



AGENDA
LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday, April 3, 2025 9:00 AM
Council Chambers, Wyoming

Page

1. ROLL CALL

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that this land on which we are gathered today is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come.

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

If any.

4. IN-CAMERA SESSION - 9:00 A.M.

Recommendation

That the Warden declare that County Council go in-camera to discuss the following:

- a) to review the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) minutes dated February 5, 2025, pursuant to s. 239(2) (c) and (h) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- b) to review the Committee of the Whole In-Camera minutes dated February 19, 2025 pursuant to s. 239(2) (f), (i) and (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

5. OPEN SESSION

The Open Session meeting will commence immediately following the Closed Session meeting.

6. SILENT REFLECTION

7. RISE AND REPORT MOTIONS OF THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

If any.

8. MINUTES OF COUNCIL (OPEN SESSION)

- 5 - 17 a) Reading and adoption of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated February 5, 2025.
- 18 - 29 b) Reading and adoption of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) Budget minutes dated March 5, 2025.

9. BOARD OF HEALTH (Lambton Public Health)

A) Board of Health Correspondence to Receive and File Recommendation

That the following correspondence items be received and filed:

- 30 - 32 a) BOH 04-03-25 A letter from Mark Signoretti, Chair, Board of Health, Public Health Sudbury & Districts dated March 21, 2025, regarding a resolution endorsing the establishment and implementation of an Immunization Registry for Ontario.
- 33 - 35 b) BOH 04-04-25 A letter from Mark Signoretti, Chair, Board of Health, Public Health Sudbury & Districts dated March 21, 2025, regarding a resolution endorsing the Walport Report and its 12 recommendations and encouraging both the Federal government and the government of Ontario to act with deliberate resolve in implementing the Walport Report as well as the 2022 Chief Medical Officer of Health report, respectively.
- 36 - 39 c) BOH 04-05-25 An email from Dr. Ken Blanchette, Chief Executive Officer, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit dated March 24, 2025, regarding a Resolution Report addressing household food insecurity. Please see the attached letter for the full motion.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health call on the federal government to implement income-related policy interventions that have the potential to reduce food insecurity, including: the expansion of the Canadian Child Benefit, implementing a basic income guarantee for those age 18-64, enhancing the Canada disability benefit, and providing access to automated income-tax returns for low

income Canadians.

B) Board of Health Information Reports

- 40 - 41 a) Information Report dated April 3, 2025 Regarding Electronic Medical Record Implementation Update.
- 42 - 57 b) Information Report dated April 3, 2025 Regarding Monitoring Food Affordability in Lambton County: The 2024 Nutritious Food Basket Report.
- 58 - 62 c) Information Report dated April 3, 2025 Regarding Review of the 2024-25 Respiratory Season.

C) Board of Health Other Business

- a) Dr. Karalyn Dueck, Medical Officer of Health, will provide an update on Avian Influenza and Measles.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

No other correspondence items.

11. INFORMATION REPORTS

A) Social Services Division

- 63 - 64 a) Information Report dated April 3, 2025 Regarding Sanctuary Security Inquiry.

12. ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A MOTION

- 65 - 67 a) Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership Board minutes dated January 28, 2025.

13. REPORTS REQUIRING A MOTION

A) Office of the CAO

- 68 - 74 a) Report dated April 3, 2025 Regarding USA Tariff Purchasing Response.

14. COMMITTEE MINUTES

- 75 - 82 a) Committee of the Whole (Open Session) minutes dated February 19, 2025.
- 83 - 85 b) Woodlands Hearings Board Minutes dated March 25, 2025.

15. ITEMS TABLED FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None at this time.

16. NOTICE OF MOTION

17. OTHER BUSINESS

18. NOTICE OF BY-LAWS

- 86 - 88 a) 8 of 2025 A By-Law to Appoint a Chief Building Official and Inspectors for The County of Lambton.
- 89 - 90 b) 9 of 2025 A By-Law to Amend By-Law No. 28 of 2011.
- 91 - 92 c) 10 of 2025 A By-Law to Amend By-Law No. 12 of 2023.
- 93 d) 11 of 2025 A By-Law of The Corporation of the County of Lambton to confirm the resolutions and motions of Lambton County Council which were adopted up to and including April 3rd, 2025.
- A) First and Second Reading of By-Laws**
- a) #8, #9, #10 and #11 of 2025.
- B) Third and Final Reading of By-Laws**
- a) #8, #9, #10 and #11 of 2025.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Recommendation

That the Warden declare the meeting adjourned and that the next regular meeting of County Council be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 with the In-Camera Session to commence at 9:00 a.m.

20. O CANADA!



**MINUTES
LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL**

February 5, 2025

Lambton County Council was in session in Council Chambers, Wyoming, Ontario, at 9:00 a.m. on the above date. Warden in the Chair; Roll called; All members present except B. Hand and B. Loosley. Councillor M. Bradley attended virtually. Also present was G. Grimes, Alternate Member to Councillor B. Hand, Village of Point Edward, and J. Field, Alternate Member to Councillor B. Loosley, Town of Petrolia.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that this land on which we are gathered today is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come.

DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor I. Veen declared a pecuniary interest regarding item #8. c) and #14. b) of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) agenda dated February 5, 2025. Councillor I. Veen has a family member employed with Tourism Sarnia-Lambton, and therefore recused himself from discussions on the presentation as well as on motion #22 of this day's minutes.

IN-CAMERA SESSION - 9:02 A.M.

#1: Dennis/Atkinson: That the Warden declare that County Council go in-camera to discuss the following:

a) to review the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) minutes dated November 27, 2024, pursuant to s. 239(2)(c), (d) and (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

b) to receive a report and provide instructions relating to information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality by the Government of Canada, pursuant to s. 239(2)(h) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

c) to receive a report regarding the potential disposition of property located in the City of Sarnia, and to seek instructions from Council in relation thereto, pursuant to s. 239(2)(c) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

d) to review the Committee of the Whole In-Camera minutes dated January 15, 2025, pursuant to s. 239(2)(b) and (d) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Carried.

Time: 9:09 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

The Warden declared that County Council go back into Open Session. Council then reconvened at 9:10 a.m.

RISE AND REPORT MOTIONS OF THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

The Clerk noted that County Council went In-Camera to discuss the following:

a) to review and approve the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) minutes dated November 27, 2024.

b) to receive a report and provide instructions relating to information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality by Health Canada.

c) to receive a report and provide instructions regarding the potential disposition of land located in the City of Sarnia.

d) to review and approve the Committee of the Whole In-Camera minutes dated January 15, 2025.

DELEGATIONS

#2: Case/Boushy: That we invite the delegations within the Bar to speak to County Council.

Carried.

Sarah Reaume, Chief Executive Officer, Community Futures Lambton, presented to County Council regarding an update on organization programming and the announcement of a new County-wide initiative.

Tony Gioiosa and Brad Kuglin on behalf of the Melrose Community Group, presented to County Council regarding the overflow shelter at the Laurel Lea Church.

#3: Dennis/No Seconder: That County Council support the resolution brought forward by Tony Gioiosa and Brad Kuglin on behalf of the Melrose Community as follows:

- a) That staff be instructed to develop a work plan for Council's approval that outlines how services will be wound down at the shelter.
- b) That the overflow shelter be permanently closed within the next 90 days.
- c) That no future shelters be opened in the community.

Motion failed due to lack of a seconder.

#4: McRoberts/Dennis: That County Council direct staff to contact Sarnia Police Service to inquire into the cost of hiring a Sarnia Police officer to provide additional security at the overflow shelter and report back to Council at the February 19, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Carried.

#5: Bradley/McRoberts: That County staff continue to engage with the Melrose Community Group and that the Melrose Community Group be involved in the exit strategy on winding down the overflow shelter.

A recorded vote starting with Councillor Boushy was requested by Councillor Bradley on motion #9 of this day's minutes.

Councillor	Vote
J. Agar	Yes (3)
G. Atkinson	Yes (3)
D. Boushy	Yes (3)
M. Bradley	Yes (3)
A. Broad	Yes (1)
T. Case	Yes (2)
D. Cook	Yes (3)
B. Dennis	Yes (3)
D. Ferguson	Yes (1)
B. Hand	Yes (1)
B. Loosley	Yes (2)
K. Marriott	Yes (1)
C. McRoberts	Yes (3)
S. Miller	Yes (2)

D. Sageman	Yes (2)
I. Veen	Yes (1)
B. White	Yes (3)

Yeas - 37; Nays - 0.

Carried.

Adam Veen, Marketing Director on behalf of Mark Perrin, Executive Director, Tourism Sarnia-Lambton (TSL), provided County Council an update regarding TSL's activities and plans.

Matthew Slotwinski, Chief Executive Officer, Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP), provided County Council an update regarding SLEP's activities and plans.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL (OPEN SESSION)

The Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated November 27, 2024 and the Lambton County Warden's Election minutes dated December 4, 2024 were presented.

#6: Ferguson/Cook: That the following minutes be accepted as presented:

- a) Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated November 27, 2024.
- b) Lambton County Warden's Election minutes dated December 4, 2024.

Carried.

Annual General Meeting of The County of Lambton Community Development Corporation

February 5, 2025

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The Corporation of the County of Lambton Community Development Corporation (CLCDC) was held at the County Council (Open Session) meeting on the above date and was called to order at 11:00 a.m. Invited to the meeting were the institutional members (County Council) as well as the individual members (the Board). Dr. Katherine Albion, Executive Director of the Research Park, made the presentation to the members.

#7: Case/Dennis: That Warden Marriott be appointed as Chair of the meeting.

Carried.

Introduction of the Members

The Chair of the Board commenced by introducing its members to the Board and the Staff Advisory Committee who were present for the Annual General Meeting as follows: Members Kevin Marriott, and Jeff Agar participated in-person, and Mike Bradley, Tom Strifler and David Muir participated virtually. Staff members, Larry Palarchio, and Stéphane Thiffeault; and Dr. Katherine Albion, Executive Director, participated in-person. Members Rob Kardas, Alison Ewart and Miriam Capretz did not participate in the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

#8: Atkinson/White: That the agenda for the Annual General Meeting of The County of Lambton Community Development Corporation be approved as presented.

Carried.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None.

Presentation of Financial Statements

Larry Palarchio, General Manager, Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions provided an update on the Financial Statements for the Year Ended April 30, 2024.

#9: Veen/White: That The County of Lambton Community Development Corporation Financial Statements for the Year Ended April 30, 2024 be approved.

Carried.

Update Presentation from Executive Director

Dr. Katherine Albion, Executive Director, provided an update to members regarding activities at the Western Sarnia-Lambton Research Park.

Confirmation of Officers and Directors

#10: Broad/Dennis: That the following positions be confirmed for the Board:

- a. Mike Bradley (Chair)
- b. Rob Kardas (Vice Chair)

- c. Kevin Marriott (Director)
- d. Jeff Agar (Director)
- e. David Muir (Director)
- f. Tom Strifler (Director)
- g. Miriam Capretz (Director)
- h. Alison Ewart (Director)

Carried.

#11: Case/Dennis: That the following positions be confirmed for the Board:

- a. Stéphane Thiffault (Secretary)
- b. Larry Palarchio (Treasurer)

Carried.

Appointment of Auditors

#12: Miller/McRoberts: That BDO Canada LLP - Sarnia be appointed as auditors to The County of Lambton Community Development Corporation for 2025.

Carried.

Adjournment

#13: Veen/Cook: That the Chair declare the Annual General Meeting of The County of Lambton Community Development Corporation be adjourned.

Carried.

Time: 11:29 a.m.

The Warden declared that County Council break for a recess at 11:29 a.m.

Council then reconvened at 11:39 a.m.

BOARD OF HEALTH (Lambton Public Health)

Board of Health Correspondence to Receive and File

BOH 02-15-25 A letter from Trudy Sachowski, Chair, Association of Local Public Health Agencies, dated January 20, 2025, providing its input on the financial requirements for a stable, locally based public health system as part of this year's pre-budget consultation.

BOH 02-16-25 A letter from Trudy Sachowski, Chair, Association of Local Public Health Agencies, dated December 17, 2024 in response to the findings of the Ontario Auditor General's performance audit, pertaining to Ontario's Opioid Strategy.

BOH 02-17-25 A letter from David Marshall, Chair, Board of Health, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, dated December 5, 2024, in support of Health Canada's Order amending Schedules 2 and 3 to the *Tobacco and Vaping Products Act* to ban all e-cigarette flavours excluding mint, menthol and tobacco.

#14: Broad/Sageman: That correspondence BOH 02-15-25, BOH 02-16-25, and BOH 02-17-25 be received and filed.

Carried.

Board of Health Information Reports

#15: Miller/Grimes: That the following Information Reports from the Board of Health be received and filed:

a) Information Report dated February 5, 2025 regarding Assessment of the Immunization Status of School Pupils and the Suspension Process - 2024-25 School Year Update.

b) Information Report dated February 5, 2025 regarding Clinical and Family Services Q4 2024 Activity Report.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence to Receive and File

CC 02-11-25 A letter from Lee Michaels, resident of the City of Sarnia, received December 16, 2024, regarding the overflow shelter at the Laurel Lea Church.

CC 02-12-25 A letter from Margo Harrison, resident of the City of Sarnia, dated December 14, 2024, regarding the overflow shelter at the Laurel Lea Church.

#16: Ferguson/Cook: That correspondence CC 02-11-25 and CC 02-12-25 be received and filed.

Carried.

CC 02-18-25 Correspondence received from Heather Martin, CEO, Vision '74 Inc. dated January 28, 2025 regarding a request for Lambton County Council to reconsider proceeding with the Small House Development Plan.

#17: McRoberts/Bradley: That County Council reconsider motion #12 of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated October 2, 2024 regarding Small House Financial Estimate Update. The original motion subject to reconsideration reads as follows:

#12: Ferguson/Loosley:

a) *That the Small House Addition Project for Lambton Meadowview Villa (the "Project") at a revised estimated cost of \$12.22M be approved and authorized.*

b) *That the Project be funded as follows:*

- *\$2.5M from LTC Reserves;*
- *\$8.72M from debt (recoverable);*
- *\$0.6M from provincial grants; and*
- *that Staff be authorized to draw and/or commit the Corporation to the stated debt, as noted above.*

c) *That Staff continue to update Council, through the Committee of the Whole on the status of this project.*

A recorded vote starting with Councillor Field was requested by Councillor Bradley on motion #17 of this day's minutes.

Councillor	Vote
J. Agar	No (3)
G. Atkinson	No (3)
D. Boushy	Yes (3)
M. Bradley	Yes (3)
A. Broad	No (1)
T. Case	No (2)
D. Cook	No (3)
B. Dennis	No (3)
D. Ferguson	No (1)
G. Grimes, Alternate Member to B. Hand	Yes (1)
J. Field, Alternate Member to B. Loosley	No (2)

K. Marriott	No (1)
C. McRoberts	Yes (3)
S. Miller	No (2)
D. Sageman	No (2)
I. Veen	No (1)
B. White	Yes (3)

Yeas - 13; Nays - 24.

Motion Defeated.

#18: Broad/Cook: That correspondence CC 02-18-25 be received and filed.

Carried.

Correspondence from Member Municipalities

CC 02-14-25 A letter from Amy Burkhart, City Clerk, the City of Sarnia, dated January 23, 2025 regarding hours of operations at County of Lambton shelters. The City of Sarnia passed the resolution below at its January 20, 2025 Council meeting.

That staff be directed to dismantle all encampments immediately. Most notably the one in Rainbow Park; and

That Sarnia City Council request the County of Lambton take a serious review of the hours of service at shelters.

#19: Broad/Cook: That correspondence CC 02-14-25 be received and filed.

Carried.

INFORMATION REPORTS

Long-Term Care Division

Information Report dated February 5, 2025 Regarding Small House Project Reconsideration Request

#20: Miller/Case: That Information Report dated February 5, 2025 regarding Small House Project Reconsideration Request be received and filed.

Carried.

Social Services Division

Information Report dated February 5, 2025 Regarding Homelessness Prevention Services

#21: Miller/Case: That Information Report dated February 5, 2025 regarding Homelessness Prevention Services be received and filed.

