



AGENDA
LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL

Wednesday, September 4, 2024 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 July 3, 2024, pursuant to s. 239(2) (c), (d), (e) and (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- b) to receive a report and provide instructions regarding negotiations between the County and a third party relating to a service agreement, pursuant to s. 239(2) (i) and (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- c) to receive a report and provide instructions regarding negotiations between the County and a third party relating to a development project in the City of Sarnia, pursuant to s. 239(2) (e) and (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- d) to receive a report and provide instructions regarding negotiations between the County and a third party relating to a development

project in the City of Sarnia and receive advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, pursuant to s. 239(2) (e), (f) 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. DELEGATIONS

- a) Dr. Katherine Albion, Executive Director, County of Lambton Community Development Corporation (CLCDC), and Derrek Lennox, Managing Partner, Kewin Consulting, will be presenting to County Council regarding a progress update, including its financial status, as requested by County Council at its May 1, 2024 Council meeting.
- b) Al Duffy, Chair, Board of Tourism Sarnia-Lambton, will be presenting to County Council to provide further information regarding motion #8 as passed by County Council at its July 3, 2024 Open Session meeting, as shown below:

#8: Bradley/Loosley:

a) That County staff request for Tourism Sarnia-Lambton to provide its latest audited financial statements for inclusion in Lambton County Council September 4, 2024, meeting package, and that their audited financial statements also be included as part of the County grant process going forward.

b) That County staff request for Tourism Sarnia-Lambton to provide its Board meeting minutes following each Board meeting.

- c) Mark Suvajac will be presenting to County Council regarding a proposal to repurpose a cruise ship docked in Sarnia into a floating rehabilitation and treatment center to provide integrated services for addiction treatment, housing, and community support.

9. MINUTES OF COUNCIL (OPEN SESSION)

- a) Reading and adoption of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated July 3, 2024.

7 - 21

22 - 34

35 - 42

10. **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:

- 43 - 44 a) BOH 09-02-24 A letter from René Lapierre, Board of Health Chair, and Dr. Mustafa Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Sudbury & Districts dated July 8, 2024, regarding a resolution as passed at the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury and District's meeting on May 16, 2024, relating to physical literacy for communities. Please see the attached letter for the full motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts endorses the Physical Literacy for Communities: A Public Health Approach as an exemplary guide for public health professionals to work collaboratively and efficiently within a multi-sector, community-based partnership to address physical literacy.

- 45 - 46 b) BOH 09-03-24 A letter from Joanne King, Chair, Board of Health, Renfrew County and District Health Unit dated July 24, 2024, regarding a resolution as passed at its June 25, 2024 meeting to request continued provincial funding and support for cross-provincial infectious disease wastewater surveillance and modern case and contact management software.

- 47 - 50 c) BOH 09-04-24 A letter from Matt Newton-Reid, Chair, Middlesex-London Board of Health dated July 24, 2024, regarding support for Bills S-233 and C-223 "*An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income*". The Middlesex-London Board of Health supports a guaranteed livable basic income as a policy option for reducing poverty, income insecurity, and food insecurity and for providing opportunities for people with lower incomes.

B) **Board of Health Information Reports**

- 51 - 53 a) Information Report dated September 4, 2024 Regarding Clinical and Family Services Q2 2024 Update.

- 54 - 58 b) Information Report dated September 4, 2024 Regarding Tobacco, Vape and Cannabis Strategy Update.

C) **Board of Health Reports Requiring a Motion**

- 59 - 66 a) Report dated September 4, 2024 Regarding Automatic

Prohibition for Vapour Product Sale Non-Compliance - BOH
09-05-24.

D) Board of Health Other Business

11. CORRESPONDENCE

A) Correspondence from Member Municipalities

- 67 - 70
- a) CC 09-01-24 A letter from Amy Burkhart, City Clerk, City of Sarnia, dated August 15, 2024. The City of Sarnia is respectfully requesting financial assistance from the County of Lambton to support the ongoing health and safety measures which have been implemented at Rainbow Park.

12. INFORMATION REPORTS

A) Finance, Facilities and Court Services Division

- 71 - 74
- a) Information Report dated September 2024 Regarding Debt Management - Status Update.
- 75 - 77
- b) Information Report dated September 4, 2024 Regarding 2nd Quarter - 2024 Budget Monitoring Report.

B) Social Services Division

- 78 - 81
- a) Information Report dated September 4, 2024 Regarding Housing Services Statistical Report 2024 - Quarter 2.
- 82 - 87
- b) Information Report dated September 4, 2024 Regarding Homelessness Prevention and Affordable Housing Update.
- 88 - 100
- c) Information Report dated September 4, 2024 Regarding Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership Annual Report.

13. ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A MOTION

- 101 - 114
- a) Tourism Sarnia Lambton's 2022 Audited Financial Statements, 2024 Budget, and July 17, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.
- 115 - 116
- b) County of Lambton Agricultural Advisory Committee (CLAAC) Minutes dated August 14, 2024.
- 117 - 120
- c) Lambton Creative County Committee minutes dated November 30, 2023.

14. REPORTS REQUIRING A MOTION

A) Infrastructure & Development Services Division

- 121 - 146
- a) Report dated September 4, 2024 Regarding Canada Community-Building Fund Municipal Funding Agreement.

B) Cultural Services Division

147 - 151

- a) Report dated September 4, 2024 Regarding County of Lambton Land Stewardship Program.

15. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (OPEN SESSION) MINUTES

No previous minutes.

16. ITEMS TABLED FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None at this time.

17. NOTICE OF MOTION

152 - 154

- a) Councillor M. Bradley gave Notice of Motion at the July 3, 2024 County Council meeting for discussion at the September 4, 2024 County Council meeting requesting staff to advise as to the role of the County, should a member municipality wish to pursue an injunction to address encampments in municipal parks across Lambton County.

18. OTHER BUSINESS

19. NOTICE OF BY-LAWS

155 - 158

- a) 22 of 2024 A By-Law to Authorize an Agreement with The Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

159 - 160

- b) 23 of 2024 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 September 4, 2024.

A) First and Second Reading of By-Laws

- a) #22 and #23 of 2024.

B) Third and Final Reading of By-Laws

- a) #22 and #23 of 2024.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Recommendation

That the Warden declare the meeting adjourned and that the next regular meeting of County Council be held on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 with the In-Camera Session to commence at 9:00 a.m.

21. O CANADA!

22. INVITATIONS

161

- a) The annual Council Steak Fry will be hosted by the Village of Point

Agenda: Lambton County Council (OPEN SESSION) - September 4, 2024

Edward after today's meeting. Please see the attached invitation for full details.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) May 1, 2024 (page 2)

County of Lambton Community Development Corporation (CLCDC) Board Update and Request

Dr. Katherine Albion, Executive Director, Western Sarnia-Lambton Research Park and Derrek Lennox, Managing Partner, Kewin Consulting presented to Council regarding an update and request to County Council on behalf of the County of Lambton Community Development Corporation (CLCDC) Board.

#3: Broad/Agar:

- a) That County Council grant the County of Lambton Community Development Corporation (CLCDC) the base operating funding of \$1.35 million through to March 2025, subject to the following conditions:
 - i. That 50% of the grant be provided to CLCDC forthwith; and
 - ii. That the remaining 50% of the grant be released only upon receiving further direction from County Council, confirming that the remaining amounts may be released, following a progress update, including its financial status, from CLCDC at the September 4, 2024 County Council meeting.
- b) That Staff report back to County Council on the funding and financial obligations with respect to CLCDC by September 2024.
- c) That Staff also report back to County Council on the remaining lease term for Tourism Sarnia-Lambton with respect to its lease at the tourism facility, and whether there are any opportunities for other County community partners, including Tourism Sarnia-Lambton, to lease space at the Research Park.

