



# Briefing Note from Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer

## Government relations activities:

### Regional

- Chair Henry attended the swearing in ceremony of Premier Ford's [Executive Council](#) at the Royal Ontario Museum, where 37 Ministers were sworn in.
- Congratulatory letters were sent from the Chair's Office congratulating Premier Ford, Durham Regional local MPPs, and the 37 members of Premier Ford's Executive Council.
- Chair Henry met with Minister Nate Erskine-Smith and MP Ryan Turnbull regarding the Region's application for federal affordable housing funds. Minister Erskine-Smith and MP Turnbull toured 1635 Dundas Street East with the Chair and Mayor Roy and discussed the potential for transitional and supportive housing beds.
- Chair Henry and Elaine Baxter-Trahair met with Michael Lindsay, Interim President and CEO, with Metrolinx to discuss the GO East Station Strategy.
- A congratulatory letter was sent from the Chair to Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada and a thank you letter was sent to Prime Minister Trudeau as he exited the Prime Minister's Office.

### Provincial and Federal

- The updated list of Durham MPPs and their Ministerial portfolios:

Riding	MPP	Party
Ajax	Rob Cerjanec	Liberal
Durham	Hon. Todd J. McCarthy Minister, Environment Conservation and Parks	PC
Haliburton— Kawartha Lakes—Brock	Laurie Scott	PC
Northumberland— Peterborough South	Hon. David Piccini, Minister, Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development	PC
Oshawa	Jennifer French	NDP
Pickering-Uxbridge	Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister, Finance	PC
Whitby	Lorne Coe	PC

- Other notable changes include Rob Flack as the new Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Graydon Smith as the Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; and Vijay Thanigasalam, as Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.
- Mark Carney became Canada's 24th Prime Minister and announced a 24-member [federal cabinet](#). On Sunday, March 23, he called a federal election expected to occur on April 28.
- The federal [Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund](#) was extended by five years, with a three per cent funding increase every year for four years ensuring continued funding as it was set to expire on March 31, 2026.
- Federal Energy Minister Jonathan Wilkinson announced \$55 million in funding for Ontario Power Generation's [Darlington New Nuclear Project](#), which includes four new BWRX-300 Small Modular Reactors under construction at the Clarington nuclear site.

### Current items of interest:

- [Free tax filing help available to residents living with low income](#)
- [Share your thoughts at the virtual PICs for Bayly Street and Westney Road multi-use paths](#)
- [Consider a career in early learning and child care](#)
- [Stop and look! Make sure the way is clear before proceeding through stop signs](#)
- [Durham Region to exhibit research and development expertise at HANNOVER MESSE](#)
- [Stop and look: Ensuring safety at Durham's intersections](#)
- [Durham launches community engagement for temporary Ritson Road placemaking project](#)

### Road work:

- [Lane closure on Bowmanville Avenue, Clarington](#), to safely replace the Burketon Station bridge over the Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) Railway.
- [Wilson Road South closure for Highway 401/Wilson Road overpass replacement](#)
- [Lane restrictions on Bloor Street West, Oshawa](#), for the relocation of Enbridge Gas infrastructure in preparation for a pending Region capital works project.

### Key activities from March:

- Regional Chair statements:
  - [Region of Durham celebrates International Women's Day](#)
  - [Regional leaders strengthen economy, challenge U.S. tariffs](#)
- [The Energy from Waste-Waste Management Advisory Committee Meeting #55](#)
- [Durham Local Immigration Partnership hosts Funding Opportunities Forum](#)
- [Weight restriction season on Regional roads begins March 1](#)
- [Automated speed enforcement improving road safety](#)