Carried.

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A MOTION

#22: Sageman/Boushy: That the following items be received and filed:

- a) Lambton Seniors' Advisory Committee minutes dated September 17, 2024.
- b) Tourism Sarnia-Lambton Board minutes dated September 19, 2024.
- c) Creative County Committee minutes dated September 26, 2024.
- d) Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership Board minutes dated November 19, 2024.
- e) County of Lambton Agricultural Advisory Committee minutes dated December 11, 2024.

Carried.

REPORTS REQUIRING A MOTION

Emergency Medical Services Department

Report dated February 5, 2025 Regarding 2025 EMS Service Enhancement

#23: White/Broad: That the associated costs for 12 hours of ambulance service consisting of:

- (a) \$600,000 of staffing costs to be funded by levy; and,
- (b) \$322,250 of capital costs for an ambulance and equipment to be funded by EMS capital reserves,

be referred to the 2025 Budget deliberations for Council's further consideration.

Carried.

Report dated February 5, 2025 Regarding EMS Headquarters Development

#24: White/Broad:

a) Subject to the lease contemplated in paragraph (b) being secured, that the associated costs to construct a new EMS Headquarters estimated at \$10,795,076 be funded through:

- i) debenture (\$9,715,568); and,
- ii) reserves (\$1,079,508) and be referred to the 2025 Budget deliberations for Council's further consideration.

b) That staff be authorized to enter into land lease negotiations with the County of Lambton Community Development Corporation for the new EMS Headquarters and return to Council thereafter for final instructions and approval of said lease.

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (OPEN SESSION) MINUTES

The Committee of the Whole (Open Session) minutes dated January 15, 2025 were presented.

#25: Broad/Case: That the Committee of the Whole (Open Session) minutes dated January 15, 2025 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

ITEMS TABLED FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None at this time.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor White gave Notice of Motion dated January 16, 2025 for the February 5, 2025 Lambton County Council (Open Session) meeting regarding the appointments made by the Striking Committee on December 4, 2024, which appointed Councillor D. Sageman to the Lambton Community Safety and Well-Being Leadership Team for 2025-2026. Councillor White is seeking Council's consideration of the motion below.

That Councillor B. White be appointed to the Lambton Community Safety and Well-Being Leadership Team for 2025-2026.

#26: Case/Ferguson: That Councillor B. White be appointed to the Lambton Community Safety and Well-Being Leadership Team for 2025-2026.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

#27: Case/McRoberts: That staff report back on the County's procurement processes, specifically reviewing opportunities to prioritize the purchase of Canadian-made products wherever feasible, in response to the challenges posed by U.S. tariffs.

Carried.

NOTICE OF BY-LAWS

3 of 2025 A By-Law to Authorize Bank Borrowing for Current Operations to a maximum of \$10,000,000.

4 of 2025 A By-Law to Provide for Services Fees and Charges by The Corporation of the County of Lambton.

5 of 2025 A By-Law of The Corporation of the County of Lambton to confirm the resolutions and motions of Lambton County Council which were adopted up to and including February 5th, 2025.

First and Second Reading of By-Laws

#28: Broad/SageMan: That By-Laws #3, #4 and #5 of 2025, as circulated, be taken as read a first and second time.

Carried.

Third and Final Reading of By-Laws

#29: Broad/SageMan: That By-Laws #3, #4 and #5 of 2025, as circulated, be taken as read a third and final time.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

#30: Atkinson/Field: That the Warden declare the meeting adjourned and that the next regular meeting of County Council be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 with the In-Camera Session to commence at 9:00 a.m.

Carried.

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Kevin Marriott, Warden

Olivia Leger, Clerk



**MINUTES
LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS**

March 5, 2025

Lambton County Council was in session in Council Chambers, Wyoming, Ontario, at 9:00 a.m. on the above date. Warden in the Chair; Roll called; All members present except G. Atkinson. Members M. Bradley and D. Cook attended virtually. Also present was N. McEwen, Alternate Member for G. Atkinson, Town of Plympton-Wyoming.

Morning Breakfast

County Councillors were invited to attend a Morning Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room #3, prior to the Council meeting.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that this land on which we are gathered today is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come.

DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor B. Loosley declared a pecuniary interest on TAB 2, pages 3-6 and 7-12, as well as on TAB 9, pages 14-27 regarding the Emergency Medical Services department due to his son being employed with Lambton EMS. Councillor Loosley recused himself from related discussions and on budget motions #1 and #2 of this day's minutes.

Councillor B. Hand declared a pecuniary interest on budget motion #5 of this day's budget session minutes regarding monies for Bluewater Health, due to being a Bluewater Health Foundation Board Member, and therefore recused herself from voting and discussions at that time.

Councillor B. Hand declared a pecuniary interest on budget motion #6 of this day's budget session minutes regarding Council grants to Tourism Sarnia-Lambton (TSL) due to sitting on the TSL Board, and therefore recused herself from discussions and voting on this motion.

Councillor C. McRoberts declared a pecuniary interest on budget motion #6 of this day's budget session minutes regarding Council grants to Tourism Sarnia-Lambton (TSL) due to sitting on the TSL Board, and therefore recused herself from discussions and voting on this motion.

Councillor I. Veen declared a pecuniary interest on budget motion #6 of this day's budget session minutes regarding Council grants to Tourism Sarnia-Lambton (TSL) due to his son being employed by TSL, and therefore recused himself from discussions and voting on this motion.

Warden K. Marriott declared a pecuniary interest on budget motion #6 of this day's budget session minutes regarding Council grants to Tourism Sarnia-Lambton (TSL) and the County of Lambton Community Development Corporation (CLCDC) due to sitting on both Boards, and therefore recused himself from discussions and voting on this motion.

IN-CAMERA SESSION

No In-Camera Items.

PRESENTATION BY MP MARILYN GLADU

MP Marilyn Gladu presented Warden Kevin Marriott with a King Charles III Coronation medal for all of his contributions to the development and well-being of Enniskillen Township and Lambton County over his political career, starting in 1994.

2025 Budget Deliberations

Lambton County Council went into the 2025 Budget Session.

Larry Palarchio, Treasurer and General Manager, Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions, provided a brief overview regarding the process to be followed.

Council commenced the 2025 budget process with staff reports referred to Budget and then reviewed the budgets for each Division. Council made resolutions on an exception basis as recorded in the attached minutes dated Wednesday, March 5, 2025, specifically motions #1 to #9 attached therein.

ITEMS REFERRED TO BUDGET

See budget motions #1 to #3 attached therein.

REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT BUDGETS

See budget motions #4 to #7 attached therein.

OTHER BUSINESS

See budget motions number #8 to #9 attached therein.

NOTICE OF BY-LAWS

6 of 2025 A By-Law to Adopt the Cash Requirements Budget for 2025.

7 of 2025 A By-Law of The Corporation of the County of Lambton to confirm the resolutions and motions of Lambton County Council which were adopted up to and including March 5th, 2025.

First and Second Reading of By-Laws

#1: Agar/McEwen: That By-Laws #6 and #7 of 2025, as circulated, be taken as read a first and second time.

Carried.

Third and Final Reading of By-Laws

#2: Agar/McEwen: That By-Laws #6 and #7 of 2025, as circulated, be taken as read a third and final time.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

#3: Veen/Loosley: That the Warden declare the meeting adjourned and that the next regular meeting of County Council be held on Thursday, April 3, 2025 with the In-Camera Session to commence at 9:00 a.m.

Carried.

Time: 10:38 a.m.

Kevin Marriott, Warden

Olivia Leger, Clerk

2025 BUDGET MINUTES

County Council

Budget Minutes for: March-05-25

Motion	Mover / Seconder	Department / Motion	Budget Type	Budget Change			Result	Votes	
				Gross (\$)	Tax (\$)	Levy (%)		Yes	No
1	Broad, Alan White, Brian	Emergency Medical Services That the associated costs for 12 hours of additional ambulance service consisting of: \$600,000 of staffing costs to be funded by levy; and \$322,250 of capital costs for an ambulance and equipment to be funded by EMS Capital Reserve be approved and included in the 2025 Budget.	Operating: Non-TCA: TCA:	600,000 322,250	600,000	0.628	A		
2	White, Brian Dennis, Bill	Emergency Medical Services Subject to County Council's approval of a land lease between the County and CLCDC for the new EMS Headquarters located at the Western Sarnia-Lambton Research Park, County Council authorizes and approves the associated costs to construct a new EMS Headquarters estimated at \$10,795,076 be funded through: debenture in the amount of \$9,715,568; and EMS Capital Reserves in the amount of \$1,079,508.	Operating: Non-TCA: TCA:	 10,795,076			A		

2025 BUDGET MINUTES County Council

Budget Minutes for: March-05-25

Motion	Mover / Seconder	Department / Motion	Budget Type	Budget Change			Result	Votes	
				Gross (\$)	Tax (\$)	Levy (%)		Yes	No

3	Ferguson, David Case, Todd	County Grants That County Council authorize a loan to the Community Development Corporation in the amount of \$900,000 to be funded through the Economic Development Reserve, subject to the following conditions: a . That \$225,000 be provided to CLCDC on or around April 15th, 2025; b. That \$225,000 be provided to CLCDC on or around June 15th, 2025, subject to Council's satisfaction of demonstrated need; c. That \$225,000 be provided to CLCDC on or around September 15th, 2025; and d. That \$225,000 be provided to CLCDC on or around December 15th, 2025, subject to Council's satisfaction of demonstrated need. And that such loan be subject to a negotiated agreement between the organizations. A recorded vote, starting with Councillor Hand, was requested by Councillor Bradley.	Operating: Non-TCA: TCA:	900,000			A	29	8
---	-------------------------------	--	--	---------	--	--	---	----	---

Councillors	Yes	No
Agar, Jeff	3	
Atkinson, Gary	3	
Boushy, Dave	3	
Bradley, Mike		3
Broad, Alan	1	
Case, Todd	2	
Cook, Doug	3	
Dennis, Bill	3	
Ferguson, David	1	
Hand, Bev	1	
Loosley, Brad		2
Marriott, Kevin	1	
McRoberts, Chrissy		3
Miller, Steve	2	
Sageman, Dan	2	
Veen, Ian	1	
White, Brian	3	

2025 BUDGET MINUTES
County Council

Budget Minutes for: March-05-25

Motion	Mover / Second	Department / Motion	Budget Type	Budget Change			Result	Votes	
				Gross (\$)	Tax (\$)	Levy (%)		Yes	No
4	Agar, Jeff Dennis, Bill	County Grants That the 2025 grant to SLEP included within the 2025 Draft Budget be reduced by 2%.	Operating: Non-TCA: TCA:	-33,119	-33,119	-0.035	A		

2025 BUDGET MINUTES County Council

Budget Minutes for: March-05-25

Motion	Mover / Seconder	Department / Motion	Budget Type	Budget Change			Result	Votes	
				Gross (\$)	Tax (\$)	Levy (%)		Yes	No

5	Loosley, Brad Dennis, Bill	County Grants That \$105,000 be given to Bluewater Health to match the monies given to Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation.	Operating: Non-TCA: TCA:	105,000	105,000	0.110	D	8	28
---	-------------------------------	--	--------------------------------	---------	---------	-------	---	---	----

A recorded vote, starting with Councillor Miller, was requested by Councillor Loosley.

Councillors	Yes	No
Agar, Jeff		3
Atkinson, Gary		3
Boushy, Dave		3
Bradley, Mike	3	
Broad, Alan		1
Case, Todd		2
Cook, Doug		3
Dennis, Bill	3	
Ferguson, David		1
Hand, Bev	(Pl)	
Loosley, Brad	2	
Marriott, Kevin		1
McRoberts, Chrissy		3
Miller, Steve		2
SageMan, Dan		2
Veen, Ian		1
White, Brian		3

2025 BUDGET MINUTES County Council

Budget Minutes for: March-05-25

Motion	Mover / Seconder	Department / Motion	Budget Type	Budget Change			Result	Votes	
				Gross (\$)	Tax (\$)	Levy (%)		Yes	No
6	Case, Todd White, Brian	County Grants That the 2025 grants to TSL and CLCDC included within the 2025 Draft Budget be reduced by 2% each.	Operating: Non-TCA: TCA:	-31,161	-31,161	-0.033	A	31	0

A recorded vote, starting with Councillor Atkinson, was requested by Councillor Broad.

Councillors	Yes	No
Agar, Jeff	3	
Atkinson, Gary	3	
Boushy, Dave	3	
Bradley, Mike	3	
Broad, Alan	1	
Case, Todd	2	
Cook, Doug	3	
Dennis, Bill	3	
Ferguson, David	1	
Hand, Bev	(PI)	
Loosley, Brad	2	
Marriott, Kevin	(PI)	
McRoberts, Chrissy	(PI)	
Miller, Steve	2	
Sageman, Dan	2	
Veen, Ian	(PI)	
White, Brian	3	

2025 BUDGET MINUTES
County Council

Budget Minutes for: March-05-25

Motion	Mover / Seconder	Department / Motion	Budget Type	Budget Change			Result	Votes	
				Gross (\$)	Tax (\$)	Levy (%)		Yes	No
7	Bradley, Mike McRoberts, Chrissy	Homelessness Prevention and Social Planning That staff report back to Council at the April Council meeting regarding the request received from River City Vineyard relating to security and the costs thereof.	Operating: Non-TCA: TCA:				A		

2025 BUDGET MINUTES County Council

Budget Minutes for: March-05-25

Motion	Mover / Seconder	Department / Motion	Budget Type	Budget Change			Result	Votes	
				Gross (\$)	Tax (\$)	Levy (%)		Yes	No

8	Dennis, Bill Loosley, Brad	County Council That the levy be reduced by \$956,000 through a reduction in the 2025 contributions to reserve funds so that the levy be reduced from 5.3% to 4.3%. A recorded vote, starting with Councillor Bradley, was requested by Councillor Loosley.	Operating: Non-TCA: TCA:	-956,000	-956,000	-1.000	D	11	26
---	-------------------------------	--	--------------------------------	----------	----------	--------	---	----	----

Councillors	Yes	No
Agar, Jeff	3	
Atkinson, Gary	3	
Boushy, Dave		3
Bradley, Mike		3
Broad, Alan		1
Case, Todd		2
Cook, Doug		3
Dennis, Bill	3	
Ferguson, David		1
Hand, Bev		1
Loosley, Brad	2	
Marriott, Kevin		1
McRoberts, Chrissy		3
Miller, Steve		2
Sage man, Dan		2
Veen, Ian		1
White, Brian		3

2025 BUDGET MINUTES
County Council

Budget Minutes for: March-05-25

Motion	Mover / Seconder	Department / Motion	Budget Type	Budget Change			Result	Votes	
				Gross (\$)	Tax (\$)	Levy (%)		Yes	No
9	Ferguson, David Veen, Ian	County Council That the 2025 budget be approved as amended during today's deliberations.	Operating: Non-TCA: TCA:				A		

BOH 04-03-25



March 21, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Honourable Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health of Ontario
Ministry of Health
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M5G 2C8

Honourable Kamal Khara
Minister of Health of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Re: Support for a Provincial Immunization Registry

Dear Honourable Minister Jones and Honourable Minister Khara:

First, let me congratulate both of you on your respective reappointments to Cabinet.

Minister Jones, our team has valued its partnership with you since your key role on the COVID-19 immunization roll-out, and we look forward to continuing to work with you on immunization issues, such as outlined in this letter.

Minister Khara, as you rejoin Cabinet now as the Minister of Health, we are excited to have the opportunity to engage with someone who worked on the front lines of COVID-19 immunizations and will have familiarity with the on-the-ground challenges we hope to partner with both your governments to address.

At its meeting on January 16, 2025, our Board of Health carried the following resolution #06-25:

WHEREAS neither Ontario nor Canada currently have a reliable, complete or timely way to record immunization information for residents;

Healthier communities for all.
Des communautés plus saines pour tous.

