



Briefing Note from Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer

Government relations activities:

Regional

- Chair Henry sent a letter to Minister Parsa advocating for enhanced provincial support to address Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).
- Chair Henry also sent a letter to Minister Valdez requesting stronger federal supports to address GBV and IPV.
- Chair Henry attended a pre-budget consultation meeting with Minister of Finance Bethlenfalvy to highlight regional priorities.
- Minister McCarthy attended a tour of the Durham York Energy Centre hosted by Durham and York Regions to advocate for increasing processing capacity to 160,000 tonnes/year.

Provincial

- Ontario approved a new underwater transmission line from Darlington to Toronto. The project will deliver up to 900 megawatts of power to support growth.
- An additional \$700 million in Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program funding to support water and wastewater infrastructure upgrades and enable housing growth.
- The Ministry of Transportation held a milestone announcement about the province breaking ground on GO Transit's Bowmanville Extension.

Federal

- On behalf of multiple federal Ministries, MP Turnbull announced \$48 million through the Interim Housing Assistance Program, \$630K for the Veterans Homelessness Program, and \$517K through the Emergency Treatment Fund.
- On behalf of the Ministry of Housing Infrastructure and Communities Canada, MP Turnbull announced \$40M through the Affordable Housing Fund for Phase 2 of 1635 Dundas Street East.

Current items of interest:

- [Simcoe Street Bridge replacement begins in Oshawa](#)
- [Celebrate Black History Month at Together We Rise Durham's annual event](#)
- [Apply to join Durham Region's Accessibility Advisory Committee](#)
- [Durham Regional Council approves 2026 water supply and sanitary sewer user rates](#)

Road work:

- [Update: left-turn restrictions at Harmony Road South and Tennyson Avenue in Oshawa](#), to prioritize safety improvements
- [Road closure on Courtice Road in Courtice](#), in support of new development
- [Upcoming lane restrictions on Thickson Road North in Brooklin](#), to safely install a watermain

Key activities from January:

- Regional Chair statements:
 - [Regional Chair statement on recent shooting in Oshawa involving DRPS](#)
 - [Building momentum for the year ahead](#)
- [Extreme winter weather in Durham Region: Stay safe and informed](#)
- [Health Department celebrates National Non-Smoking Week January 18 to 24](#)
- [Calling all Durham youth to become Water Warriors](#)
- [Update 1 - Regional facilities and services impacted due to inclement weather](#)
- [Regional facilities and services impacted due to inclement weather](#)
- [Transform stress and anger into positive change: connect with Men's Counselling Link](#)
- [Durham Region earns Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community designation](#)