A recorded vote starting with Councillor McRoberts was requested by Councillor Bradley on motion #3 of this day's minutes.

Councillor	Vote
J. Agar	Yes (3)
G. Atkinson	Yes (3)
D. Boushy	No (3)
M. Bradley	No (3)
A. Broad	Yes (1)
T. Case	Yes (2)
D. Cook	Yes (3)
B. Dennis	No (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 - 28; Nays - 9.

Motion Carried.



Western
Sarnia-Lambton
Research Park



Project Elevating Success: Lambton County Council September 4, 2024 Update

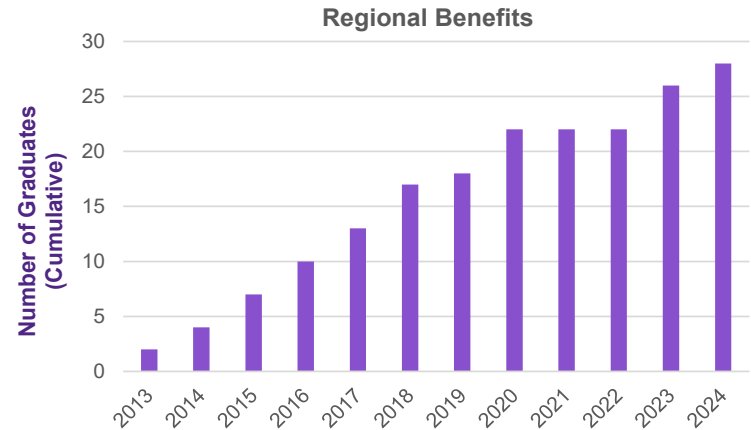
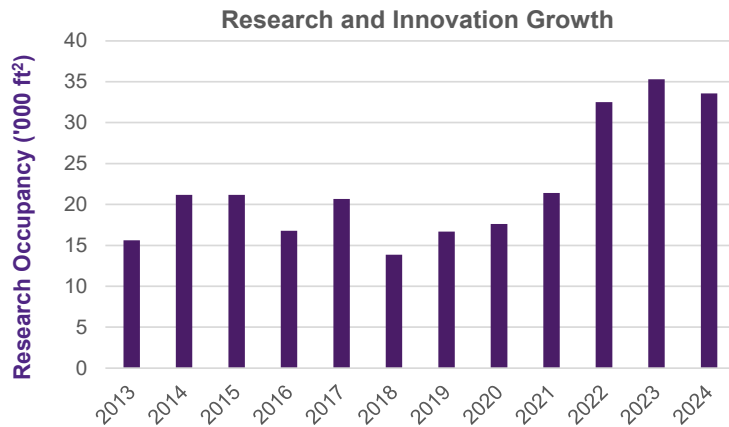


Western
Sarnia-Lambton
Research Park



The Western Sarnia Lambton Research Park is an integral part of the Sarnia-Lambton economic development ecosystem → “Discoveries that Matter”

The Vision and Mission statements provide guidance to the CLCDC Board of Directors and WSLRP Administration



Key Metrics and Results:

Pre-Pandemic Occupancy of 95%+

Attracted **28 New Companies** to Sarnia-Lambton, in collaboration with innovation partners

1,000+ Direct and **5,100+ Indirect** Research and Technology **Jobs** created by tenants since 2012

Direct Economic Impact **\$1B+**

\$3.2B+ Grants and Investments received by tenants since 2012

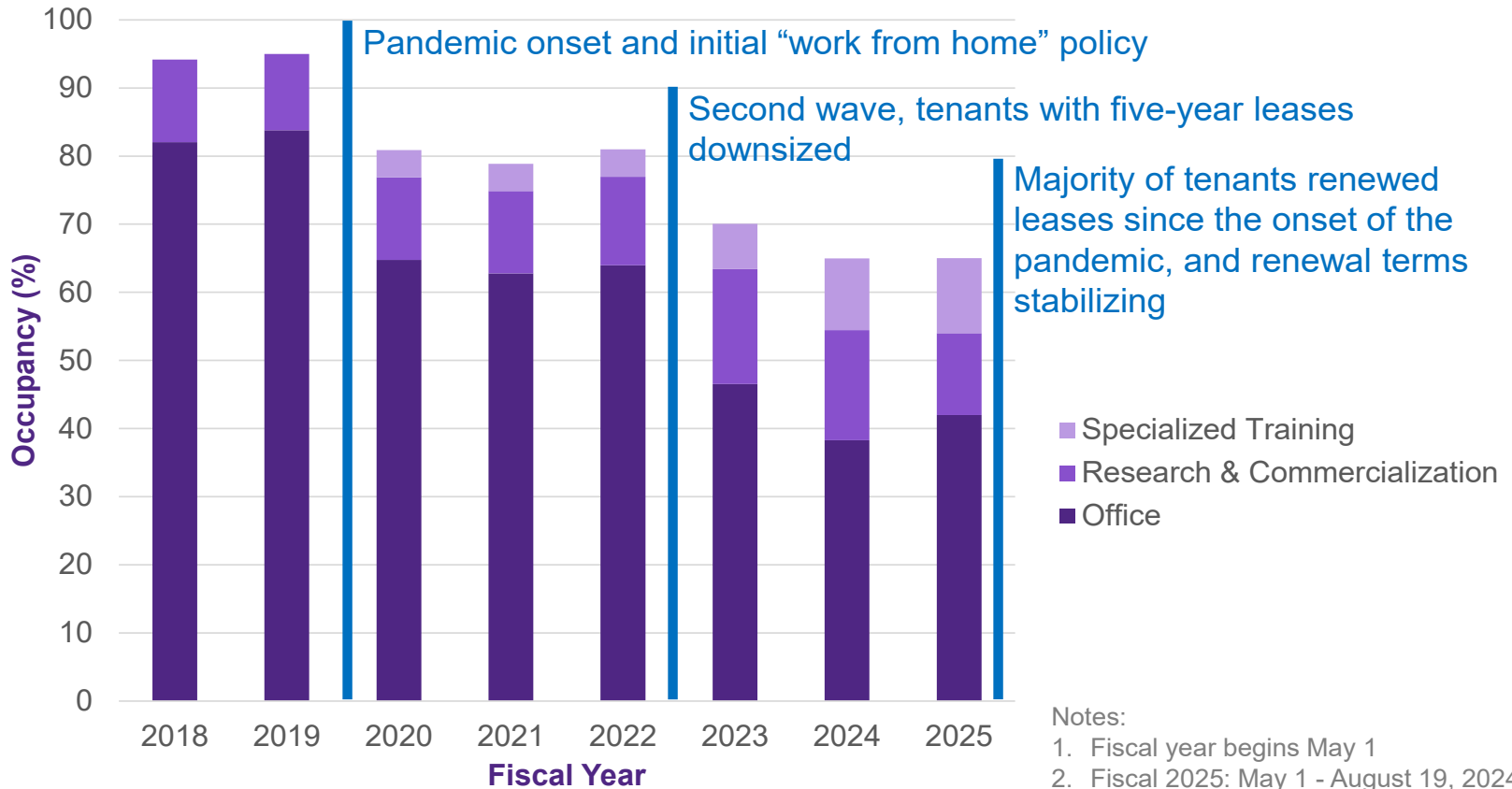
3 New Commercial Plants: \$2.3B+ Capital Investment and 250+ Jobs