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca



Letter
Re: Support for a Provincial Immunization Registry
March 21, 2025
Page 2

WHEREAS a national immunization registry has been a longstanding recommendation for strengthening public health in Canada;

WHEREAS in September 2024, the Ontario Immunization Advisory Committee released a position statement strongly urging the Ontario Ministry of Health to develop a provincial immunization registry; and

WHEREAS Peterborough Public Health (Motion 9.3.6) and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (Resolution 32) have also passed motions to support a provincial immunization registry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health endorses the establishment and implementation of an Immunization Registry for Ontario;

AND THAT the Board of Health supports the establishment of a pan-Canadian immunization registry that integrates with any provincial registries.

Currently, it is not known how many Ontarians and Canadians are vaccinated for various diseases. Such diseases, including measles, polio, and pertussis, have been re-emerging globally, necessitating action to protect our populations. The efforts around measles are particularly salient, given the sizeable outbreak currently in Ontario, as well as an outbreak in Quebec. However, without a registry, we cannot effectively measure or monitor our successes or gaps in vaccination; to a great extent, we are working “blind”.

Immunization registries would enable better protecting Canadians and Ontarians from these diseases, as well as ongoing infectious threats such as influenza, RSV, and COVID-19. And registries would position us better to respond to future infectious emergencies and pandemics.

The Board encourages the province to move forward with the recommendation of the *Ontario Immunization Advisory Committee* to establish a provincial immunization registry.

However, infections do not respect provincial and territorial borders. So the Board of health further encourages the federal government to establish a pan-Canadian immunization registry that would integrate with provincial registries, such as the one we hope Ontario will design.

Letter
Re: Support for a Provincial Immunization Registry
March 21, 2025
Page 2

The Board would be pleased to offer any support we can to your governments in these endeavours, and the staff of Public Health Sudbury & Districts are available to help in any way they can. We hope to work in partnership to make our communities safer and healthier.

Sincerely,



Mark Signoretti
Chair, Board of Health

cc: Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada
Heather Jeffrey, President of the Public Health Agency of Canada
Michael Sherar, President of Public Health Ontario and Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health and CEO, Public Health Sudbury & Districts
Viviane Lapointe, Local Member of Parliament, Sudbury
Marc Serré, Local Member of Parliament, Nickel Belt
Carol Hugues, Local Member of Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing
France Gélinas, Local Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Jamie West, Local Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
Bill Rosenberg, Local Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
Ontario Boards of Health

BOH 04-04-25



March 21, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Honourable Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health of Ontario
Ministry of Health
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M5G 2C8

Honourable Kamal Khera
Minister of Health of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Re: Endorsement of the Walport Report, and for Continued focus on Public Health Emergency & Pandemic Preparedness

Dear Honourable Minister Jones and Honourable Minister Khera:

Congratulations once again on your respective reappointments to Cabinet.

At its meeting on January 16, 2025, the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts carried the following resolution #08-25:

WHEREAS for the past two decades, there have been Public Health Emergencies of International Concern approximately every two years, several of which have impacted Canada;

WHEREAS in a world that is increasingly more complex, interconnected, and uncertain, future public health emergencies maybe more impactful and difficult to manage;

WHEREAS there are opportunities to learn lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic response, both of around successes and areas for improvement;

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St.-Charles ON POM 2W0
t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON POP 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON POM 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca



Healthier communities for all.
Des communautés plus saines pour tous.

Letter
March 21, 2025
Page 2

WHEREAS The Time to Act is Now: Report of the Expert Panel for the Review of the Federal Approach to Pandemic Science Advice and Research Coordination (aka The Walport Report) is one detailed effort to learn lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic response;

WHEREAS The Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health's 2022 Annual Report Being Ready: Ensuring Public Health Preparedness for Infectious Outbreaks and Pandemics presented a laudable path forward to be better prepare for future public health emergencies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health endorses the Walport Report and its 12 recommendations;

AND THAT the Board of Health encourages both the Federal government and the government of Ontario to act with deliberate resolve in implementing the Walport Report as well as the 2022 Chief Medical Officer of Health report, respectively.

It has now been 5 years since the COVID-19 pandemic began, and 3 years since the acute emergency response to COVID-19 ended. This has been the most acute health emergency in a generation, and the most dangerous crisis of any sort in our lifetimes. Canada performed admirably through this pandemic, saving millions of lives through science-driven leadership. However, any unprecedented event must have countless lessons with the benefit of hindsight. It is important that we learn these lessons so that we can be as ready as possible for the next health emergency. Indeed, we are already seeing a very concerning surge of avian influenza in North America's animal population and the possibility of it turning into a new pandemic.

Both the Canadian and Ontario governments have produced excellent reports to guide preparation for the next public health emergency:

- [Being Ready: Ensuring Public Health Preparedness for Infectious Outbreaks and Pandemics](#) by the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario in 2023.
- [The Time to Act is Now: Report of the Expert Panel for the Review of the Federal Approach to Science Advice and Research Coordination](#), by Sir Mark Walport for Health Canada in 2024.

Our Board previously endorsed and communicated its support for Ontario's *Being Ready* with our [resolution 19-23 in April 2023](#). We are pleased to now endorse the Walport report as well. Its recommendations are all ones we agree will improve public health. In particular, we are impressed by the Report's recommendations for

Letter
March 21, 2025
Page 2

building institutional infrastructure for long-term preparedness. We hope the federal government will move swiftly to implement these recommendations.

As a Board of Health, we are concerned that as we get farther away from the COVID-19 pandemic, the resolve to implement improvements to be better prepared for the future will wane. Indeed, we worry that momentum has already been lost. We note that Ontario's report committed to "regularly assess and report on the public health sector's progress in sustaining, strengthening, and developing its capacity to be ready for the next outbreak or pandemic". No such report on progress has yet been produced after almost 2 years.

We commend both your governments for producing excellent and laudable reports for future public health emergency and pandemic preparedness. And we implore both your governments to recommit to implementing these reports. As Avian influenza and other public health threats continue to arise, the work your governments have outlined in these two reports is absolutely necessary to advance.

Our Board and the staff of our agency stand ready to help your governments in any way that we can as you pursue implementation of these reports.

Sincerely,



Mark Signoretti
Chair, Board of Health

cc: Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario
Dr. Kate Bingham, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario
Viviane Lapointe, Local Member of Parliament, Sudbury
Marc Serré, Local Member of Parliament, Nickel Belt
Carol Hugues, Local Member of Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapusksing
France Gélinas, Local Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Jamie West, Local Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
Bill Rosenberg, Local Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
Ontario Boards of Health

BOH 04-05-25

From: Dr. Ken Blanchette

Sent: March 24, 2025 2:53 PM

To: mark.carney@parl.gc.ca; francois-philippe.champagne@parl.gc.ca; kamal.khera@parl.gc.ca; nffn@sen.parl.gc.ca

Cc: Kristy McBeth <kmcbeth@wechu.org>; Joe Bachetti <jbachetti@tecumseh.ca>

Subject: WECHU Board of Health: Addressing Household Food Insecurity

Good afternoon,

On behalf of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Board of Health, please see the attached resolution, which was passed at the December 5, 2024, board meeting.

We would appreciate if you can share the attached resolution, **Addressing Household Food Insecurity**, with administration, as appropriate.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,



Windsor-Essex County Board of Health

RESOLUTION REPORT - Addressing Household Food Insecurity

Date: December 5, 2024

ISSUE

Food insecurity, defined as inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints (Li et al., 2023), remains a significant public health issue in Windsor-Essex County (WEC). Locally, WEC had a 20.7% household food insecurity rate between 2021-2023, with a 24.1% rate in 2023 alone (PHO, 2024). The [2024 Real Cost of Eating Report](#) demonstrates that income, particularly when dependent on social assistance, is not adequate for many WEC residents to afford basic needs. Even after adjusting for other well-established social determinants of health, such as education and income levels, food insecurity has been found to negatively impact people’s physical, mental, and social well-being. Food insecurity is a robust predictor of healthcare use and costs, resulting in considerable public spending on health care. Due to its impact on health, food insecurity is an urgent public health problem and upstream income-based solutions are needed to address poverty, income insecurity, and household food insecurity.

BACKGROUND

Income disparities: Income inequality has been recognized as one of the most significant social determinants contributing to poor population health outcomes and is the main driver of food insecurity. According to the *Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey (2023)* 41% of Windsor residents have difficulty meeting their financial needs. Table 1 outlines the disparities in a variety of income streams. Of note, the monthly amount a single adult on Ontario Works receives has gone unchanged since 2018, and although the minimum wage rate has increase by \$3.20/hr in that same period, it is still well below the living wage rate for our community.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Living Wage in WEC	\$14.81	\$15.15	\$15.52	\$16.60	\$18.15	\$18.65	\$19.85
Minimum Wage	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$14.25	\$14.35	\$15.50	\$16.55	\$17.20
Difference	-\$0.81	-\$1.15	-\$1.27	-\$2.25	-\$2.65	-\$2.10	-\$2.65
OW Monthly Rate	\$733	\$733	\$733	\$733	\$733	\$733	\$733
<i>OW rate as a 40hr/week wage</i>	\$4.58	\$4.58	\$4.58	\$4.58	\$4.58	\$4.58	\$4.58
ODSP Monthly Rate	\$1,169	\$1,169	\$1,169	\$1,169	\$1,228	\$1,308	\$1,368
<i>ODSP rate as a 40hr/week wage</i>	\$7.30	\$7.30	\$7.30	\$7.30	\$7.68	\$8.18	\$8.55

Table 1: Income rates from various sources since 2018.

Link between income and health/well-being: Income has a critical impact on health, with better health outcomes associated with higher income levels, and poorer health outcomes associated with lower income levels (Raphael et al, 2020). The severity of food insecurity makes it more difficult to manage self-care and conditions through diet, which further compromises health overall. This bi-directional relationship is also profoundly seen in mothers experiencing food insecurity, as they tend to cease exclusive breastfeeding sooner than those who are food secure leading to the “breastfeeding paradox”; those who can least afford to buy infant formula and whose babies can benefit most from breastmilk are least likely to breastfeed. This increases the risk infants being inadequately nourished, as research suggests that mothers in food-insecure circumstances struggle to maintain an adequate

supply of formula. Evidence suggests income supplementation reduces food insecurity for low-income Canadians and positively impacts childhood health outcomes (e.g., birth weight, mental health) (ODPH, 2020).

Addressing Food Insecurity through income responses: Policy decisions play an important role in determining food insecurity rates, because many of these decisions directly impact households' financial circumstances. Evidence and modelling clearly indicate that a livable minimum wage and increasing the amount of money provided by social assistance programs (such as the Canada Child Benefit, Employment Insurance, the Canada Pension Plan, and rental assistance programs), reduce the risk of household food insecurity (Dietitians of Canada, 2024). Further, [numerous Ontario municipalities](#) and their boards of health, have endorsed basic income, calling on the provincial and federal governments to collaborate to implement a basic income program ([Kitchener City Council – 2024](#); [Region of Waterloo – 2023](#); [Hamilton City Council – 2023](#)). Successful examples of a Canadian basic income include the Old Age Security (OAS) and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). In a cohort of individuals over 65 receiving OAS/GIS, compared to a cohort aged 55-64 years, the probability of food insecurity was reduced by half, even when age, sex, income level, and home ownership were considered (McIntyre et al, 2016). Income policies preserve dignity, address the root cause of the problem, give choice of which foods to buy, and ensure the basic right to food.

Previous Food Security Resolution and Current Work: In 2012, the Board of Health passed a resolution formalizing their commitment to improving food security for Windsor-Essex County residents. Since this resolution, the Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Department has maintained the local [Food Policy Council](#), monitored the [rising cost of food](#) in the community, and advocated for sustainable policy solutions to multiple levels of government. In March of 2024, the Board of Health received and passed the resolution [Food Insecurity Compromises Infant Health](#), which inspired and informed, the Ontario Dietitians in Public Health resolution [A24-04 Early Childhood Food Insecurity](#) which was passed at the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) AGM in June.

PROPOSED MOTION

WHEREAS *the 2024 Monitoring food affordability results demonstrate that households relying on minimum wage and social assistance do not have enough money to cover their living expenses, including food; AND*

WHEREAS *food insecurity is a chronic and worsening health issue as documented by annual local data on food affordability and as recognized by multiple alPHA resolutions: [A05-18](#) (Adequate Nutrition for Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program), [A18-02](#) (Minimum Wage that is a Living Wage), [A15-04](#) (Basic Income Guarantee), [A23-05](#) (Monitoring Food Affordability in Ontario and the Inadequacy of Social Assistance Rates), and [A24-04](#) (Early Childhood Food Insecurity); AND*

WHEREAS *numerous agencies such as Dietitians of Canada and the Ontario Dietitians in Public Health (ODPH) have position papers calling for income-based policy solutions for food insecurity at all levels of government.*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED *that the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health call on the federal government to implement income-related policy interventions that have the potential to reduce food insecurity, including: the expansion of the Canadian Child Benefit, implementing a basic income guarantee for those age 18-64, enhancing the Canada disability benefit, and providing access to automated income-tax returns for low income Canadians; AND*

FURTHER, *the Board of Health call on the provincial government to incorporate local food affordability data in determining social assistance rates and to index Ontario Works rates to inflation to reflect the current costs of living; AND*

FURTHER, *the Board of Health intensify its work with relevant area agencies and community groups, and municipalities to shift the focus of food insecurity initiatives from food charity to income-based solutions, including but not limited to the sharing of data and evidence-based income solutions.*

References:

Li T, Fafard St-Germain AA, Tarasuk V. (2023). Household food insecurity in Canada, 2022. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF). Retrieved from <https://proof.utoronto.ca/>

Public Health Ontario (2024). Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; 2024 [cited 2024 09 09]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-andAnalysis/Health-Equity/Household-Food-Insecurity>

Statistics Canada (2023). Labour Force Survey, October 2023. Retrieved from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/231103/dq231103a-eng.htm>

Raphael, D., Bryant, T., Mikkonen, J. and Raphael, A. (2020). Social Determinants of Health: The Canadian Facts. Oshawa: Ontario Tech University Faculty of Health Sciences and Toronto: York University School of Health Policy and Management


Ontario Dietitians in Public Health. (2020). Position Statement and Recommendations on Responses to Food Insecurity. Available from: odph.ca.

Dietitians of Canada (2024). Position Statement on Household Food Insecurity in Canada. Available from [https://www.dietitians.ca/Advocacy/Priority-Issues-\(1\)/Position-Statement-on-Household-Food-Insecurity](https://www.dietitians.ca/Advocacy/Priority-Issues-(1)/Position-Statement-on-Household-Food-Insecurity)

McIntyre, L., Dutton, D.J., Kwok, C., & Emery, J.C.H. (2016). Reduction of food insecurity among low-income Canadian seniors as a likely impact of a guaranteed annual income. Canadian Public Policy 42:3, 274-286.

Tarasuk V, Li T, Fafard St-Germain AA. (2022) Household food insecurity in Canada, 2021. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF). Retrieved from <https://proof.utoronto.ca/> September 2, 2022.

Windsor Essex County Health Unit (2023). Real Cost of Eating Well in Windsor-Essex. Retrieved from: <https://www.wechu.org/healthy-eating/nutritious-food-basket>

 <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Crystal Palleschi, Manager, Clinical and Family Services Kerry Phillips, Supervisor, Clinical and Family Services
REVIEWED BY:	Kevin Churchill, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	April 3, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Electronic Medical Record Implementation Update

BACKGROUND

Electronic Medical Record (“EMR”) systems have become a standard practice in maintaining modernized health records with the use of technology. According to the 2024 National Survey of Canadian Physicians, 95% of all physicians now use an EMR to enter and retrieve clinical patient notes¹.

An EMR implementation update was last provided to County Council on April 5, 2023, through the *Electronic Medical Record Implementation Update* report. Intrahealth Profile™ is the EMR product that is currently being used at Lambton Public Health (“LPH”). A phased approach to implementation has been ongoing since September 2022.

DISCUSSION

Following the successful implementation of the EMR in LPH’s Sexual Health program area, we have continued to expand use of the EMR to the Child Health and Healthy Babies Healthy Children (“HBHC”) program areas.

An internal EMR Implementation Team was established in July 2024 to focus on this expansion. The team built upon practices developed for the Sexual Health program to create workflows, forms, and templates specific to Child Health and HBHC program needs. The team worked diligently from July through October 2024, developing user guides and a detailed manual to guide implementation practices. Following training sessions, the Child Health team launched their live EMR platform on November 7, 2024.

