



Briefing Note from Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer

Government relations activities:

Regional

- Strategic ongoing advocacy to advance Regional priorities during the pre-election period:
 - Elaine Baxter-Trahair met with newly appointed Deputy Minister Paul Halucha of Housing and Infrastructure Communities Canada (HICC) to create familiarity with our housing projects and advocate for swift approval of our housing applications.
 - Elaine Baxter-Trahair met with MMAH Deputy Minister Greenberg to discuss joint projects proposed by Regional CAOs.
 - Chair Henry sent a letter to Minister Miller, supporting Minister Nolan-Quinn’s request to expand programs eligible for Post Graduate Work Permit based on labour market need.
 - Social Services staff discussed the critical need for intergovernmental collaboration at a roundtable with MMHA and Minister Calandra.
- The Region received positive funding decisions for many of its applications which were the subject of government relations advocacy:

Amount	Program	Funder	Purpose
\$20 M	Housing-Enabling Core Servicing Stream funding	Provincial	To expand Bowmanville Ave in Clarington and unlock 7,934 new housing units.
\$6.3 M	Homelessness, Addiction and Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub.	Provincial	Led by Durham Community Health Centre, collaboration to address complex needs.
\$4.7 M	Last Mile Funding under Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative Residual (COCHI) and Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) top up	Provincial	50 Portable housing benefits and funds to advance the Refuge and Ritson Road Development to complete community housing.
\$52.7 M	Canada Public Transit Fund	Federal	Baseline funding for DRT over 10 years.
\$6.4 M	Unsheltered Homelessness and Encampment Initiative funding	Federal	To advance Phase 2 of 1635 Dundas and build supportive housing units.

Provincial & Federal

- A new provincial [Youth Wellness Hub](#) in Ajax will serve youth aged 12-15 from across Durham Region providing mental health, primary care and wellness services.
- A letter from Minister Calandra outlines the proposed [Municipal Accountability Act](#), to establish a municipal code of conduct, enabling the Integrity Commissioner to penalize conduct violations.
- The Province announced [Ontario Corps](#), a group of skilled professionals and volunteers that the province can deploy to help communities respond to natural disasters and other emergencies.
- Minister of Transport announced that the [Pickering Airport Lands will not be used for a future airport site](#) and at least some of the lands will be transferred to Parks Canada.
- Federal cabinet shuffles include Nate Erskine-Smith, Minister of HICC, and Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs. Steven MacKinnon, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour.

Current items of interest:

- **Fosterbrooke Long-Term Care facility closure January 23 due to a burst water pipe**
 - Relocation of residents to a temporary evacuation site, Diane Hamre Recreation Complex.
 - Durham Region's Emergency Social Services with support from Durham Region Transit and the Red Cross, found temporary accommodation that met the care needs of individual residents and provided transportation
 - All residents were relocated to temporary Long-Term Care homes by January 27.
- [KI tablets available for all area residents and businesses located near nuclear generating stations - Region of Durham](#)
- [Celebrate Black History - Together We Rise Durham: Resistance, Resilience, Possibility - Region of Durham](#)

Road work:

- [Speed limit reduction and community safety zone in Beaverton - Region of Durham](#)

Key activities from January:

- Regional Chair statement:
 - [Regional Chair brings greetings for the new year - Region of Durham](#)
- [Delivering Durham's connected future: Broadband milestone achieved ahead of schedule - Region of Durham](#)
- [Health Department celebrates National Non-Smoking Week January 19 to 25 - Region of Durham](#)
- [Discover your next role with the Film and Television Industry Career Fair - Region of Durham](#)
- [Youth member vacancy: Durham Environment & Climate Advisory Committee \(DECAC\) - Region of Durham](#)
- [Application deadline extended for Durham Region's Anti-Racism Taskforce - Region of Durham](#)
- [Set the scene for your business to be a part of Durham's film and television industry - Region of Durham](#)
- [Share ideas for programs and services at the Beaverton Heights Community Hub - Region of Durham](#)
- [Regional Council approves 2025 Business Plans and Budget including water and sewer rates - Region of Durham](#)