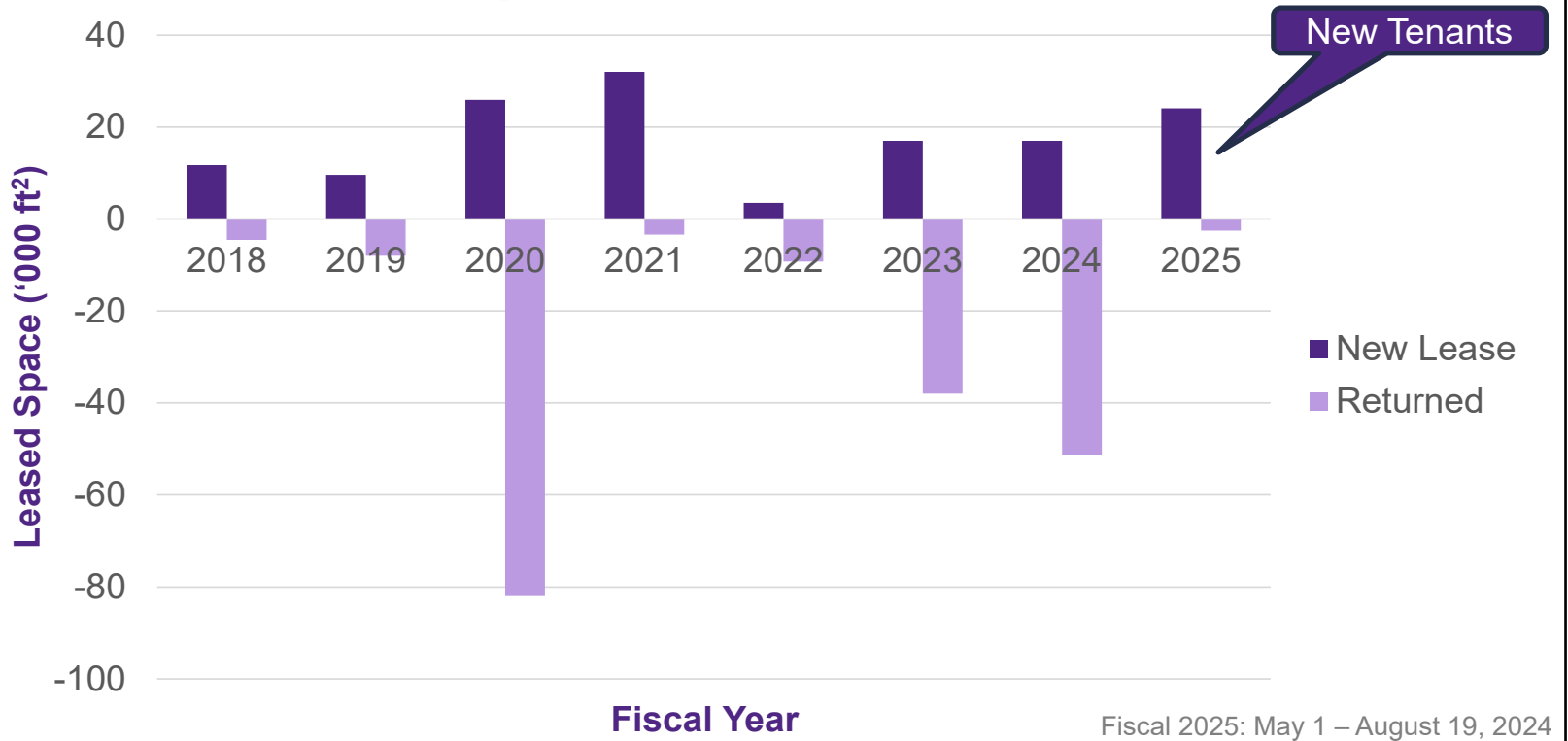
Western
Sarnia-Lambton
Research Park



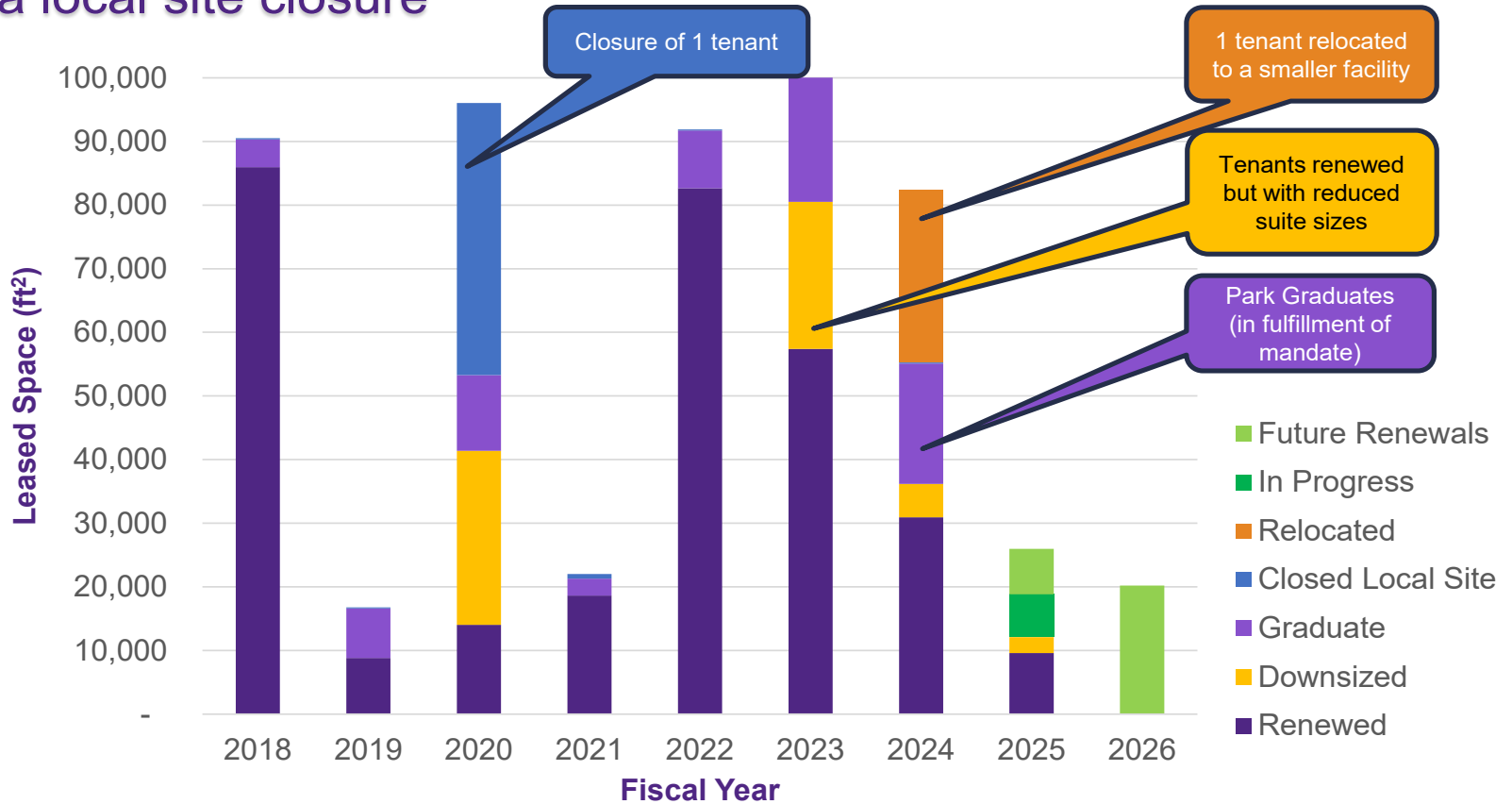
Despite this growth and regional benefit, the Research Park has been impacted by the effects of the pandemic