¹ Canada Health Infoway (2024). Infoway Insights: 2024 National Survey of Canadian Physicians. <https://insights.infoway-inforoute.ca/2024-national-physician-survey>

Implementation of the EMR in the Sexual Health, Child Health, and HBHC program areas has led to significant improvements in the efficiency of our operations. It has also improved document security and the protection of personal health information.

LPH will continue to build on the successes outlined above and implement the EMR in other clinical domains of LPH as needed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with the EMR are provincial and municipal cost-share funded, as approved in LPH's 2025 Clinical and Family Services budget. There were no additional costs associated with expansion of the EMR to the Child Health and HBHC program areas.

CONSULTATIONS

Throughout the implementation and expansion of the EMR system, staff consulted with the County's Information Technology Department, the Sexual Health team at LPH, and other Ontario Public Health Units who had successfully implemented Intrahealth Profile™ in their HBHC departments.


STRATEGIC PLAN

EMR implementation will contribute greatly to LPH's 'Evidence and Accountability' Strategic Priority by enhancing and implementing systems for collecting data, measuring program outcomes, and reporting to stakeholders and the community.

Implementing an EMR also contributes towards goals identified in the County of Lambton Strategic Plan "Progressive Organizational Culture" area of effort, "Investing in technology to modernize delivery of services and operations."

CONCLUSION

Digitization and modernization of processes from paper-based systems to electronic methods is not new to public health and is part of a continuous quality improvement process. As noted in the January 2023 [KPMG County of Lambton Municipal Modernization Fund Projects Report](#), the Public Health Services Division already has one of the highest utilization rates for digital solutions among County operations. Integrating the EMR into clinical and other program operations will continue to yield benefits including keeping operations and workforce current, supporting accountability goals, and improving data quality.

 <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Jordan Banninga, Manager, Health Promotion Lana Smith, Program Planning and Evaluation Coordinator
REVIEWED BY:	Kevin Churchill, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	April 3, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Monitoring Food Affordability in Lambton County: The 2024 Nutritious Food Basket Report

BACKGROUND

The Ontario Public Health Standards require health units to monitor local food affordability as mandated in the *Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2018*. Routine monitoring of food affordability provides data and information and helps to build awareness about food insecurity. This allows our community and community partners to take action and influence healthy public policy development to ensure equitable access to food for residents of Lambton County.

Staff last reported to County Council on this subject through the *Food Insecurity in Lambton County: The 2023 Nutritious Food Basket* report dated April 3, 2024.

Registered Dietitians at Lambton Public Health (“LPH”) utilize the [Nutritious Food Basket \(“NFB”\)](#) survey to monitor the cost and affordability of nutritious food. This tool is reviewed annually by the Ontario Dietitians in Public Health Food Insecurity Workgroup and data collection is supported by Health Canada and Public Health Ontario. In 2023, the NFB costing tool was updated to align with the 2019 National Nutritious Food Basket. The updated methodology also created a new hybrid model for data collection that includes both instore and online food costing from grocery retailers. As such, the results from the [Food Insecurity in Lambton County: The 2023 Nutritious Food Basket](#) created a new baseline to compare 2024 results.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the results of the Monitoring Food Affordability in Lambton County 2024, Nutritious Food Basket Report, a copy of which is attached to this report (Appendix 1).

DISCUSSION

The NFB survey was conducted between May 22 and May 30, 2024. Registered Dietitians at LPH utilized the NFB survey to cost food from eight grocery stores through a hybrid data collection model that included five in-store and three online stores. A total of three rural (Corunna, Forest, and Petrolia) and five urban areas (Sarnia) were included to have a 60% urban and 40% rural representation.

The NFB survey measures the cost of 61 food items and their quantities needed for individuals in various age and sex groups to follow nutritious eating based on [Canada's Food Guide](#). It is important to note that Canada's Food Guide is not representative of all religious and cultural groups and does not acknowledge traditional Indigenous foods and food procurement practices, which is a limitation of this data collection.

The NFB results generate the cost of healthy eating with 5% added to account for miscellaneous foods used in meal preparation and cooking needs such as spices, seasonings, condiments, and coffee and tea. There are several assumptions made including: individuals have the time, ability, food skills, and equipment to prepare meals from scratch; consumers have access to stores, literacy and language skills to shop for the lowest priced items; and individuals shop every one to two weeks (which impacts package sizes purchased). Costing also does not include convenience foods, snack foods, infant foods or formula and food for special diets, such as gluten-free products. Therefore, this data can underestimate the actual costs of food for some populations.

The local 2024 NFB results show that it costs \$1,201 per month (\$277 per week) to feed a family of four. The reference family contains two adults (male and female) ages 31-50 years old, and two children (male age 14, female age 8).

To compare the 2024 data to 2023, adjustments were made to the Dietary Reference Intakes (from Health Canada) for energy for certain population groups to more accurately reflect the number of calories needed per day¹. For this reason, the 2023 NFB results will be higher than previously reported. When compared with the adjusted cost of the NFB in 2023 (i.e., \$1,182 per month or \$273 per week), this is a 1.6% increase in the NFB for a family of four from 2023 to 2024. However, the goal of the NFB is not to make food cost comparisons but to focus on the need for people to afford basic needs, such as food, through adequate and secure income.

When incomes are limited, households often cut their food budget to afford other necessary expenses, such as rent, utilities, and transportation, leading to household food insecurity ("**HFI**")². HFI is a strong predictor of poor health and is associated with an

¹ Ontario Dietitians in Public Health. Monitoring food affordability in Ontario, methodology, Ontario Nutritious Food Basket Costing, 2024 version 5. 2024.

² Li T, Fafard St-Germain AA, Tarasuk V. (2023) Household food insecurity in Canada, 2022. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF). Retrieved from: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/>

increased risk of a wide range of physical and mental health challenges, including chronic conditions, non-communicable disease, infections, depression, anxiety and stress².

According to the most recent data, 18% of households in Lambton were considered food insecure between 2021-2023, compared to 20% of households in Ontario³, meaning they either worried about running out of food and/or had limited food selection, compromised the quality and/or quantity of food, missed meals, reduced food intake, or at the extreme end, went a day or more without food, all due to the lack of money to purchase food.

Populations at higher risk of food insecurity include households with low income and limited assets, households reliant on social assistance, female lone-parent households, and people with disabilities^{2,4}.

To determine food affordability, results from the local NFB food costing and rent were compared to a variety of household and income scenarios, including households receiving social assistance, minimum wage earners, and median income (Appendix 1 – Table 1). It is important to note that these income scenarios may not reflect every household's actual experience. These scenarios include food and rent only and are not inclusive of other needs (i.e., internet, phone, personal care products, clothing, childcare, transportation, household operations and supplies, etc.). The household scenarios highlight that incomes and social assistance rates are not keeping pace with the increased cost of living.

A key indicator for food insecurity is the average monthly cost of a nutritious diet as a portion of household income. Households with low incomes spend up to 47% of their after-tax income on food, whereas households with adequate incomes (median income) spend approximately 12% of their after-tax income.

The largest expense for most low-income populations is housing. Housing is considered affordable according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, when rent costs are no more than 30% of income. The income spent on rent in each scenario shows that housing is unaffordable and a single person receiving Ontario Works fares the worst, requiring 109% of their income to afford rent. Unaffordable housing is linked to poor health, food insecurity and inadequate nutrition⁵.

Addressing food insecurity requires income-based strategies that address poverty, the root cause of food insecurity². Such strategies include improving social assistance rates, raising minimum wage, improving employment standards, and providing a basic income.

³ Public Health Ontario. Household food insecurity snapshot PHU (2021-2023). Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Equity/Household-Food-Insecurity>

⁴ Statistics Canada, Household food insecurity among persons with disabilities in Canada: Findings from the 2021 Canadian Income Survey, Retrieved from: [Household food insecurity among persons with disabilities in Canada: Findings from the 2021 Canadian Income Survey](#)

⁵ Waterson, S., Grueger, B., & Samson, L. (2019, October 31). Position Statement: Housing need in Canada: Healthy lives start at home. Canadian Paediatric Society. Retrieved from: <https://cps.ca/en/documents/position/housing-need>

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with the monitoring of local food affordability were included in LPH's approved 2024 budget, which are cost share funded between the province and the municipality.

CONSULTATIONS

In the preparation of this report, staff collaborated with the provincial organization, Ontario Dietitians in Public Health, Food Insecurity Workgroup and consulted with Homelessness Prevention and Social Planning & Children's Services.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Monitoring food affordability is consistent with the County's Vision as a Caring community, Mission and Principles identified in the County's Strategic Plan and supports Lambton County's Strategic Area of Effort related to value as a Healthy Community Development, Health and Wellness. Additionally, this work aligns with Lambton Public Health's strategic priority and work under Mental Health & Addictions pillar.

CONCLUSION

Food insecurity is a critical public health issue as it impacts all areas of health (i.e., mental, physical, social). The 2024 NFB data and income scenario analysis demonstrate that many people with low incomes in Lambton do not have enough money to purchase nutritious food after housing and other living expenses are considered. Efforts to address the root cause of food insecurity must focus on the underlying financial barriers, otherwise households will continue to experience food insecurity and the health-related consequences².

LPH will continue to monitor food costs and affordability trends to identify who in Lambton County is at highest risk and raise awareness of food insecurity and its related health and social impacts. LPH supports working with community groups, including the Poverty Reduction Network to address poverty and ensure food insecurity is addressed through local action and the development of effective healthy public policy.

APPENDIX 1

MONITORING FOOD AFFORDABILITY

in Lambton County

The **2024** Nutritious Food Basket Report



PURPOSE

Food insecurity, also known as household food insecurity, is the inability to obtain a sufficient diet due to income-related food access. Food insecurity can range from worrying about running out of food before getting money to buy more, to not eating for a whole day or more. Food insecurity is a significant public health issue.¹

Lambton Public Health monitors food affordability to understand local food and housing costs and to assess overall food affordability. Food affordability is influenced by household income and expenses. Income is the strongest predictor of food insecurity. By comparing monthly food and rental costs, we are able to show the impact that income has in food insecurity and those who experience it.

The [Ontario Public Health Standards](#) require health units to monitor local food affordability as part of the [Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2018](#). Registered Dietitians with Lambton Public Health (LPH) utilize the Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) to evaluate the affordability of food. This involves comparing average food and rent expenses in Lambton with different household income scenarios to illustrate the impact of income on food affordability.

Each year in May, Registered Dietitians at LPH measure the cost of food items using the Nutritious Food Basket (NFB).² The cost of the food basket and the average cost of rental housing in Lambton are compared to different household incomes to determine if food is affordable for Lambton residents.

This report uses local data and information to build awareness about food insecurity. This helps our community and community partners to take action and influence healthy public policy development to ensure equitable access to food for residents of Lambton County.

NUTRITIOUS FOOD BASKET

The NFB results were collected from eight grocery stores through a hybrid data collection model that included five brick and mortar and three online stores. A total of three rural (Corunna, Forest, and Petrolia) and five urban areas (Sarnia) were included to have a 60% urban and 40% rural representation. Food prices were collected from May 22 to May 30, 2024.

The NFB survey² measures the cost of 61 food items and their quantities needed for individuals in various groups, based on age and sex, to follow nutritious eating according to [Canada's Food Guide](#). Canada's Food Guide does not reflect the food practices of all religious and cultural groups and does not acknowledge traditional Indigenous foods or food procurement practices, which is a limitation of this data collection. Costing also does not include convenience foods,

In Lambton in 2024, the local cost to feed a family* of four was \$1,201 per month (\$277 per week), up 1.6% from 2023.

*Family includes 1 female (aged 31-50), 1 male (aged 31-50), 1 boy (aged 14-18 years), 1 girl (aged 4-8 years).

snack foods, infant foods, or formula and food for special diets, such as gluten-free products. Therefore, this data underestimates the actual costs of food for all population groups.

The NFB results do include the cost of eating with 5% added to account for miscellaneous foods used in meal preparation and cooking needs such as spices, seasonings, condiments, baking supplies, coffee, tea, and it assumes that people:

- Always buy according to the lowest price and not according to need or preference.
- Have time, ability, food skills, and equipment to prepare meals from scratch.
- Have access to a grocery store; and
- Grocery shop regularly (every 1 to 2 weeks).

In 2023, the dietary reference intakes for energy for certain population groups were updated to more accurately reflect the number of calories needed per day.³ As a result, the estimated energy requirement (EER) increased by more than 100 kilocalorie/day for the following groups:

- Males aged 14 – 18
- Females aged 14 – 18
- Pregnant (all age groups)
- Breastfeeding < 19 years
- Breastfeeding aged 19 – 30

To compare the 2024 data to 2023, the same adjustments were made. For this reason, the cost of 2023 will be higher than previously reported.

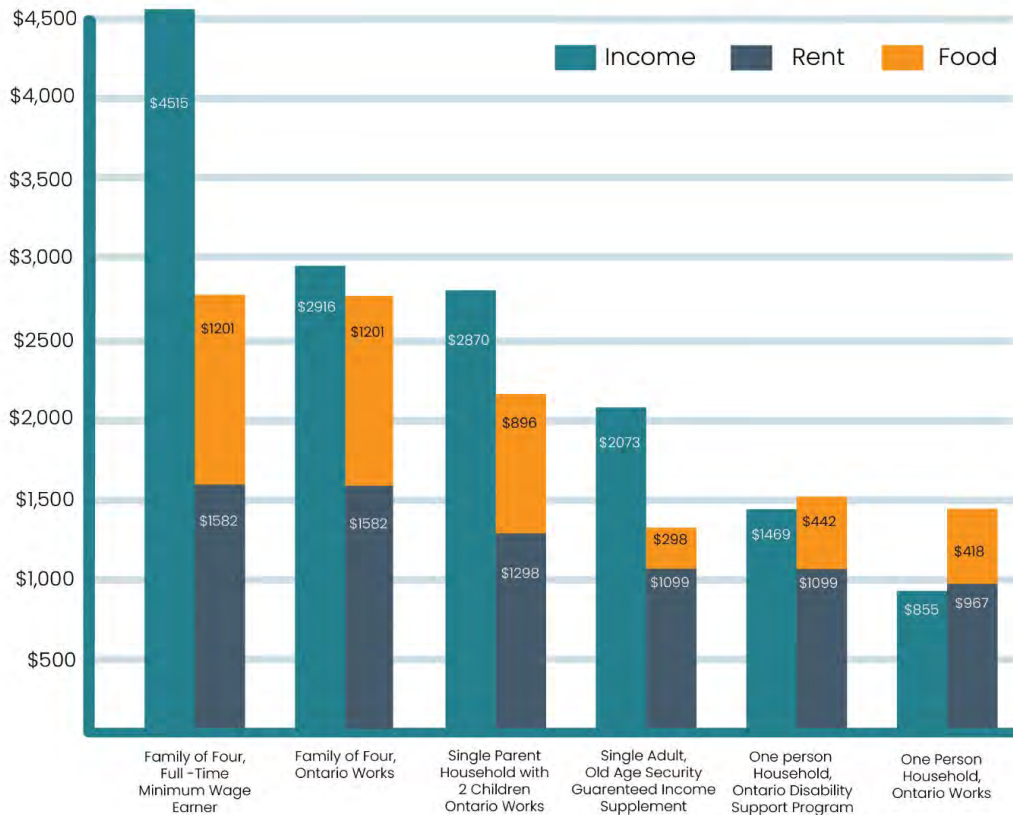
In Lambton, the local cost to feed a family* of four is \$1,201 per month (\$277 per week)

*Family includes 1 female (aged 31-50), 1 male (aged 31-50), 1 boy (aged 14-18 years), 1 girl (aged 4-8 years). When compared with the adjusted cost of the NFB in 2023 (i.e., \$1,182 per month or \$273 per week), this is a 1.6% increase in the NFB for a family of four from 2023 to 2024.

FOOD AFFORDABILITY AND INCOME

Food affordability is influenced by household income and expenses, including housing. The local NFB monthly food and average rental costs are compared to a variety of household and income scenarios (Figure 1). It is important to note that these income scenarios may not reflect every household's actual experience.

