power of film in Durham Region](#)
- [Health Department encourages parents to book eye examinations for school-aged children](#)
- [Celebrate Circular Economy Month this October](#)
- [Help keep everyone healthy during respiratory illness season](#)
- [Protecting biodiversity and wetlands: Funding secured to battle invasive Phragmites](#)
- [Give Batteries a new life: recycle your batteries the week of October 6](#)