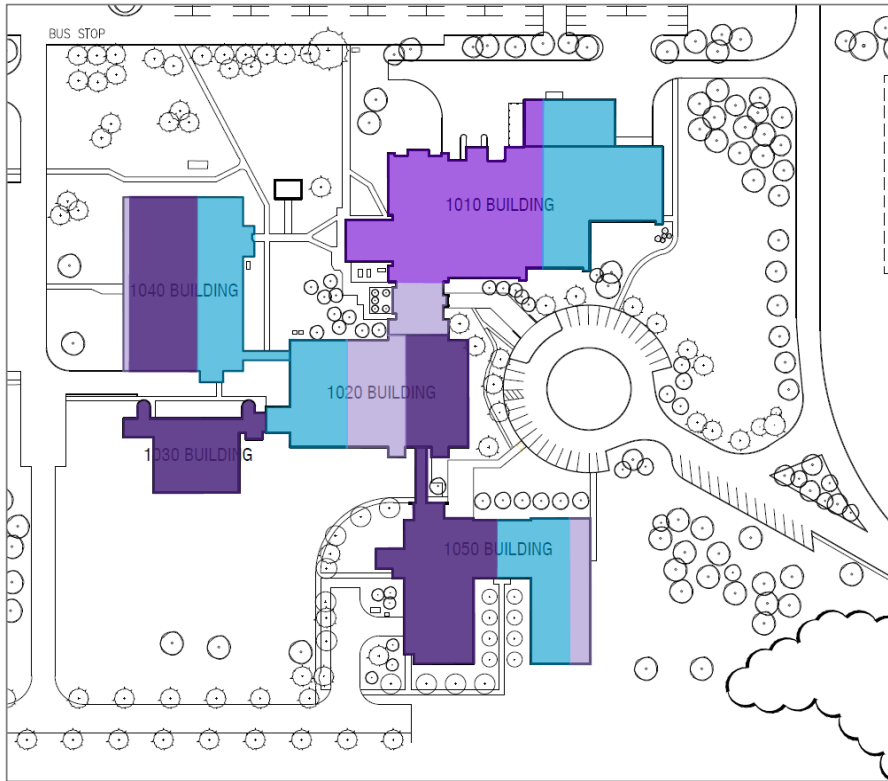
Pre-pandemic, the Research Park's 3 largest tenants occupied 60% of the leasable space at the Park; these tenants currently occupy 11%. Two new, large tenants signed in the summer of 2024, and now occupy 9% of the Research Park



Majority of tenants renew at the Research Park. Space returned is a mix of graduates, tenant suite size reductions and a local site closure



Opportunities for growth: available office suites represent potential future research facilities and the establishment of new innovation and technology hubs

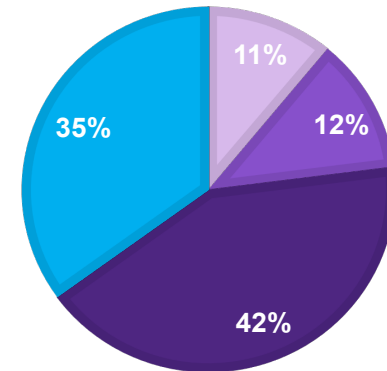


Leased Specialized Training

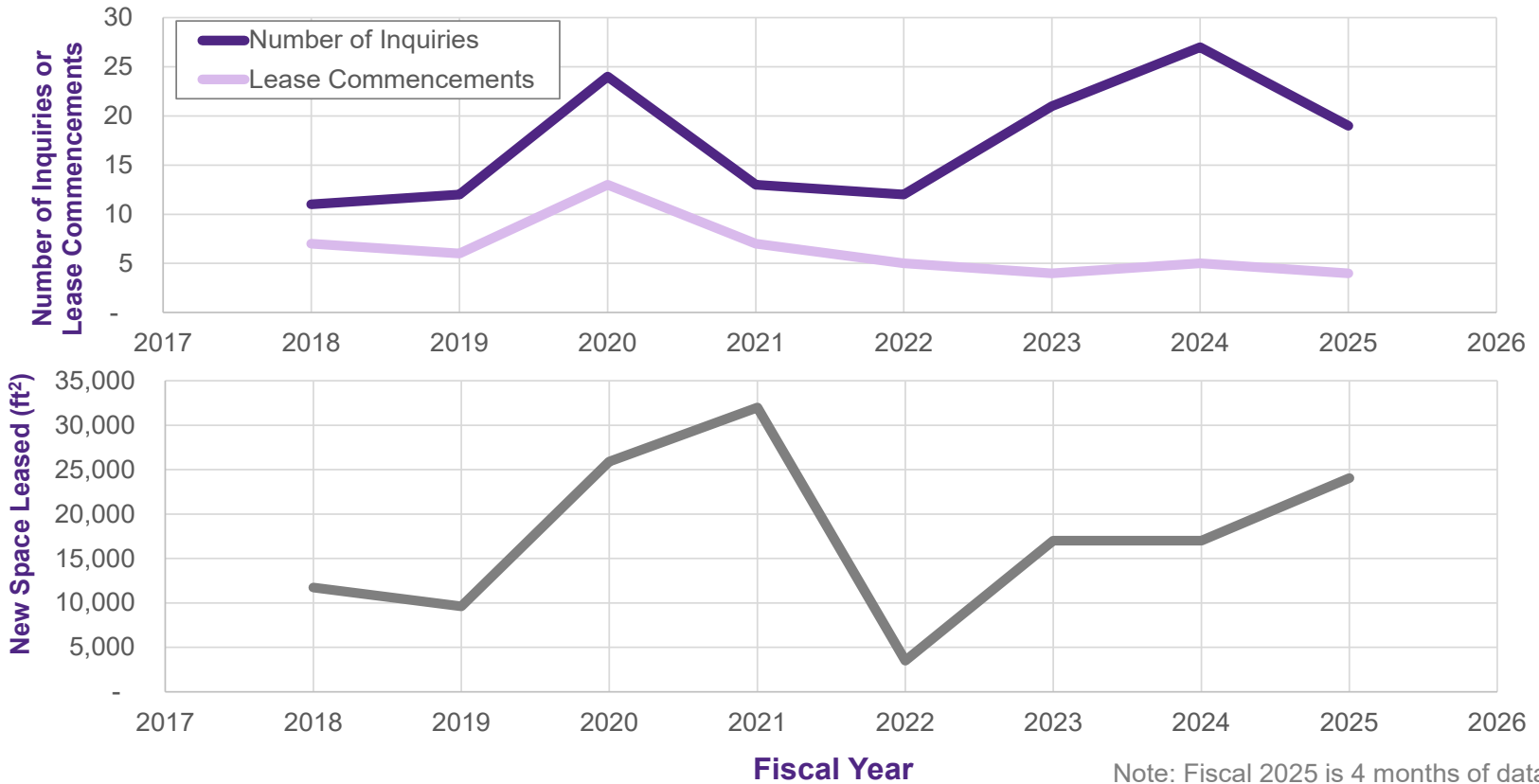
Leased Research & Commercialization

Leased Office

Available (Currently Office Suites Only)



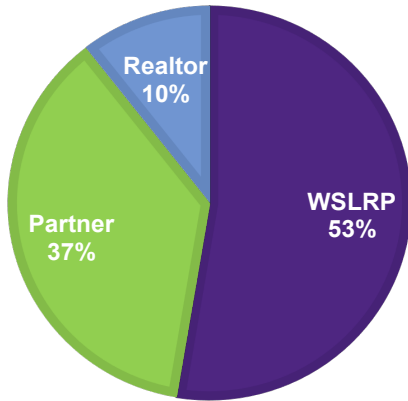
New tenant referral systems were disrupted by the pandemic and partnership changes, and new referral systems are in development



Note: Fiscal 2025 is 4 months of data

Developing tenant referral systems are demonstrating positive results in Fiscal 2025