Figure 1. Income Scenarios (Appendix: Table 1)



The main source of household income is employment or social assistance (either Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program) or public pensions for older adults, including both Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement. These scenarios assume the household has filed their income tax returns to receive maximum benefit entitlements. The total income for each scenario includes the GST/HST credit, Ontario Trillium Benefit, Canada Worker Benefit/Advanced Canada Worker Benefit, and the Canada Carbon Rebate. For family households (except scenario 4), the Canada Child Benefit is also included.

These scenarios include food and rent only and are not inclusive of other needs (i.e. internet, phone, personal care products, clothing, transportation, household operations and supplies, etc.).

The largest expense for most low-income residents is housing. According to the [CMHC](#), housing is considered affordable when rent costs are no more than 30% of income. Housing costs are much higher than 30% in almost all the scenarios in this report, indicating that housing is not affordable. After paying rent and bills (utilities, phone, internet, childcare), there might not be much, if any, money left to buy food.

Based on the CMHC's affordability metrics, an income scenario that leaves an adequate amount of money for food and other basic needs would be that of a family of four earning median Ontario income spending only 16% of their monthly income on rent and 12% on food.

Social assistance rates in Ontario force recipients to live well below the poverty line.⁴ A single person on Ontario Works requires 109% of their income to afford rent (scenario 9). A single person receiving ODSP (scenario 10) spends over 75% of their monthly income on rent, leaving only \$370 for food and all other living costs. This shows that current social assistance programs are inadequate to address food insecurity.

In Ontario, 52% of households requiring any social assistance are food insecure.⁵

For low-income households with children under the age of 18, the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) has shown to offer some protection against food insecurity.⁶ The refugee claimant family (scenario 4) is not eligible for CCB until one parent receives a positive Notice of Decision from the Immigration and Refugee Board.⁷ This is additional financial strain, as their monthly income is significantly less than the same family household as seen in scenario 2. Although low-income families with children under the age of 6 receive the highest CCB, a recent study shows that giving higher amounts to families that need it the most would make the CCB fairer and could have better results in lowering food insecurity.⁸

Simply having a job is not enough to ensure adequate and secure income to meet basic needs. In 2022, almost 60% of Ontario households affected by food insecurity earned their main source of income from wages, salaries, or self-employment.⁵

WHY DOES FOOD INSECURITY MATTER?

Food insecurity is when people cannot afford the food their household needs.⁵ It is known as a sensitive measure of material deprivation and is tightly linked to other indicators of social and economic disadvantage.⁵

The following helps to identify the distinct levels of how food insecurity can be classified:

- Food secure – no indication of any income-related problems of food access
- Marginally food insecure – some concern of problem of food access
- Moderately food insecure – compromises in the quality and/or quantity of food consumed
- Severely food insecure – extensive compromises including reduced food intake⁵

From 2021-2023 18% of households in Lambton were considered food insecure, compared to 20% of households in Ontario.⁹

Experiencing food insecurity can have serious impacts on health. Some negative health outcomes associated with food insecurity include:

- Higher rates of chronic conditions, including mental health disorders (e.g., depression and suicidal ideation) and non-communicable diseases (e.g., heart disease, stroke, and diabetes)¹⁰
- Increased risk of infection and injury¹⁰

- Increased difficulties managing chronic conditions (e.g., inability to afford healthy food or medications) leading to increased negative disease outcomes, hospitalization and worst case, premature mortality.^{10,11,12}

Children living in food insecure households are more likely to experience anxiety, depression, hyperactivity, inattention, asthma and impacted growth and development from poor nutrition.¹⁰ In Ontario, 30.7% of children lived in food insecure households in 2023 compared to 24.6% in 2022.¹³



From 2021 – 2023, nearly 18% of households in Lambton were considered food insecure, compared to 20% of households in Ontario.⁹

REALITIES OF LIVING WITH FOOD INSECURITY

The following case studies do not represent real people but are based on research and current local data representing the impacts of food insecurity.

Case Study 1 - Single Parent, 2 Preschool Children (Full-Time Minimum Wage Earner)

Rachel is a single mother of a 3-year-old daughter and a 4-year-old son. She earns minimum wage working full-time at a retail store at Lambton Mall on weekdays. Both of her children attend daycare Monday to Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Rachel is cautious about spending money but is feeling stressed with rising living costs and is struggling to make ends meet month to month. She recently had to purchase new tires for her car, adding additional financial stress. Rachel is skipping meals and reducing food intake daily, to make sure her children have food. She notices that she feels tired much of the time.

Rachel’s monthly income \$4,663

- Minus rent **\$1,298/month**
- Minus food **\$703/month**
- Minus daycare **\$900/month*** (Homelessness Prevention & Children Services)
- Leaves **\$1,762** for all other expenses including hydro, cable/internet/cell phone bill, apartment insurance, car expenses, gas, clothing, household and personal items, laundry, kids’ activities/toys.

Case Study 1

■ Rent ■ Food □ Childcare ■ Money remaining for other expenses



Case Study 2 - Single Person (Ontario Works)

Daniel is 42-years-old and lives in downtown Sarnia. Three weeks ago, he was laid off from his construction job. After extensive

job searching with no success, Daniel decided to apply for Ontario Works (OW) as he was not eligible for Employment Insurance (EI). Daniel was shocked to find out his monthly OW amount was not enough to cover his rent and food costs. Daniel borrowed money from a friend but does not want to tell his OW caseworker as he is afraid this could impact his OW eligibility. He is stressed about losing his home if he does not find a job soon. He has no funds to pay for his cell phone bill this month, which he needs to search for a job. He has sacrificed purchasing food to afford his rent and has been using the food bank and accessing free community meals. However, Daniel sometimes goes days without eating.

Daniel's monthly income \$885

- Minus rent and utilities **\$967/month**
- Daniel is **\$112 short** paying his rent. He has no money to pay for basic living expenses including food.

Case Study 3 - Single Person (Ontario Disability Support Program)

Tim is 34 years old and lives in a one-bedroom apartment in Petrolia. Four years ago, Tim was involved in a motorcycle accident leaving him with brain injuries. Tim suffers from frequent migraines and seizures and has not been able to work since the accident. After Employment Insurance ran out, he applied for Ontario Works. After a 5-month process, he was accepted into the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). ODSP provides about half of what his income was four years ago. Tim purchases his clothes from bargain shops and discount stores. He struggles to purchase fresh vegetables, fruit, and meat as they are often out of reach in his food budget.

Tim's monthly income \$1,469

- Minus rent **\$1,099/month**
- Minus food **\$418/month**
- Tim is **\$48 short** for all other expenses including clothing, footwear, cell phone bill, household and personal items and laundry.

HOW CAN FOOD INSECURITY BE ADDRESSED?

Food insecurity is not caused by lack of food. It is not having enough money to buy food. Adequate income is what makes food affordable.⁵

Many emergency food providers recognize that food insecurity is tied to poverty and other underlying issues such as low income and lack of affordable housing. Food programs in the community cannot fix the financial hardships that cause food insecurity.¹⁴ They may be a temporary solution but are not a long-term solution to food insecurity.

To effectively address food insecurity, policy interventions including income-related policies for areas such as housing, employment, and public income supports are needed to help families and individuals meet their basic needs and support their well-being.¹⁵⁻¹⁹

Canada public pensions, including Old Age Security (OAS) and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) are examples of government policies for older adults that provide income to cover the basic costs of living. Research shows that the risk of food insecurity among low-income unattached seniors drops by 50% at the age of 65 due to OAS and GIS.²⁰ When a single

adult receiving Ontario Works turns 65 and starts to get public pensions, their monthly income more than doubles.

Increasing the minimum wage to match a living wage would provide greater protection against individuals experiencing food insecurity.²¹ A living wage is the hourly wage a full-time worker needs to earn to afford basic expenses and participate in community life. The income scenarios in this report were calculated at \$16.55 per hour, in May 2024 (when the NFB was conducted in Lambton). Even with the October 2024 increase rate of \$17.20, this is not enough to cover the basic costs of living.²² People who earn a lower wage are also more likely to have precarious jobs.²³ These jobs are temporary, part time, contracts, and without benefits.⁵ The current 2024 living wage rate for Lambton County based on the Southwest region is \$19.85. A 6.4% increase from 2023 (\$18.65).²¹ This increase is mostly attributed to the rising cost of rent in Ontario.²¹

Our entire community has a role in addressing poverty as an underlying cause of food insecurity. All levels of government need to work together to ensure food insecurity is addressed with effective policy solutions (e.g. guaranteed basic income, adequate social assistance rates, reduced precarious employment conditions, and lower income tax rates for the lowest income households) to ensure we can all meet our basic needs and live with dignity.

LPH remains committed to conducting regular local food costing, and ensuring updated local costing is available for community partners to support awareness of income-based solutions that address the root cause of food insecurity.

REFERENCES

1. Public Health Ontario. Household Food Insecurity (2023). Available from: [Household Food Insecurity in Ontario | Public Health Ontario](#)
2. Government of Canada. 2019 National Nutritious Food Basket reference guide. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/food-nutrition-surveillance/national-nutritious-food-basket.html>
3. Ontario Dietitians in Public Health. Monitoring food affordability in Ontario, methodology, Ontario Nutritious Food Basket Costing, 2024 version 5. 2024.
4. Laidley J. and Tabbara M. Welfare in Canada, 2023. Maytree and Caledon Institute for Social Policy. July 2024. Available from: https://maytree.com/wp-content/uploads/Welfare_in_Canada_2023.pdf
5. Li T, Fafard St-Germain AA, Tarasuk V. Household food insecurity in Canada, 2022. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity. Available from: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Household-Food-Insecurity-in-Canada-2022-PROOF.pdf>
6. Brown E, Tarasuk V. Money speaks: Reductions in severe food insecurity follow the Canada Child Benefit. *Prev Med.* 2019; 129:105876. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2019.105876>
7. Government of Canada. Canada Child Benefit: who can apply. Date modified: 2022-06-13. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/canada-child-benefit-overview/canada-child-benefit-before-you-apply.html>
8. Men F, Fafard St-Germain AA, Ross K, Remtulla R, Tarasuk V. Effect of Canada Child Benefit on food insecurity: a propensity score-matched analysis. *Am J Prev Med.* 2023;64(6):844-52. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2023.01.027>
9. Public Health Ontario. Household food insecurity snapshot PHU (2021-2023). Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Equity/Household-Food-Insecurity>
10. PROOF Food Insecurity Policy Research. (n.d). What are the implications of food insecurity for health and health care? PROOF. Available from: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/what-are-the-implications-of-food-insecurity-for-health-and-health-care/>
11. Men F, Gundersen C, Urquia ML, et al. (2020) Association between household food insecurity and mortality in Canada: A population-based retrospective cohort study. *CMAJ.* 2020; 192(3): E53-E60. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.190385>
12. Men F, Gundersen C, Urquia ML, et al. (2020). Food insecurity is associated with higher health care use and costs among Canadian adults. *Health Affairs.* 39(8):1377-85. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2019.01637> 8 Jessiman-Perreault G, McIntyre L. (2017)
13. PROOF. New data on household food insecurity in 2023. 2023. [cited December 19, 2024]. Available from: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/2024/new-data-on-household-food-insecurity-in-2023/>
14. Zeigler J. What is the Right to Food? 2012. Available from: <https://www.righttofood.org/work-of-jean-zeigler-at-the-un/what-is-the-right-to-food/>
15. Tarasuk V. Implications of a basic income guarantee for household food insecurity. Research Paper no. 24. Thunder Bay: Northern Policy Institute. 2017 June

16. Kirkpatrick S, Tarasuk V. Adequacy of food spending is related to housing expenditures among lower-income Canadian households. *Public Health Nutr.* 2007;10(12):1664-1473.

17. Kirkpatrick S, Tarasuk V. Assessing the relevance of neighbourhood characteristics to the household food security of low-income families. *Public Health Nutr.* 2010;13(7):1139-1148

18. Idzerda L, Corrin T, Lazarescu C, Couture A, Vallières, E, Khan S & Garcia, AJ. (2024). Public policy interventions to mitigate household food insecurity in Canada: A systematic review. *Public Health Nutrition*, 1-21

19. Men F, Tarasuk V. Employment insurance may mitigate impact of unemployment on food security: Analysis on a propensity-score matched sample from the Canadian income survey. *Preventive Medicine.* 2023. 169.

20. McIntyre, L., Dutton, D. J., Kwok, C., & Emery, J. H. (2016). Reduction of food insecurity among low-income Canadian seniors as a likely impact of a guaranteed annual income. *Canadian Public Policy*, 42(3), 274-286.

21. Ontario Living Wage Network. 2024 Rates. Available from: <https://www.ontariolivingwage.ca/rates>

22. Government of Ontario. Minimum wage. Your Guide to the Employment Standards Act. Available from: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/your-guide-employment-standards-act-0/minimum-wage>

23. National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health. Determining health: Decent work issue brief. Antigonish, NS: NCCDH, St. Francis Xavier University; 2022

APPENDIX

Table 1: Lambton Income Scenarios 2024

Family Scenarios				
Income Scenario	Total Monthly income*	Average Monthly Rent** (% of income)	Monthly Food Costs*** (% of income)	Money Remaining for Other Basic Needs
1 Family of Four (2 adults, 2 school-age children) Ontario Works	\$2916	\$1582 (54%)	\$1201 (41%)	\$133
2 Family of Four (2 adults, 2 school-age children) Full Time Minimum Wage Earner	\$4515	\$1582 (35%)	\$1201 (27%)	\$1732
3 Family of Four (2 adults, 2 school-age children) Median Ontario Income	\$9685	\$1582 (16%)	\$1201 (12%)	\$6902
4 Family of Four, refugee claimants (2 adults, 2 school-age children) Full-Time Minimum Wage Earner	\$3246	\$1582 (49%)	\$1201 (37%)	\$463
5 Family of Two, Married Couple Ontario Disability Support Program	\$2609	\$1099 (42%)	\$694 (27%)	\$816
6 Family of Three (1 adult, 2 preschool children) Full-Time Minimum Wage Earner	\$4663	\$1298 (28%)	\$703 (15%)	\$2662
7 Family of Three (1 adult, 2 preschool children) Ontario Works	\$2870	\$1298 (45%)	\$703 (24%)	\$869
8 Family of Three (1 adult, 2 school-age children) Ontario Works	\$2677	\$1298 (48%)	\$896 (33%)	\$483


Single Person Scenarios				
Income Scenario	Total Monthly income*	Average Monthly Rent** (% of income)	Monthly Food Costs*** (% of income)	Money Remaining for Other Basic Needs
9 Single person (adult) Ontario Works	\$855	\$967 (109%)	\$418 (47%)	-\$500
10 Single person (adult) Ontario Disability Support Program	\$1469	\$1099 (75%)	\$418 (28%)	-\$48
11 Single pregnant person (adult) Ontario Disability Support Program	\$1509	\$1099 (73%)	\$442 (29%)	-\$32
12 Single person (older adult) Old Age Security/Guaranteed Income Supplement	\$2073	\$1099 (53%)	\$298 (14%)	\$676

*Income includes employment earnings, Basic Allowance + Maximum Shelter Allowance (Ontario Works/Ontario Disability Support

Program), Old Age Security/Guaranteed Income, Ontario Guaranteed Annual Income System, Canada Child Benefit, GST/HST credit, Ontario Trillium Benefit, Canada Worker Benefit/Advanced Canada Worker Benefit, and Canada Carbon Rebate. Employment Insurance paid and Canada Pension Plan paid are deducted from employment earnings.

**To obtain data on average rental rates for various types of homes in Lambton, we rely on Rental Market Report, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Fall 2023. The [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation \(CMHC\) Rental Market Survey](#) is conducted in urban areas with populations of 10,000 or more. The survey includes both new and existing units in privately initiated structures with at least three rental units. The cost for a new tenant would likely be higher, as current tenants are protected from large annual increases by Ontario's [residential rent increase guideline](#). Utility costs (e.g., heat, electricity, hot water) may or may not be included in the rental amounts.

