



Briefing Note from Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer

Government relations activities:

Regional

- A letter was sent to Minister Flack containing the Council-endorsed comments from Regional staff on Bill 60.
- A technical briefing on the GO East Station Strategy was held with Minister McCarthy as interim Minister of Infrastructure.

Provincial

- Ontario extended the [One Fare](#) program for two years, allowing single-fare transfers between TTC, GO Transit, Durham Region Transit, and other participating GTHA transit agencies.
- OPG's plan to refurbish four CANDU reactors at Pickering Nuclear Generating Station was approved extending operations up to 38 years. Work begins in 2027, with completion in mid-2030s. Once complete, it will generate an increased capacity to power for 2.2 million homes.
- Ontario introduced [Keeping Criminals Behind Bars Act, 2025](#), addressing bail requirements, correctional capacity, penalties for dangerous driving, and public access to Sex Offender and Trafficker Registry.
- The 2025 legislative session at Queen's Park has concluded. MPPs return on March 23, 2026.

Federal

- The [Protecting Victims Act](#) was introduced, creating new offences for coercive control, tougher penalties and tools to counter Intimate Partner Violence, sexual and child-sexual crimes, online exploitation, and reduce court delays.
- MPs in the House of Commons concluded their fall session in mid-December 2025 and are scheduled to resume sitting in Ottawa on January 26, 2026.

Current items of interest:

- [Waste Management Facility holiday schedule changes](#)
- [Waste collection changes over the holiday season](#)
- [Durham Region named 2025 Intelligent Community of the Year!](#)
- [Keeping our community warm: winter support for those without shelter](#)

Road work:

- [Lane restrictions on Thickson Road North in Whitby](#), to safely repair a watermain break

- [Road closure on Athol Street East](#), to safely repair a watermain break
- [Lane restrictions on Dundas Street East in Whitby](#), to safely repair a watermain break

Key activities from December:

- Regional Chair statements:
 - [Creating spaces where everyone belongs on International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)
- [Durham Region secures funding for Climate Adaptation Plan update](#)
- [Wheelchair Basketball Canada National Championships deliver \\$25,500 legacy boost for parasport](#)
- [Accessibility Advisory Committee recognizing outstanding accessibility champions](#)