Referral Source



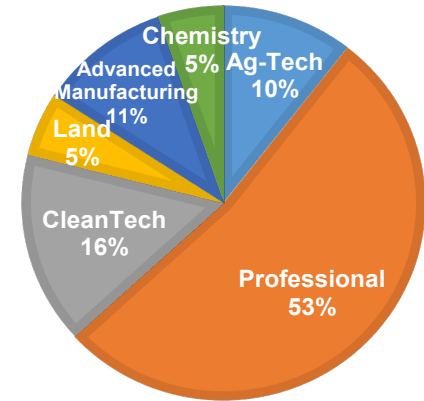
- Inquiries: 19
- Proposals: 10
- New Leases: 4
- Area Leased: 23.6K ft²

Space Type Inquiry



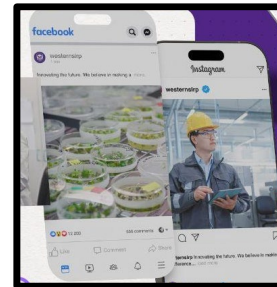
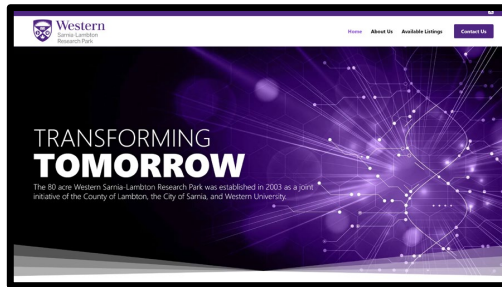
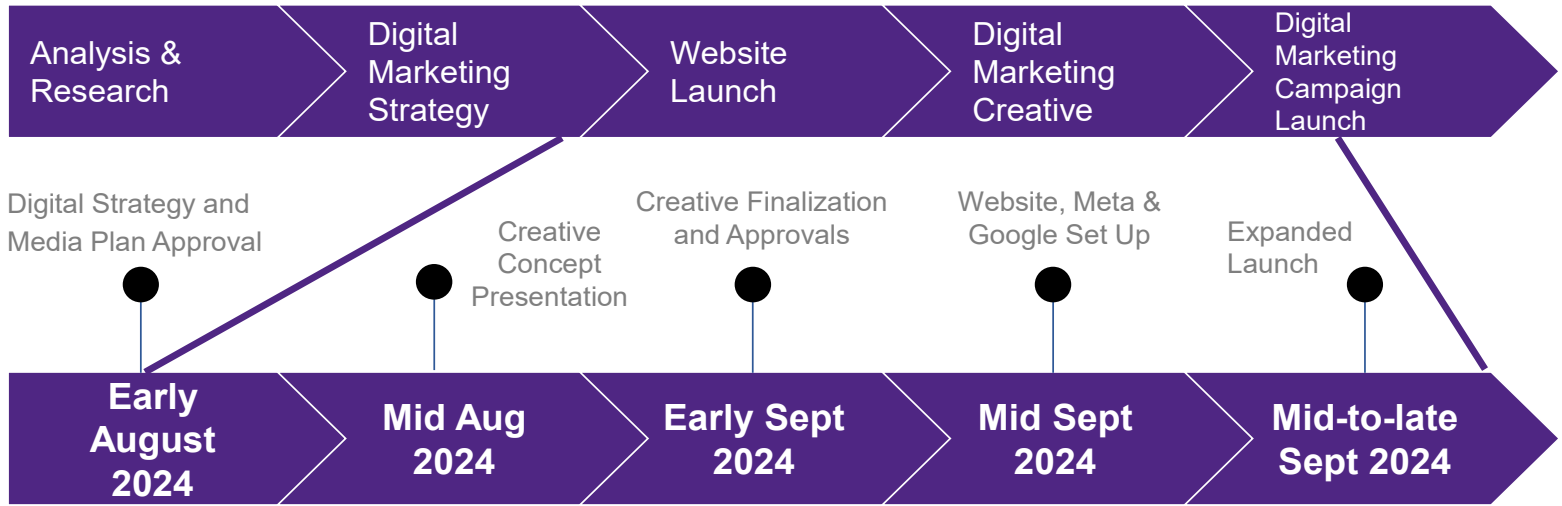
- Continued strong interest in research infrastructure – potential future expansion
- Renewed interest in office suite leases

Inquiry Sector

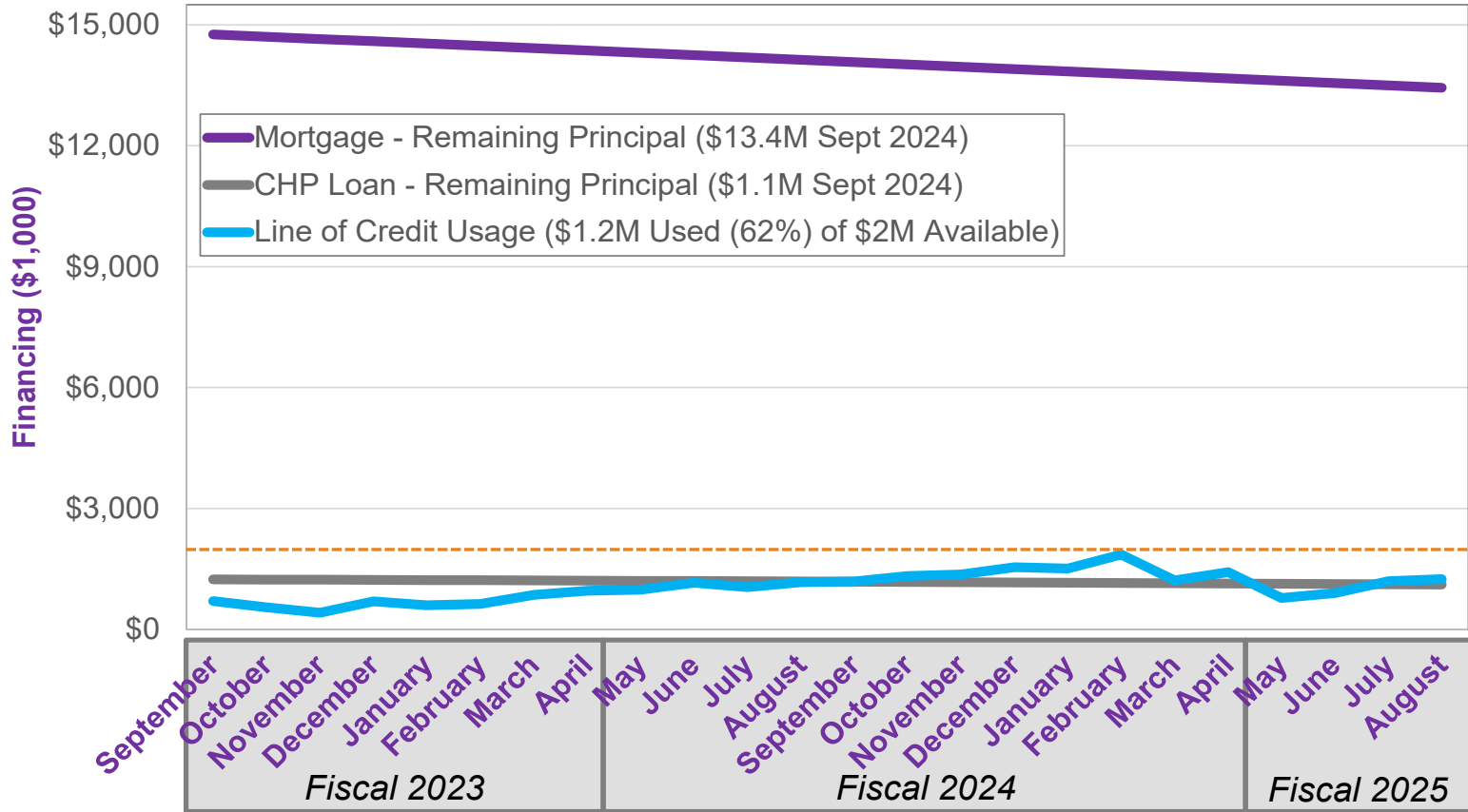


- Interest in key economic sectors of Sarnia-Lambton
- Sector alignment with CLCDC Vision statement