***Ontario Nutritious Food Basket survey May 2024, Lambton Public Health (includes Household Size Adjustment Factors).

 <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Amy Pavletic, Manager, Health Protection (A)
REVIEWED BY:	Kevin Churchill, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	April 3, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Review of the 2024-25 Respiratory Season

BACKGROUND

During the 2024-25 respiratory illness season, Lambton Public Health (“LPH”) focused on preventing and responding to a number of pathogens including influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (“RSV”), and SARS-CoV-2 (“COVID-19”). In addition, LPH prepared and planned for response to measles cases, contacts, and exposures, due to the ongoing measles transmission that is impacting several public health units in Ontario¹.

This report serves to provide County Council with:

1. A review of the 2024-25 respiratory illness season
2. Respiratory vaccination information
3. Measles planning and preparedness

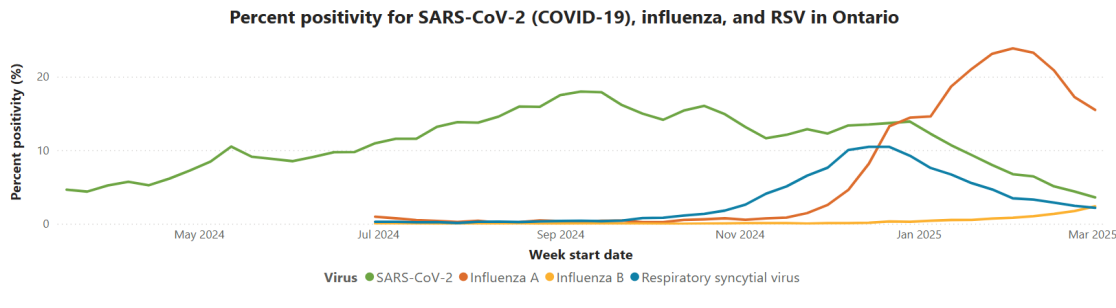
DISCUSSION

In Ontario, the start of the 2024-25 respiratory surveillance season was the week of August 25, 2024. While influenza and RSV follow a trend of peaking during the winter months, COVID-19 has not yet set a pattern of seasonality. In the Figure 1 graph below, ‘Percent positivity for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), influenza, and RSV in Ontario’, from Public Health Ontario’s (“PHO”) [Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool](#), the trends of percent positivity for COVID-19, influenza, and RSV in Ontario from March 17, 2024 to March 2, 2025 are depicted. During this timeframe, Ontario’s percent positivity for COVID-19 was highest mid-September 2024, while percent positivity for RSV peaked end of December

¹ Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. (2025, March 18). Measles exposure in Ontario. <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Diseases-and-Conditions/Infectious-Diseases/Vaccine-Preventable-Diseases/Measles/Measles-Exposures-Ontario>.

2024, and for influenza A, the peak percent positivity occurred at the beginning of February 2025.

Figure 1: Graph from PHO’s Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool (Retrieved March 19, 2025):



Lambton County 2024-25 Respiratory Illness Trends

Lambton County saw similar respiratory illness patterns as Ontario and this is reflected in both case and outbreak reporting for the 2024-25 season, as is displayed on LPH’s [Seasonal Infectious Diseases Bulletin](#). In summary, for the 2024-25 respiratory season to date, Lambton County’s highest rate of percent positivity of COVID-19 took place in late September 2024, and the rates for RSV and Influenza A peaked at the start of January and the start of February respectively. The Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (“IDPC”) Team at LPH is responsible for responding, investigating, and supporting the management of respiratory outbreaks in long-term care homes (“LTCHs”), retirement homes, hospitals, and congregate living settings. The respiratory illness activity in the community impacts the potential for outbreak situations in these settings, where Lambton County residents considered to be a high risk to the effects of respiratory illness reside. Since the beginning of the respiratory surveillance period for 2024-25, the IDPC team has investigated 35 respiratory outbreaks including 26 with COVID-19 detected, 4 with influenza A, and with 2 RSV. All of these outbreaks had a number of individual cases who experienced respiratory symptoms and illness. A death was linked to one of these outbreaks.

Respiratory Season Preparedness

LPH follows provincial guidelines and resources to best manage and lower the impacts of respiratory illness on all members of the Lambton County community. As was stated in the October 2, 2024, *2024-25 Respiratory Season Planning and Preparedness Council Report*, on June 19, 2024, LPH’s Medical Officer of Health and other senior staff participated in the Erie, St. Clair respiratory exercise with health system partners, to bolster system and community-level readiness. In addition, LPH links with PHO’s [Ontario Respiratory Surveillance Tool](#) to inform the LPH [Seasonal Infectious Diseases Bulletin](#), which displays local data. LPH’s IDPC Team further provides situational awareness to community partners through meetings, newsletters, and presentations. These audiences

include the local Sarnia-Lambton Ontario Health Team, LTCHs, retirement homes, congregate living settings, and Health Care Providers (“HCPs”).

Vaccination

LPH followed Ontario’s Ministry of Health updated direction for the 2024-25 respiratory season with pharmacies and HCPs being the primary providers for COVID-19 and influenza vaccines. As directed by Ontario’s Ministry of Health, LPH prioritized vaccination administration for specific populations such as those requiring outreach and pediatric populations. LPH offered a mobile clinic for homebound individuals, and supported vaccine administration with group home residents, First Nations communities, the Inn of the Good Shepherd, Pathways Centre for Children, and rural communities without access to a pharmacy. Expanded access points for COVID-19 and influenza vaccines throughout the community allowed LPH to deliver services to populations who have barriers to accessing these vaccines². LPH continues to assess needs and gaps in the community and either connect with other partners, build capacity to offer COVID-19 and influenza vaccines, or offer vaccine administration by LPH staff. For the 2024-25 respiratory season and commencing October 2024, LPH has administered 493 influenza vaccines to date. In 2024, LPH administered a total of 671 COVID-19 vaccines and as of March 1, 2025, 16 COVID-19 vaccines in 2025.

Ontario’s publicly funded RSV prevention program is targeted for high-risk individuals and settings. RSV is a major cause of respiratory illness, among infants, young children, and older adults, affecting the lungs and airways³. RSV is the most common cause of bronchiolitis, a common chest infection that affects infants and toddlers. All infants up to 12 months old, and children up to 24 months who are at high risk of severe illness from RSV are eligible for immunization. In addition, the program includes individuals who are 60 years of age and older and have additional risks including experiencing homelessness, living in long-term care, elder care, complex continuing care, etc., receiving hemodialysis, are a recipient of an organ transplant, or identify as being First Nations, Inuit, or Metis. During the 2024–25 respiratory season, those ages 60 years and older who do not qualify for the publicly funded RSV vaccine can still purchase the vaccine with a prescription from their HCP. During the 2024-25 respiratory season, LPH has administered 147 RSV vaccines to date.

Measles

Throughout 2024 and into 2025, LPH has been engaged in measles preparedness activities. In April 2024, LPH delivered a Council Report for information highlighting the work to date for measles preparedness. Since that time, an outbreak of measles has been declared in parts of southern Ontario, linked to under vaccinated populations. A total of 252 confirmed and 66 probable cases of measles have been reported in Ontario as of

² Lambton Public Health. (2024, October 8). Lambton Public Health announces fall immunization campaign. [Press Release]. [Lambton Public Health announces fall immunization campaign - County of Lambton](#)

³ Ministry of Health. (2024, October 31). Respiratory syncytial virus. [Respiratory Syncytial Virus | ontario.ca](#)

March 12, 2025⁴. Among children and adolescents, 93.8% were unimmunized, while among adults, 60.9% were unimmunized. The measles vaccine is highly effective in preventing the illness caused by the virus, however, because the virus is very contagious, a large percentage (95%) of a population must be immunized to prevent the spread. According to PHO's 2023-24 data⁵, in Lambton County 90% of 7-year-olds and 96.5% of 17-year-olds are immunized against measles, higher than the provincial averages of 70.4% and 91.6%, respectively. LPH continued the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* program in 2024-25, which has allowed for the monitoring of childhood immunization rates in Lambton County, with the goal of ensuring excellent protection of vaccine preventable diseases, such as measles.

Based on the evolving situation in other parts of the province, LPH is keeping up to date with measles information with direction from Ontario's Ministry of Health through memos, links to resources, and data sharing. LPH thoroughly reviews this information to update policies and procedures and to support HCPs with their investigation of measles cases and contacts. An example of LPH adopting current messaging is the recent direction from Ontario's Ministry of Health regarding additional immunization recommendations for people who live, work, or travel to high-risk regions. This recommendation includes early vaccinations for infants (six to 11 months) with two additional doses required after age one year, and children (one to four years) who have received their first dose of measles-containing vaccine encouraged to receive a second dose as soon as possible (at a minimum of four weeks from the first dose). Adults (ages 18+ years) born after 1970 are recommended to have a second dose of measles-containing vaccine. LPH offers measles vaccinations at routine vaccination clinics, adding extra vaccine appointments available for measles vaccination, and has developed key messaging based current information from Ontario's Ministry of Health and PHO, as well as frequently asked questions from the public to have at the ready.

LPH's Medical Officer of Health and members of the Health Protection Team have participated in communication with Bluewater Health hospital sites for preparation considerations and is maintaining lines of communication with key external partners.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Since April 2024, following the Ministry of Health Chief Medical Officer of Health's memo about Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza ("HPAI") in livestock in the United States, LPH has maintained a HPAI/avian influenza preparedness checklist and up to date information. Included in this preparedness messaging are resources from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and PHO. LPH

⁴ Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. (2025, March 14). Measles in Ontario. https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/M/24/measles-ontario-epi-summary.pdf?rev=da3ffec26cc0471f83ed9de3ca356e1c&sc_lang=en

⁵ Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. (2025, February 7). Immunization data tool. <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/Immunization-Tool>

has provided key messages regarding the prevention of HPAI to the public and at-risk populations, which includes farmers or individuals who handle sick animals or birds.

LPH works with the County Emergency Response Coordinator to keep local emergency response leaders abreast of any HPAI detected locally in poultry, for their awareness and support should it be needed. LPH was notified of confirmed HPAI detected in poultry in Lambton County in March 2025, with LPH's role to contact the impacted workers with instructions for those exposed, per Ontario's Ministry of Health and PHO guidance.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with LPH's respiratory season planning and response, as well as response to Diseases of Public Health Significance ("**DOPHS**") are cost shared funded between the province and municipality, as approved within LPH's 2025 budget.

CONSULTATIONS


In preparation of this report, staff consulted LPH's Medical Officer of Health and Supervisor of Health Protection. Additionally, LPH referenced PHO's Respiratory Virus Tool and LPH's own Seasonal Infectious Diseases Bulletin.

STRATEGIC PLAN

LPH's respiratory illness response is consistent with the principles and values identified in the County of Lambton Strategic Plan, supporting the County's areas of effort toward community development, health, and wellness; service and communications; and partnerships.

CONCLUSION

LPH has responded to the demands of the 2024-25 respiratory season by aligning with guidance and tools provided by Ontario's Ministry of Health, PHO, and LPH data and reporting. LPH remains vigilant in its efforts to protect the public from DOPHS and to prioritize populations most at risk, as per the direction of Ontario's Ministry of Health.

 <p style="text-align: center;">SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND SOCIAL PLANNING
PREPARED BY:	Ian Hanney, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Valerie Colasanti, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	April 3, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Sanctuary Security Inquiry

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on March 5, 2025, County Council supported the following motion:

#7: Bradley/McRoberts: That staff report back to Council at the April Council meeting regarding the request received from River City Vineyard relating to security and the costs thereof.

Carried.

This report provides background information regarding this request.

DISCUSSION

On the evening of March 4, 2025, the Social Services Division received a request from the pastoral team lead of River City Vineyard regarding security services. This request sought funding for a security guard to support their sanctuary operations from April 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025.

River City Vineyard operates a high-barrier, abstinence-based sanctuary that is not funded by the County of Lambton. To receive funding, the County of Lambton would require adherence to various best practices outlined by local shelter standards. Shelter standards provide clear expectations, guidelines and minimum requirements for the provision of shelter services in the County of Lambton.

Immediately following this inquiry, Social Services staff requested additional information related to the cost and function of this requested service. Further, additional context was sought from the agency related to their various fundamental board-approved policies that govern the operations of the sanctuary.

At the time of writing this report no response has been received from River City Vineyard regarding the cost of the security or any details around the request.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The homelessness prevention budget is fully allocated. As a result, any increased costs arising from this request would need to be funded through municipal reserve or at the expense of existing services.

CONSULTATIONS

No consultations occurred.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The activities of the Division support the Community Development Area of Effort #3 in the County of Lambton's Strategic Plan, specifically:

- Strengthening the County's advocacy and lobbying efforts with other levels of government to raise the profile of the County and its needs to secure improved senior government supports, funding, grants, and other resources to meet emerging infrastructure and service needs;
- Consulting with the community and stakeholders on ways to increase housing options and affordability, and innovative programs and initiatives that focus on poverty reduction and promote social belonging;
- Supporting the development of a variety of affordable housing to meet demand;
- Implementing, monitoring and updating community health and wellness-related plans and priorities, including, but not limited to, the *Housing and Homelessness Plan*, *Community Safety & Well-Being Plan*, the Long-Term Care division's mission, vision, and values, *Age Friendly Community Planning* framework, Lambton Public Health's strategic priorities, *Lambton Drug & Alcohol Strategy*, *Lambton EMS Master Plan*, and *Child Care and Early Years 5-Year Service System Plan*; and
- Advocating for, and supporting access to, mental health and addiction services.

CONCLUSION

The request to support security services at the River City Vineyard Sanctuary cannot be supported through the fully allocated 2025 homelessness prevention budget. Basic information including the cost of the security service, general shelter operations including board-approved policies on intake, program eligibility, client information and privacy practices were not provided by River City Vineyard Sanctuary.

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1A53D068-A652-459C-AD3C-DE6CB8E87CBE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 28th, 2024 at 8:00AM

Hybrid Meeting, In-Person and Teams

Attendance:	Marriott, Kevin	Reaume-Zimmer , Paula
	Lee, Adrienne	Bradley, Mike
	Dochstader,, Nick	Thiffeault, Stephane
	Cayea, David	Noble, Peter
	Kingston, Tracy	Edlington, Angela
	Kardas, Rob	McEachran, Carrie
	Kabbes, Don	Knapp, Tim
	Slotwinski, Matthew (CEO)	Piggott, Cindy (Executive Assistant)
Regrets:	Germain, Darryl	Plain, Jeff

Call to Order

Quorum Present

Land Acknowledgement

Agenda

- No additions/deletions to the agenda.

Motion: To approve the agenda as submitted.

Moved by: S. Thiffeault **Seconded by:** A. Edlington **Carried**

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None declared.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the Board Meeting held November 19th, 2024 be approved as submitted.

Moved by: S. Thiffeault **Seconded by:** K. Marriott **Carried**

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1A53D068-A652-459C-AD3C-DE6CB8E87CBE

Chair Update

- A, Lee thanked everyone for their ongoing support and mentioned that SLEP has a variety of things happening at the moment that will be discussed during the CEO Report.

Motion: To go In Camera.

Moved by: D. Cayea **Seconded by:** D. Kabbes **Carried**

Motion: To rise from Camera.

Moved by: K. Marriott **Seconded by:** A. Edlington **Carried**

CEO Update

- M. Slotwinski shared the CEO report executive summary.

Committees

Governance Committee

- By-Law Review Update Schedule
 - Finance and Governance Committees will review identified documents respectfully prior to be republished.
- Cyber Security/Insurance Policy Update
 - SLEP has engaged in their own Insurance policy effective January 1, 2025.
- Director Recruitment
 - Review of posting was completed.
- County of Lambton Presentation
- Finance and Governance meeting schedule

Motion: Advertisement for recruitment be approved as submitted.

Moved by: P. Reaume-Zimmer **Seconded by:** R. Kardas **Carried**

Finance Committee

- YTD Financials Update
- Review of Reserves
- 2025 Draft Budget Review

Motion: That the Board of Directors supports the reserve requests to use reserves for the outlined projects, and to use reserves for the full project costs in the event of unsuccessful application of CanExport funding.

