



Briefing Note from Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer

Government relations activities:

Regional

- Chair Henry and Chief LaRocca signed a new five-year [Bilateral Agreement](#) between Durham Region and the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation to formalize government-to-government collaboration, uphold reconciliation principles, and pursue joint initiatives in ecological protection, economic development, and consultation.
- At the [AMO Annual Conference 2025](#), the Region led five delegations with Ministries of Education, Energy and Mines, Health, Infrastructure, Municipal Affairs and Housing, and also joined Township of Brock's delegation with Ministry of Transportation. Chair Henry participated in delegations with Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO) including Ministries of Health and Environment, Conservation and Parks and attended a joint MARCO-OBCM (Ontario Big City Mayors) meeting alongside Elaine Baxter-Trahair.
- Chair Henry and Elaine Baxter-Trahair hosted a meeting with MPs McKelvie and Nathan at 1635 Dundas Street East to highlight Regional federal priorities including housing, homelessness and infrastructure needs. The meeting concluded with a tour of the 1635 Dundas Street East building.
- Chair Henry continued his meeting series with local MPPs and met with MPP French to share updates on Durham's key priorities.
- This month the Chair submitted two key items: a provincial submission on Bill 9, the Municipal Accountability Act, and a federal pre-budget consultation submission.

Provincial

- The [Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care \(CPLTC\)](#) funding was made permanent, securing the service to remain in Durham Region.
- The province announced over \$2.8 million in [Skills Development Fund \(SDF\) Training Stream](#) investments to support job training in Durham Region's construction, manufacturing, and skilled trades sectors, partnering with five organizations to deliver free programs that help workers upskill and respond to economic uncertainty caused by U.S. tariffs.
- The province launched the \$1 billion [Protect Ontario Financing Program](#) to provide loan support for Ontario-based businesses in steel, aluminum, and auto sectors impacted by U.S. tariffs.
- At the AMO Conference the province announced:
 - Additional \$1.6 billion to the [Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program \(MHIP\)](#) that funds the Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund, Health and Safety Waster Systems Fund etc.
 - [Funding for land ambulances is to increase in municipalities on average by 8.7 per cent](#) from 2024.

Federal

- At the AMO Conference, MP McKelvie reaffirmed the federal commitment to the [Canada Community Building Fund](#) and shared Ontario will receive \$748 million in funding this year.

Current items of interest:

- [Durham Region to hold a community vaccination event for individuals and pets](#)
- [Shape the future of Ritson's public spaces – take the survey!](#)
- [Region of Durham and Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation sign Bilateral Agreement](#)
- [How simple painted bars on Durham Roads help reduce speeding](#)
- [Reminder: Join us at upcoming Environment Days events](#)
- [Construction scheduled to begin on Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit in Ajax](#)
- [Uxbridge member vacancy on the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee \(DECAC\)](#)

Road work:

- [Lane restrictions on Stellar Drive, Whitby](#), to safely repair asphalt in support of new development.
- [Lane restrictions on Durham Regional Highway 2, Courtice](#), to safely install a sanitary sewer and services in support of development.
- [Upcoming lane shifts on Thickson Road North, Brooklin](#), to safely construct new intersections in support of development.

Key activities from August:

- Regional Chair statements:
 - [Remembering Ontario's 26th Lieutenant Governor, Hilary Weston](#)
 - [Recognizing resilience and embracing empowerment on Emancipation Day](#)
- Mandatory water restrictions for [north Durham](#) and [Bowmanville](#) residents and businesses lifted
- [Mandatory water restrictions during extreme heat ensure adequate water levels for emergency purposes](#)
- [Mandatory water restrictions for Bowmanville residents and businesses](#)
- Mosquitoes test positive for West Nile virus in [Ajax](#), [Pickering](#), and [Whitby](#)