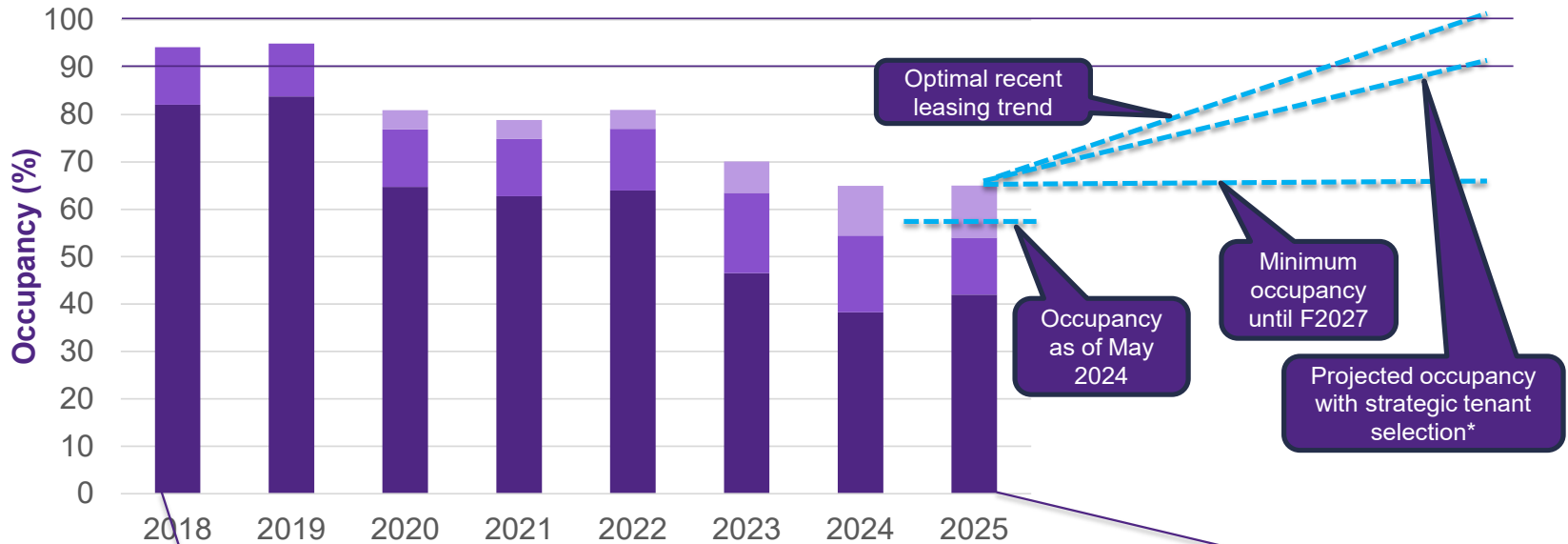
Digital Marketing timeline to increase inquiries generated, and a realistic timeline to Expanded Campaign Launch



County of Lambton funding was applied to the line of credit, which is currently utilized to cover the shortfall of revenue over expenses



“Runway” time required to return the Park to full occupancy will be well used to secure key strategic tenants and future partners for economic development initiatives in Sarnia-Lambton



	F2018	F2019	F2020	F2021	F2022	F2023	F2024	F2025e	F2026e
Revenue (\$)	3.99M	3.63M	4.36M	3.13M	3.29M	3.24M	2.59M	Min 2.9M Target 3.4M*	Min 2.9M Target 4.7M*
County Grant (\$)				600K	606K	617K	May: 632K March: 648K	May 1: 675K Sept 4 request: 675K	May: TBC** Sept: TBC**

Notes:

* Focus to secure strategic tenants aligned with CLCDC mandate
 ** To be confirmed through strategic planning, for consideration in the County budget process, along with growth plan objectives

The CLCDC successfully fulfills its mandate, including graduating tenants, businesses and commercialized technologies, in collaboration with local innovation partners

- The pandemic and the impact of concurrent overarching multi-year trends resulted in a valley of the CLCDC real estate cycle:
 - *Cyclical nature of commercial real estate leases; Abundance of office space available in a competitive market; Reduction in average office space requirements, per business*
- Excellent progress of attracting new tenants; 57% occupancy in May vs. 65% in September
- New and current tenants require much smaller spaces than historical
- New inquiry sources are in development to supplement the current systems
- Additional runway time is still required to fill the space, post-pandemic at strategic pricing
- This is a prime opportunity to build on the core mission and vision of the Research Park, and position the Park for future growth

“... demonstrate precisely how research parks and innovation districts are essential drivers of innovation, economic growth and dynamic community place-making.”

- Erin Koshut, President of the Association of University Research Parks and Executive Director of Cummings Research Park, re: 2023 North American Research Parks benchmarking survey results



Western
Sarnia-Lambton
Research Park



Request of Lambton County Council

In May 2024, a request for the full year of shortfall funding was requested to support the CLCDC to the end of its Fiscal 2025 and into the budget planning cycle for Fiscal 2026

The resolution was made to provide half of the requested funds, with a subsequent update in September (this report and presentation)

The CLCDC requests from Lambton County:

- a grant of *up to* \$675,000 for the remainder of the fiscal year (managed by the Lambton County Finance Department)
- Lambton County Council participation in the upcoming 5-year strategic planning process for the CLCDC
- CLCDC inclusion in the County budgeting process for upcoming fiscal years to address funding shortfalls (operating funding, equity contribution of funding grant applications, and growth support)
- Subsequent updates to be incorporated into the CLCDC Annual General Meeting plus a semi-annual CLCDC progress update to Lambton County Council



**A PRIVATE
SOLUTION FOR A
PUBLIC PROBLEM**
A WHITE PAPER

ANCHOR OF HOPE:
SARNIA'S
FLOATING REHAB
CENTRE



Prepared by
MARK SUVAJAC

JULY 2024

A Private Solution For A Public Problem

A White Paper

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1. Executive Summary

Purpose:

This white paper proposes an innovative solution to Sarnia's pressing issues of drug abuse, homelessness, and crime by converting an older cruise ship into a floating rehabilitation and treatment center.

Solution:

Transforming an older cruise ship into a floating rehabilitation and treatment centre providing safe shelter, and medical care for Sarnia's at-risk population comprehensively.

Benefits:

Comprehensive care for individuals struggling with addiction and chronic homelessness. Reduced strain on local social services. Economic multiplier effect through job creation and downtown business revitalization. Improved public safety, and the protection of fundamental rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

2. Introduction

Context:

The opioid crisis and homelessness are significant issues in Sarnia, reflecting broader provincial and national trends. Rising rates of addiction and homelessness have led to increased crime, public health crises, and economic burdens on local businesses and social services.

Challenges:

Addressing these issues is often hampered, in some cases, by space constraints, NIMBY, funding limitations, and a lack of comprehensive care facilities. Traditional approaches have proven inadequate, necessitating innovative solutions.

Proposal:

This white paper introduces the concept of a floating treatment centre, utilizing an underused maritime asset to provide integrated services for addiction treatment, housing, and community support.

3. Detailed Data and Trends Analysis

Addiction and Overdoses:

Opioid Overdose Data:

In Ontario, opioid-related deaths increased by 60% from 2019 to 2020. Sarnia reflects this trend with a significant rise in emergency department visits and fatalities related to drug overdoses. According to Bluewater Health, Sarnia has seen a 25% increase in overdose cases over the past three years.