Moved by: D. Cayea **Seconded by:** C. McEachran **Carried**

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1A53D068-A652-459C-AD3C-DE6CB8E87CBE

Motion: That the 2025 budget presented be approved as submitted.

Moved by: C. McEachran **Seconded by:** N. Dochstader **Carried**

New Business

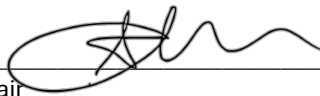
- Nothing to report

Next Meeting

- Board Meeting –Tuesday March 25th, 2025 at 8:00 AM Virtual/Hybrid

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: M. Bradley **Seconded by:** R. Kardas **Carried**



Chair
Adrienne Lee

DocuSigned by:


054C1B8D118E46F
Secretary-Treasurer
Stephane Thiffeault

Board Guiding Principles:

1. Attend each meeting/committee prepared, having reviewed the package with questions or comments
2. When asked for input by a reasonable date, will respond with an answer
3. Be respectful and fully present (engaged) at meetings
4. Acknowledge the Board of Directors' collective obligation to SLEP's mission. Bring diverse perspectives, intel, and opinion with the intention to arrive at and honour decisions for the greater good of SLEP and Sarnia-Lambton



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
PREPARED BY:	Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	April 3, 2025
SUBJECT:	USA Tariff Purchasing Response

BACKGROUND

In early 2025, the United States of America (“USA”) instigated a trade dispute with Canada, creating significant economic uncertainty for both nations.

On February 1, 2025, President Trump initiated an executive order imposing a 25% tariff on most Canadian goods, and a 10% tariff on energy products effective on February 4, 2025.

In response, Canada introduced countermeasures through the *United States Surtax Order*, imposing 25% tariffs on select USA imports, also effective February 4, 2025. While these tariffs were a direct response to the USA’s unjustified trade actions, they will lead to increased costs of affected goods, impacting Canadian consumers, businesses and municipal operations, including those within the County.

Since then, the USA and Canada have paused some but imposed other tariffs. For instance, in mid-March each country imposed a 25% tariff on steel and aluminum. Canada imposed tariffs on additional goods in response as well as other tariffs on a variety of other goods.

Moreover, at the time of writing, additional USA tariffs on Canadian goods are set to take effect on April 2, 2025, with the threat of further tariffs being imposed.

The USA’s tariffs and ongoing threats of additional tariffs, and their numerous pauses, reversals, reconsiderations and amendments, have created uncertainty and trepidation in the economy. Such conditions *can* lead to decreased economic activity, as people and businesses become more risk-averse, leading to delays in investment decisions.¹

¹ The financial impact of tariffs on the County remains uncertain, given the frequent policy changes. However, some financial effects are anticipated. For instance, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) commissioned Oxford Economics to assess the impact of tariffs on Ontario municipalities’ capital expenditures. According to its February 28, 2025, report, if all threatened tariffs were implemented, municipal capital project costs could rise by an estimated 2.1%. We note, however, that some tariffs originally threatened that were taken into account in that assessment have since been lifted. Tariffs could also impact the County’s purchase of corporate vehicles and other equipment, resulting in additional costs, if alternative cost-avoiding options are not available.

Concerned about the ongoing tariffs, the continued threat of new trade measures, and their economic impact on Canada, County Council's Committee of the Whole adopted the following resolution at its February 19, 2025 meeting:

#27: Case/McRoberts: That staff report back on the County's procurement processes, specifically reviewing opportunities to prioritize the purchase of Canadian-made products wherever feasible, in response to the challenges posed by U.S. tariffs.

Carried.

This report serves to respond to the Committee's request.

DISCUSSION

In early February 2025, the USA imposed tariffs on Canadian goods, triggering a trade war between the two countries.

Canadian Response to US Tariffs

In response, the Government of Canada implemented countermeasures, imposing tariffs on certain USA imports. Additionally, the Province of Ontario introduced several measures including:

- proposing a surcharge to electricity exported from Ontario to Minnesota, Michigan and New York;
- removing alcohol originating from the USA from LCBO shelves, and;
- restricting US-based firms from participating in procurement opportunities.

While discussions about pausing or lifting of tariffs have occurred, as of this report's drafting, USA's tariff threats remain in place.

County Response to US Tariffs

To mitigate the potential economic impact of USA tariffs and support domestic industries, County Council has directed staff to review its procurement policies to prioritize goods and services from Canada (and elsewhere) over those originating from the USA, where feasible.

In response, the attached *Response to US Tariffs Policy* has been developed to align with Council's directive.

In short, the Policy:

1. Maintains the County's commitment to its procurement policies and practices ensuring the best value for purchased goods and services;²
2. Introduces a preference for Canadian (or non-USA) goods and services when a value for money assessment³ justifies such action;
3. Requires County management to monitor the financial impact of both USA tariffs and Canadian countermeasures, take reasonable steps to mitigate budgetary effects, and report any adverse financial impacts to the County's Treasurer (for corporate-wide monitoring); and
4. Requires a re-evaluation of construction projects significantly affected by these tariffs.

In summary, the *Response to US Tariffs Policy* serves to:

- a) Prioritize Canadian goods and services when it is financially viable to do so, and;⁴
- b) Ensure diligent monitoring and proactive responses to the fiscal impact of these trade measures on the County's budget.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report does not propose any immediate financial implications. Any financial impact of USA and Canadian countervailing tariffs on the County's budget remains uncertain. The County, like other municipalities, is not immune to increase cost pressures arising from these tariffs should tariff action continue and/or escalate. However, as our attached policy dictates, those pressures will be managed internally to, to mitigate any adverse effect on our budget the extent reasonably possible.

CONSULTATIONS

The Manager, Procurement and Projects, and all General Managers were consulted on the subject matter of this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Not applicable.

² Strong procurement practices and policies directly stimulates strong competition in the marketplace, resulting in competitive prices, improved quality, and better service.

³ Value for money takes into account the cost of goods and/or services against its utility, quantity, quality and other relevant factors such as applicable warranty provisions, etc.

⁴ The object of tariffs is indeed to increase the cost of goods affected, thus impacting the value for money assessment.

Procurement Response Policy to US Tariffs (page 4)


April 3, 2025

CONCLUSION

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the attached *Response to US Tariffs Policy* be hereby approved and adopted with immediate effect.

	THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON POLICY MANUAL			
	Subject:	Response to United States of America Tariffs	Section	Policy
	Effective Date:		Approved By: CAO and General Managers	
	Revision Date:			

PURPOSE

This policy sets out the County of Lambton’s procurement and purchasing response to the United States of America’s imposition of unjustified tariffs on Canadian goods while supporting the County’s interest and supporting our economy.

POLICY

1. Application

This Policy applies to all County operations.

2. Statement

The County has always been committed to seeking value for money in its procurement and purchasing of goods. “Value for money” refers to the County’s assessment of, as applicable, a good and/or service’s utility, experience, quality, specifications and sustainability (including any applicable guarantee and/or warranty) measured against its cost.

3. Guiding Principle

To the extent reasonably possible, supporting Canadian suppliers and contractors has always been a priority in the County’s procurement and purchasing practices; and with the United States’ imposition of unjustified, harmful tariffs on Canada (and thus on the County’s local stakeholders and economy), the County’s resolve to supporting Canadian suppliers and contractors is more important than ever.

4. Response to US Tariffs

(a) Purchasing and Procurement Response to US Tariffs

- i. The County shall continue to follow its current procurement practices and policies and seek goods and services at the lowest possible cost based on its value for money assessment.
- ii. Notwithstanding i. above, within our current practices and policies, the County shall prefer goods and services from suppliers and contractors from Canada and other places of origin to those originating from the United States of America, where giving such preference:
 - a. is reasonably fiscally prudent taking into account the County's budget for the good and/or service and its commitment to value for money;
 - b. will not result in a breach of an existing agreement, and
 - c. is lawful.
- iii. In keeping with – and subject to - paragraph ii., the County may opt for alternative suppliers and/or contractors for goods and/or services originating from the United States of America.

(b) Communication to Suppliers

- i. The County's Procurement Department shall communicate, in its tenders, requests for tenders and requests for quotations, its preference for goods and supplies originating from Canada and other places of origin to those originating from the United States of America to its suppliers, subject to the terms hereof.

5. Budget Monitoring and Response

- ii. The impact, if any, of the United States of America's tariffs (which, for greater certainty, include countervailing tariffs imposed by the Government of Canada) on the County's budget shall be closely monitored and reported, as follows:
 - a. If such tariffs are reasonably expected to have an adverse financial impact on the budgeted cost of any good and/or service procured by the County, in that it is reasonably expected for such tariffs to result in the costs for goods and/or services exceeding budget, the Manager/Supervisor overseeing such procured good and/or service shall advise General Manager of the affected Division and such costs shall be monitored and reduced to the extent reasonably possible.

- b. If it is determined that such tariffs have an adverse financial impact on the budgeted cost of any good and/or service procured by the County, in that the tariffs have resulted in costs for goods and/or services exceeding budget, the General Manager of the affected Division shall report the financial impact to the County's Treasurer, who in turn shall periodically report the aggregate impact thereof to the County's operations to County Council.
- c. In addition, if it is determined that such tariffs have an adverse financial impact on any construction project in an amount greater than five (5%) per cent of the project's budget (including, for greater certainty, any budgeted contingency) the impact shall be reported to the Treasurer and Chief Administrative Officer and the status of the project shall be subject to review, further assessment and decision as to whether the project should be delayed, reduced in scope or cancelled altogether, taking into consideration all relevant factors including the County's assessment of value for money, expenditures already incurred, contractual commitments and any other relevant factors.

INTERPRETATION

This Policy shall be interpreted and executed in a manner consistent with the Statement and Guiding Principle set out in sections 2 and 3 above.

QUESTIONS

Any questions about this Policy, its application, administration and/or interpretation, including any concerns regarding any matter addressed by this Policy, shall be directed to: Manager, Procurement and Projects at rob.king@county-lambton.on.ca, or at 519-845-0801, ext. 5401.

EFFECTIVE DATE AND REVIEW

This Policy is effective as of April 3, 2025 and shall remain in effect indefinitely until revoked in writing.

REVISION	DATE	PREPARED BY
Created	March 6, 2025	Chief Administrative Office



MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
(Infrastructure & Development Services/Public Health Services –
Emergency Medical Services/Cultural Services/Long-Term Care/Corporate
Services/Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions/Social Services)
February 19, 2025

A meeting was held at the County Building at 9:00 a.m. on the above date.

Present

Chair K. Marriott and Members J. Agar, G. Atkinson, D. Boushy, A. Broad, T. Case, D. Cook, B. Dennis, D. Ferguson, B. Hand, B. Loosley, S. Miller, D. Sageman, I. Veen and B. White attended in person. Member M. Bradley attended virtually. Various staff were present including the following General Managers: Mr. J. Cole, General Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services, Mr. K. Churchill, General Manager, Public Health Services, Mr. A. Meyer, General Manager, Cultural Services, Mr. M. Gorgey, General Manager, Long-Term Care, Mr. L. Palarchio, General Manager, Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions, Ms. V. Colasanti, General Manager, Social Services, Ms. O. Leger, General Manager, Corporate Services, County Solicitor and Clerk, and Mr. S. Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer.

Absent

C. McRoberts.

Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor B. Loosley declared a pecuniary interest on item 15. A) a) and b) of the February 5, 2025 Lambton County Council (Open Session) agenda regarding the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) reports, due to his son being employed with Lambton EMS. Councillor Loosley was absent for the February 5, 2025 meeting.

Councillor B. Dennis declared a pecuniary interest on item #7. A) a) and #12. b) of the February 19, 2025 Committee of the Whole (Open Session) agenda regarding correspondence CORP 04-01-25, a letter from Chief Nahmabin, Aamjiwnaang First Nation, as he is identified in the letter, and therefore recused himself from discussion on this matter, as well as on motion #11 and #17 of this day's minutes.

INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

Correspondence to Receive and File

IDS 04-02-25 A letter from Jill Crosthwaite, Coordinator, Conservation Biologist – Lake Erie/Huron Region, Nature Conservancy of Canada dated February 10, 2025 regarding an upcoming one-day prescribed burn between March 2025 and May 2025 at the Karner Blue Sanctuary, located at 9900 Nipigon Street, Port Franks as well an Information Session to be held at the Port Franks Optimist Hall on Saturday, March 1, 2025 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#1: Ferguson/Atkinson: That correspondence IDS 04-02-25 be received and filed.

Carried.

Information Reports

#2: Veen/Miller: That the following Information Reports from Infrastructure & Development Services Division be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated February 19, 2025 regarding Emergency Management Coordinator Activities.
- b) Information Report dated February 19, 2025 regarding 4th Quarter 2024 Building, Plumbing, Septic, By-Law.
- c) Information Report dated February 19, 2025 regarding 4th Quarter 2024 Planning Work in Progress.
- d) Information Report dated February 19, 2025 regarding 2024 Full Year Planning Statistics and Approval Authority Activity.
- e) Information Report dated February 19, 2025 regarding Woodlands Annual Report 2024.

Carried.

Reports Requiring a Motion

Report dated February 19, 2025 Regarding Update Appointment By-Law for Building Inspectors

#3: Ferguson/Boushy: That Mr. Connor McEachen be appointed as Building Inspector and that By-Law No. 24 of 2024 be updated to reflect such changes.

Carried.

Report dated February 19, 2025 Regarding Update Delegation of Approval Authority Under *The Planning Act*

#4: Sageman/Miller:

a) That By-Law No. 12 of 2023 be amended as follows:

- i. replace the Manager of Planning and Development Services with the Senior Planning Official; and
- ii. include the Manager of Development Services as an additional alternate in fulfilling the delegated approval authority functions of the Senior Planning Official; and

b) That By-Law No. 67 of 1996 and 20 of 2020 be amended to include the Manager of Development Services as an additional alternate in fulfilling the delegated approval authority functions of the General Manager of Infrastructure and Development Services.

c) That the By-Laws contemplated in paragraph a and b above be presented to County Council for consideration and approval.

Carried.

Report dated February 19, 2025 Regarding County Road 19 (Michigan Avenue) Reconstruction

#5: Veen/Sageman: That County Council authorize County staff to submit the County Road 19 (Michigan Avenue) reconstruction project to the province and authorize the Warden and Clerk to sign any associated documentation under Bill 212, if so required.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION - Emergency Medical Services Department

No reports.

CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

Information Reports

#6: Hand/Loosley: That the following Information Reports from Cultural Services Division be received and filed:

a) Information Report dated February 19, 2025 regarding Cultural Services Division 2024 Annual Report.

b) Information Report dated February 19, 2025 regarding Libraries Fourth Quarter 2024 Statistics.

c) Information Report dated February 19, 2025 regarding Museums, Gallery and Archives Fourth Quarter 2024 Statistics.

Carried.

Reports Requiring a Motion

Report dated February 19, 2025 Regarding Libraries Donations, October 1 to December 31, 2024

#7: Agar/Loosley: That the Libraries donations, October 1 to December 31, 2024, report be accepted.

Carried.

Report dated February 19, 2025 Regarding Library Services - Township of Dawn-Euphemia

#8: Miller/Case:

a) That if the Township of Dawn-Euphemia consents to the closure of the Shetland Library, Staff be authorized to close the Shetland Library by such date and time in 2025 as mutually agreed upon with the Township of Dawn-Euphemia.

b) That if the Township of Dawn-Euphemia consents to the action authorized in paragraph a) above, Staff work collaboratively with the Township of Dawn-Euphemia on all reasonably necessary actions required to move the Shetland Library operations to the Florence Community Centre to enhance service delivery at Florence Library for the benefit of the community and to communicate the closure thereof to all affected stakeholders.

c) That subject to recommendations a), b) above being realized, Staff be authorized to increase the public hours of operation at Florence Library from 12 hours over three days per week to 24 hours over five days per week, consisting of a range of morning / afternoon, weekend and evening service.

d) That Staff report back to County Council on recommendations a) and b) above once direction from the Township of Dawn-Euphemia has been received and an action plan has been established, as applicable.

Carried.

Report dated February 19, 2025 Regarding Museums, Gallery and Archives Collection Management December 2024

#9: White/Miller: That the Museums, Gallery and Archives Collections Management December 2024 Report be accepted, and items recommended for acceptance to, or deaccession from, the collection be approved for inclusion in or removal from, the respective permanent collections.