Substance Abuse Statistics:

- Estimates indicate that approximately 10% of Sarnia-Lambton residents struggle with substance abuse.
- The majority of overdose victims are between the ages of 25-44, with a growing number of cases among young adults (18-24).

Homelessness and Transient Encampments:

Homeless Population Data:

- Sarnia has an estimated 300 individuals experiencing homelessness, with numbers increasing annually.
- The growth of transient encampments has led to public safety concerns, sanitation issues, and economic impacts on downtown businesses and townspeople.
- Comparative data with similar-sized cities, like Belleville and North Bay, show Sarnia has a higher per capita rate of homelessness.

Encampments:

- Data indicates a 40% increase in the number of encampments in public spaces over the past two years.
- Encampments create health hazards and strain on local resources, underscoring the need for effective intervention.

Comparative Analysis:

Provincial Comparison:

Sarnia's overdose rate per capita is higher than the provincial average, indicating a localized crisis that needs targeted intervention.

National Trends:

Comparing Sarnia to similar-sized cities in Canada, Sarnia's rates of addiction and overdose are among the highest, necessitating urgent action.

4. Feasibility Study**Concept and Vision:****Overview:**

The proposed pilot project involves converting an older, soon to be retired cruise ship into a floating treatment centre docked at a suitable location in Sarnia.

Goal:

To provide integrated housing, rehab, and healthcare services for people seeking to overcome drug addiction and chronic homelessness.

Scope:

Services include temporary and transitional housing, addiction treatment programs, primary and mental healthcare, and community support services.

Logistical Plans and Challenges:

- Acquisition: Identifying and procuring a suitable passenger cruise ship.
- Conversion: Detailed plans for refurbishing the ship to meet health, safety, and housing standards.
- Operations: Establishing protocols for daily operations, staffing, and maintenance.
- Regulatory Compliance: Navigating federal and provincial regulations related to maritime operations and healthcare provision.

5. Case Studies and Testimonials**Case Study: Rio Tinto's Ferry Boat Initiative in Kitimat, BC**

British-Australian mining multinational Rio Tinto used the cruise ship "Silja Festival," renamed "Delta Spirit Lodge," to house approximately 600 workers in Kitimat, BC. This initiative addressed an acute housing shortage and provided essential amenities for workers. This

precedent demonstrates the cost-effectiveness of repurposing older cruise ships for both corporate and community benefit.

Expert Testimonials:

- Public Health Experts: Affirm the effectiveness of integrated care models in improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations.
- Urban Planning Experts: Highlight the innovative use of maritime assets in addressing urban housing crises.
- Social Services Professionals: Emphasize the need for comprehensive support systems to reduce recidivism and promote long-term recovery.

6. Financial Projections

Cost-Benefit Analysis:

Ship Procurement:

Estimated cost of \$5 million, including purchase and initial transportation, for a 88m/300ft cruise ship like the Majestic Star II, currently docked in Sarnia Harbour.

Refurbishment Costs:

Detailed cost breakdown for converting the ship, estimated at \$10 million.

Operational Costs:

Annual expenses for staffing, maintenance, and program delivery, estimated at \$3 million.

Long-Term Financial Projections:

Cost Savings: Reduced demand on emergency services and law enforcement, estimated savings of \$2 million annually.

Economic Multiplier: Jobs and increased downtown activity, projected to contribute \$5 million annually to the city of Sarnia.

Staffing Projections:

To support at-risk clients and provide comprehensive services, the ship would require a diverse team of professionals, including healthcare providers, support staff, and administrative personnel. The following projections are based on industry standards for similar facilities:

1. Healthcare Providers:

- Doctors: 2-4 general practitioners and psychiatrists for medical and mental health care.
- Nurses: 10-20 registered nurses to provide continuous care and support.
- Therapists and Counselors: 5-10 mental health professionals, including psychologists, social workers, and addiction counselors.

2. Support Staff:

- Case Managers: 5-10 case managers to coordinate services and support clients in their recovery and reintegration efforts.
- Support Workers: 10-20 support workers to assist with daily activities, monitor client wellbeing, and ensure safety.

3. Administrative and Operational Staff:

- Administrators: 3-5 administrative staff to manage operations, finance, and coordination with stakeholders.
- Maintenance and Housekeeping: 5-10 staff members to maintain the ship's infrastructure, cleanliness, and overall functionality.
- Culinary Staff: 5-10 culinary staff to prepare and serve meals to clients and staff.

Ship's Bedroom Capacity Estimates:

- Homeless People: 100-300 individuals can be sheltered receiving continuous support, dignified living conditions, and medical care up to two (2) years.
- Shared Facilities: Common areas such as dining rooms, lounges, and recreational spaces would be repurposed to provide communal living spaces.
- Medical Wards: Dedicated areas for medical care, including treatment rooms and small wards for clients requiring more intensive care, can be set up. This could include 10-20 beds for short-term medical stays.
- Therapy and Counseling Rooms: Spaces for individual and group therapy sessions, administrative offices, and recreational areas.
- Short-Term Stays: 10-20 beds reserved for people and families displaced due to flood, fire, or severe weather event.

- Daily Visitors: The ship can serve an additional 50-100 individuals per day through services, including medical consultations, therapy sessions, and social services.

7. Tax Benefits: Potential tax incentives for private investors and donors

Tax Incentives and Write-offs Potential:

Investing in the pilot project to convert an older cruise ship into a floating rehabilitation and treatment centre offers substantial financial incentives. Here are three (3) compelling tax breaks, incentives, or write-offs that Canadian or U.S. corporations or investors might find financially attractive:

1. Federal Investment Tax Credits (ITC):

Investment Tax Credits (ITCs) provide direct reductions in tax payable, encouraging corporations to invest in projects with significant social or environmental benefits.

Canada:

- **ITC for Clean Energy and Property Investments:** This can be claimed on capital costs involved in purchasing and refurbishing the ship. Enhanced credits might be available if energy-efficient upgrades are included in the refurbishment process.
- **Direct Financial Benefit:** directly reduce the amount of tax payable, making the investment more attractive from a financial standpoint.

2. Charitable Donation Deductions;

Corporations donating property or funds to registered charities or non-profit organizations can receive significant tax benefits.

Canada:

- **Charitable Donations:** If the entity managing the floating treatment center is a registered charity, corporations can donate the ship or funds and claim substantial deductions.
- **Tax Credit:** Corporations can receive a non-refundable tax credit of up to 75% of their net income, making donations an attractive option financially.
- **Enhanced CSR:** Donations improve a company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) profile, benefiting public image and stakeholder relations.

3. Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance (CCA)

Accelerated depreciation allows businesses to write off the cost of eligible capital assets more quickly, providing immediate tax relief.

Canada:

- **Accelerated CCA:** This applies to the cost of acquiring and converting the ship. It reduces taxable income more rapidly, providing immediate financial relief.
- **Support for Innovation:** Particularly beneficial for innovative projects with high upfront costs and long-term social benefits.

By leveraging these tax breaks, incentives, and write-offs, corporations and investors can significantly reduce their financial burden while contributing to a socially beneficial project. These incentives not only provide direct financial benefits but also support corporate social responsibility initiatives, enhancing public perception and stakeholder value.

8. Stakeholder Engagement Plan**Engaging Stakeholders:**

- **Government Agencies:** Collaborate with local, provincial, and federal governments to secure funding and regulatory approval.
- **Private Investors:** Highlight potential return on investment and tax benefits to attract private investment.
- **Healthcare Providers:** Partner with Bluewater Health and clinics to ensure continuity of care.
- **Community Organizations:** Engage non-profits, local charities, and social services to provide comprehensive support.