Carried.

LONG-TERM CARE DIVISION

Information Reports

#10: Veen/Loosley: That the following Information Reports from Long-Term Care be received and filed:

a) Information Report dated February 19, 2025 regarding Adult Enrichment Centre Advisory Committee Annual Report 2024.

b) Information Report dated February 19, 2025 regarding Long Term Care Occupancy 2024.

Carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

Correspondence to Receive and File

CORP 04-01-25 A letter from Chief Nahmabin, Aamjiwnaang First Nation dated February 2, 2025 regarding conduct at the Lambton County Council meeting on November 27, 2024.

#11: Ferguson/Loosley: That correspondence 04-01-25 be tabled until such time that the Integrity Commissioner provides its final report to County Council regarding the subject complaint.

Carried.

Information Reports

Information Report dated February 19, 2025 Regarding Court Services - 2024 4th Quarter Statistics and Activity

#12: Broad/Veen: That Information Report dated February 19, 2025 regarding Court Services - 2024 4th Quarter Statistics and Activity be received and filed.

Carried.

FINANCE, FACILITIES AND ACQUISITIONS DIVISION

Reports Requiring a Motion

Report dated February 19, 2025 Regarding Annual Year-End Report on Reserves and Reserve Funds

#13: Miller/Ferguson: That the attached Summary Report on Reserves and Reserve Funds and its recommendations be accepted as presented.

Carried.

SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

Information Reports

#14: Case/Hand: That the following Information Reports from Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions be received and filed:

a) Information Report dated February 19, 2025 regarding Ontario Works 2024 Year End Update Report.

b) Information Report dated February 19, 2025 regarding 10-Year Capital Asset Management and Funding Plan Update.

c) Information Report dated February 19, 2025 regarding Housing Services Comparative Statistics Report 2024 to 2023.

d) Information Report dated February 19, 2025 regarding Out of the Cold Shelter Security Services.

Carried.

Presentation of the 2025 County of Lambton Draft Budget

Councillor D. Cook joined the meeting at 9:14 a.m.

Larry Palarchio, Treasurer, County of Lambton, presented The Corporation of the County of Lambton's Draft 2025 Budget and Overview of Key Highlights.

A question and answer period ensued.

Recess

The Chair declared a recess at 9:46 a.m.

Committee of the Whole then reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

IN-CAMERA

#15: Loosley/White: That the Chair declare the Committee go in-camera to discuss the following:

a) to receive a report and provide instructions regarding negotiations between the County and a third party relating to service expansion, pursuant to s. 239(2)(k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

b) to receive advice subject to solicitor-client privilege regarding correspondence received by the County, pursuant to the provisions of s. 239(2)(f) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

c) to receive commercial information explicitly supplied in confidence by a third party regarding a development plan, pursuant to s. 239(2)(i) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Carried.

#16: (Motion to be dealt with at the Lambton County Council (CLOSED SESSION) meeting dated April 3, 2025.)

#17: (Motion to be dealt with at the Lambton County Council (CLOSED SESSION) meeting dated April 3, 2025.)

#18: Loosley/Veen: That the Chair adjourn the In-Camera session.

Carried.

Time: 11:22 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

#19: Veen/SageMan: That the Chair declare the meeting adjourned with the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the County Building, Wyoming, Ontario.

Carried.

Time: 11:22 a.m.

Kevin Marriott, Chair

Olivia Leger, Clerk

MINUTES
WOODLANDS HEARINGS BOARD

March 25, 2025

A meeting was held in person and via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. on the above date.

Present

Members Warden K. Marriott, Deputy Warden J. Agar, Councillor D. Ferguson, Chair. Also present were O. Leger, General Manager, Corporate Services, C. Nauta, Manager, Development Services, T. Payne, Woodlands Conservation Officer and A. Major, Secretary.

Absent

None.

APPLICATIONS

Application W-001/25

3771 Queen Street Inc.
c/o Brad Zantingh
PLYMPTON CON 10 PT LOTS 8 9;
AND RP 25R10706 PARTS 23 24
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

The location of the trees that are the subject of this application is PLYMPTON CON 10 PT LOT 8 RP;25R10706 PARTS 25 26, Queen St. Plympton-Wyoming. 3771 Queen Street Inc., owner, has applied for "an exemption from the provisions of By-Law 4 of 2012 of the County of Lambton, being a by-law to prohibit or regulate the destruction or injuring of trees" in respect to a woodlot which is located on the property noted above.

The applicant has requested an exemption of 2.0 hectares (5.0 acres) to allow for drainage of agriculture area over Walker Drain.

Present was Brad Zantingh, 3771 Queen Street Inc., applicant.

O. Leger indicated a Chair was required to be chosen in order to move the application forward.

Agar/Marriott: That Councillor Ferguson be nominated for the position of Chair of the Woodlands Hearings Board.

Carried.

Councillor Ferguson was appointed Chair of this Committee and presided over the remainder of the hearing.

Woodlands Hearings Board – March 25, 2025 (page 2)

Chair Ferguson introduced the application and asked the applicant if he had any comments.

B. Zantingh confirmed that 11 acres would be left after tree removal. Tree replacement will take place on another property in a flood plain area that cannot be developed. The applicant commented that he worked with T. Payne on the application and offered the 2:1 tree replacement ratio.

K.Cooke, Lambton Wildlife commented concerns of lost crown coverage, and mature trees in Lambton and also stated that it would take three generations to replace trees. She would like to know if it is necessary to take all of the trees and what types of trees would be used for replacement.

B.Zantingh responded no that it wasn't necessary to take all, permitted to take strips for drainage with no requirement to replace trees.

T. Payne confirmed that he will work with the applicant on what types of trees would be used for replacement in that area and confirmed that the applicant would be required to replant trees that don't survive.

M. Martin, Lambton Wildlife enquired about an Environmental Impact Study and results.

T.Payne stated that this was not a requirement for this application.

M. Martin voiced concerns regarding replantation on the new property, and risk of phragmites and other new types of invasive species that make affect the new area.

Agar/Marriott: That the Woodlands Hearings Board approve the following recommendation:

- a) That Woodlands Exemption Application W-001-2025 for the clearing of 5.0 acres of woodland be approved, subject to paragraph (b) below; and
- b) That such approval outlined in paragraph (a) above be granted on the following conditions:
 - i. that the applicant, 3771 Queen Street Inc. and the County of Lambton enter into a reforestation agreement by not later than April 25, 2025, for the replanting of 9.5 acres to be completed by June 31, 2026, on the property identified in Appendix "A" as Compensation Replanting Location, as attached to this report; and

- ii. That the clearing and tiling of the Woodland that is subject to the application identified in paragraph (a) above be completed by no later than December 31, 2027.

Carried.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Time: 9:35 a.m.

THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON

BY-LAW NO. 8 OF 2025

**“A By-Law to Appoint a Chief Building
Official and Inspectors for The County of Lambton”**

WHEREAS The Corporation of the County of Lambton (the "**County**") has jurisdiction to apply and enforce the *Building Code Act, 1992*, S.O. 1992, c.23 (the "**Code**"), as amended, throughout Lambton County and throughout the local municipalities for which it provides Code enforcement services;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the County is authorized under the Code to appoint a Chief Building Official and inspectors for the enforcement of the Code in such areas in which the County has jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS this Council previously enacted By-Law No. 24 of 2024 to appoint a Chief Building Official, acting Chief Building Official(s) and inspectors for purposes of the Code but wishes to update and restate such appointment on account of personnel changes;

NOW THEREFORE this Council of The Corporation of the County of Lambton enacts as follows:

1. The individuals named in Schedule "A" attached hereto are hereby appointed to the positions identified therein for purposes of the Code.
2. The appointments set out in paragraph 1 hereof are in effect on the earlier of:
 - (a) the date that each individual assumed the duties and responsibilities of the position(s) appointed to, which may be retroactive to the date of the commencement of their employment; and
 - (b) the date of this By-Law;

and such appointments shall be in effect only for so long as the individual is employed with the County.

3. That By-Law No. 24 of 2024 is hereby repealed.
4. THIS BY-LAW comes into force and effect upon finally being passed.

THIS BY-LAW read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 3rd day of April 2025.

Kevin Marriott
Warden

Olivia Leger
Clerk

DRAFT

SCHEDULE A TO BY-LAW NO. 8 OF 2025

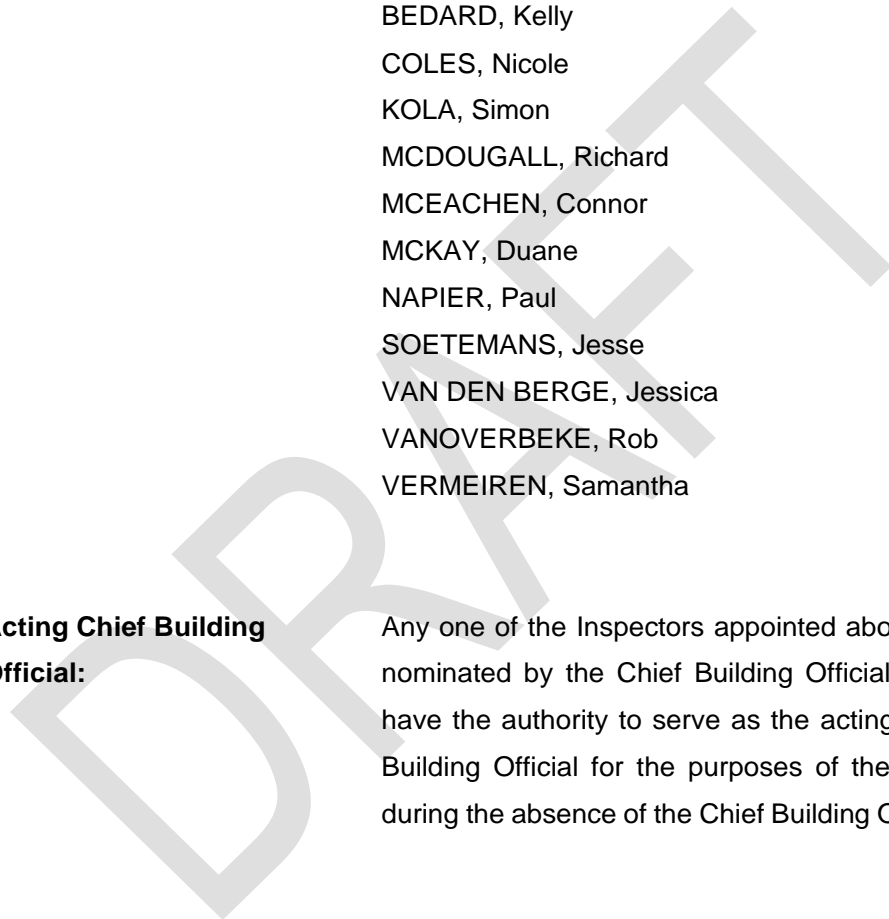
The following individuals are hereby appointed to the following positions for the purposes of the *Building Code Act, 1992*, S.O. 1992, c. 23:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Appointed Individuals (Name)</u>
------------------------	--

Chief Building Official:	NAUTA, Corrine
---------------------------------	----------------

Inspector(s):	ANIC, Michael BEDARD, Kelly COLES, Nicole KOLA, Simon MCDOUGALL, Richard MCEACHEN, Connor MCKAY, Duane NAPIER, Paul SOETEMANS, Jesse VAN DEN BERGE, Jessica VANOVERBEKE, Rob VERMEIREN, Samantha
----------------------	---

Acting Chief Building Official:	Any one of the Inspectors appointed above (as nominated by the Chief Building Official) shall have the authority to serve as the acting Chief Building Official for the purposes of the Code during the absence of the Chief Building Official.
--	---



THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON

BY-LAW NO. 9 OF 2025

"A By-Law to Amend By-Law No. 28 of 2011"

WHEREAS s. 51 of the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13, provides that the Council of The Corporation of the County of Lambton may, by By-Law, delegate all or any part of the authority to approve Plans of Subdivision and Condominium Descriptions to an appointed officer identified in the By-Law by name or position occupied;

AND WHEREAS By-Law No. 67 of 1996 provided for the delegation of approval authority in respect of applications for approval of Plans of Subdivisions and Condominium Descriptions;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the County of Lambton passed By-Law No. 28 of 2011 that directed that the Land Division Committee be disbanded effective January 1st, 2012, and that its functions be allocated to various other bodies, including their approval authority in respect of applications for approval of Plans of Subdivisions and Condominium Descriptions be delegated to the Manager of Planning and Development Services;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the County of Lambton seeks to amend By-Law No. 28 of 2011 (and consequently By-Law No. 67 of 1996) to replace the position title of "Manager of Planning & Development Services" with "Manager of Development Services";

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the County of Lambton enacts as follows:

1. By-Law No. 28 of 2011 is hereby amended as follows:

a) Paragraph 3(b) is hereby amended by deleting the words " Manager of Planning and Development Services" and replacing them with the words "Manager of Development Services."

2. THIS BY-LAW comes into force and takes effect upon the passing thereof.

THIS BY-LAW read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 3rd day of April, 2025.

Kevin Marriott
Warden

Olivia Leger
Clerk

DRAFT

THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON

BY-LAW NO. 10 OF 2025

“A By-Law to Amend By-Law 12 of 2023”

WHEREAS pursuant to section 17(4) of the *Planning Act*, R.S.O., 1990, Chap. P. 13, as amended (the “Act”), the Council of The Corporation of the County of Lambton (the “County”) became the approval authority for the approval of Official Plans and Official Plan Amendments of the lower-tier member municipalities of the County (“Local Municipalities”) on January 2, 1998, the date which the County’s Official Plan was approved by the Province of Ontario and came into effect;

AND WHEREAS section 17.1(1) of the Act provides that Council may by By-Law delegate all or any part of the authority to approve Official Plans to an appointed officer identified in the by-law by name or position occupied;

AND WHEREAS Council delegated such authority to the Manager of Planning and Development Services pursuant to By-law 38 of 2002, which Council amended pursuant to By-Law 19 of 2020, to also delegate such authority to the General Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services Division;

AND WHEREAS Council enacted By-Law 12 of 2023 to provide Local Municipalities the option to seek, by resolution, that its Official Plans (and amendments thereto) submitted to the County for review and approval be addressed and considered by Council, rather than the Manager of Planning and Development Services and/or the General Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services Division;

AND WHEREAS Council wishes to amend By-Law 12 of 2023 by replacing the position title of “Manager of Planning and Development Services” with “Senior Planning Official” and to include the Manager of Development Services as an

alternate signing authority to the Senior Planning Official for the approval of Official Plans and Official Plan Amendments.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the County of Lambton enacts as follows:

1. By-Law No. 12 of 2023 is hereby amended as follows:
 2. Paragraph 1, lines 1-3, is hereby amended by replacing “The Manager of Planning and Development Services for the County (the Manager of Planning and Development Services)” with “Senior Planning Official”; and
 3. Paragraph 1, line 4 after the words “General Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services for the County” is hereby amended by adding “as well as the Manager of Development Services”
4. THIS BY-LAW shall come into force and shall take effect upon passing hereof.

THIS BY-LAW read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 3rd day of April, 2025.

Kevin Marriott
Warden

Olivia Leger
Clerk

THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON

BY-LAW NO. 11 OF 2025

"A By-Law of The Corporation of the County of Lambton to confirm the resolutions and motions of Lambton County Council which were adopted up to and including April 3rd, 2025"

WHEREAS it has been expedient that from time to time, the Council of The Corporation of the County of Lambton should enact the resolutions or motions of Council;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed advisable that all such actions which have been adopted by resolution or motion of Council only, should be authorized by By-Law;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the County of Lambton enacts as follows:

- 1) That all actions of Council which have been authorized by a resolution or motion of Council and adopted in open Council and that were recorded in the minutes of Council or the minutes of a Committee of Council and accepted by Council up to and including April 3rd, 2025 be hereby confirmed.

THIS BY-LAW read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 3rd day of April, 2025.

Kevin Marriott
Warden

Olivia Leger
Clerk