Letters of Intent or Support:

Secure initial backing from key stakeholders to demonstrate broad-based support for the project.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation**Metrics for Success:**

- **Health Outcomes:** Reduction in overdose deaths and emergency room visits.
- **Housing Stability:** Increased number of individuals transitioning to permanent housing.

- Economic Impact: Job creation and increased commerce for Sarnia and Lambton County.

Implementation Timeline:

Phase 1: Feasibility study and stakeholder engagement (6 months).

Phase 2: Ship acquisition and refurbishment (12 months).

Phase 3: Pilot project launch and initial operations (6 months).

Phase 4: Full-scale implementation and ongoing evaluation (ongoing).

10. Legal and Risk Mitigation

Potential Legal Challenges:

- Maritime Regulations: Ensure compliance with federal and provincial maritime laws.
- Healthcare Regulations: Obtain necessary licenses and approvals for healthcare services.

Risk Mitigation Strategies:

- Operational Risks: Establish robust operational protocols and staff training programs.
- Financial Risks: Secure diverse funding sources and maintain contingency reserves.
- Legal Risks: Engage legal experts to navigate regulatory requirements and mitigate potential liabilities.

11. Community Impact

Impact on Homeowners, Retirees, and Renters Near Rainbow Park:

- Public Safety: Offering comprehensive services to homeless individuals will lower the incidence of transient encampments and associated problems.
- Reduced Nuisance and Crime: A decrease in petty crime and public disturbances will enhance the public image and cleanliness of Sarnia's downtown community.
- Less Legal Burdens: Providing stable housing support and services for Sarnia's homeless will mitigate legal battles over squatters' rights, versus homeowners' rights.

Property Values:

- Increased Property Values: Reduction in homelessness and crime will protect property values for property owners near Rainbow Park.
- Attracting New Residents: Enhanced community amenities and public safety will make the area more desirable.

Scalability and Replication

Pilot Project Potential:

By implementing this project as a pilot, we can gather valuable data and insights to refine this model. Successful outcomes can pave the way for replication for other municipalities facing similar challenges.

Government and Private Sector Collaboration:

This pilot project offers an opportunity for collaboration between government agencies, private investors, and non-profit organizations. By aligning interests and resources, we can create a sustainable and impactful solution with broad support and shared benefits.

Improved Community Amenities and Engagement:

- The presence of a well-maintained cruise ship with integrated services can enhance the downtown atmosphere.
- Volunteer Opportunities: Engage local residents in volunteer programs to support this innovative pilot project.

12. Legal Framework and Charter Rights

Protection Under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms:

Right to Security of the Person (Section 7):

Utilizing a cruise ship for integrated health, legal, and housing services would significantly enhance the right to security of the person. This section protects individuals from state actions that could deprive them of life, liberty, or security without due process. Homeless individuals are often at risk of violence, health issues, and other dangers. A cruise ship can provide a secure and stable environment, reducing exposure to these risks and ensuring their fundamental rights to safety and security are upheld.

Right to Life (Section 7):

The right to life is directly impacted by the living conditions of homeless individuals. The use of a cruise ship as a temporary shelter ensures access to essential health services, nutritious food, and safe living conditions, which collectively support the right to life. In Canada, court rulings have emphasized the need for adequate shelter to protect this right.

Right to Equality (Section 15):

Section 15 of the Charter ensures equality before and under the law and equal protection and benefit of the law without discrimination. Homeless individuals often face systemic discrimination and barriers to accessing services. A cruise ship providing integrated services helps bridge these gaps by offering equitable access to health, legal, and housing support, ensuring these individuals receive the same level of care and protection as others.

Right to Health (Implied under Sections 7 and 15):

Although the right to health is not explicitly stated in the Charter, it is implied under the rights to security of the person and equality. The cruise ship model ensures comprehensive healthcare, which is crucial for the physical and mental well-being of homeless individuals. This integrated approach supports their right to health, a fundamental aspect of their security and equality rights.

Right to Dignity (Implied under Sections 7 and 15):

The right to dignity, though not explicitly mentioned in the Charter, is a core principle underlying many of its provisions, particularly sections 7 and 15. Providing homeless individuals with dignified living conditions, access to essential services, and a sense of community on a cruise ship promotes their inherent dignity and worth. This approach ensures that they are treated with respect and humanity, which is often lacking in traditional shelter systems.

13. Conclusion

Summary:

The conversion of a cruise ship into a floating rehabilitation and treatment centre presents a novel and practical solution to Sarnia's pressing issues of drug abuse, homelessness, and crime. By providing integrated housing, healthcare, and legal services, this proposal addresses the urgent needs of the at-risk population while simultaneously offering economic and social benefits to the broader community. The proposed facility can significantly reduce the strain on local emergency services, improve public safety, and protect property values in areas such as Sarnia's southend. Moreover, this approach aligns with the protections afforded under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, ensuring that the rights to security, life, equality, health, and dignity are upheld for all individuals.

This pilot project also offers substantial financial incentives, including potential tax benefits for corporate donors and cost savings for local governments. By structuring the transaction

effectively and securing broad-based support, this innovative solution can address critical social issues while providing substantial benefits to all stakeholders involved. Ultimately, the success of this initiative could serve as a model for other municipalities facing similar challenges, demonstrating the power of innovative thinking and collaborative effort in solving complex societal problems.

14. Appendix: Data Sources and References

1. Bluewater Health - Overdose Statistics
2. Canadian Institute for Health Information - Homelessness and Health Data
3. Rio Tinto's Ferry Boat Initiative - Case Study
<https://www.miningandenergy.ca/read/ferry-boat-to-house-workers>
<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/blogs/dailybrew/cruise-ship-hired-help-ease-boom-town-kitimat-213119593.html>
4. Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms - Legal Provisions
5. Ontario Public Health Association - Opioid Crisis Reports
6. Local Community Organizations - Testimonials and Data on Homelessness
7. Government of Canada. [Investment Tax Credit]
<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/businesses/topics/sole-proprietorships-partnerships/investment-tax-credit.html>
8. Government of Canada. [Charitable Donation Tax Credit]
<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/about-your-tax-return/tax-return/completing-a-tax-return/deductions-credits-expenses/line-34900-donations-gifts/charitable-donation-tax-credit.html>
9. Government of Canada. [Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance]
<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/businesses/topics/sole-proprietorships-partnerships/accelerated-investment-incentive.html>
10. **Majestic Star II, a former casino boat...**
<https://www.theobserver.ca/news/local-news/floating-casino-once-linked-to-donald-trump-docks-in-sarnia>

15. For more information or to get involved in this initiative, please contact:

Mark Suvajac
Political Scientist, and Sarnia resident
Email: mark.suvajac@gmail.com
Phone: (778) 228-7796

This white paper demonstrates a strategic and compassionate approach to addressing Sarnia's pressing social issues by leveraging an older cruise ship to provide integrated services for the homeless and those struggling to overcome addiction. This model not only addresses immediate needs but also upholds and protects the rights enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

**MINUTES
LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL**

July 3, 2024

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 Councillor B. Hand

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 #14. c) of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) agenda dated July 3, 2024, referring to the minutes of Tourism Sarnia-Lambton, as a family member is employed with Tourism Sarnia-Lambton, and therefore recused himself on motion #7 of this day's minutes.

In-Camera

#1: Loosley/Dennis: That the Warden declare that County Council go in-camera:

- a) to review the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) minutes dated June 5, 2024, pursuant to s. 239(2) (c), (d) and (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- b) to review the Committee of the Whole In-Camera minutes dated June 19, 2024, pursuant to ss. 239(2) (c), (e) and (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Carried.

Time: 9:03 a.m.

Open Session

The Warden declared that County Council go back into Open Session. Council then reconvened at 9:07 a.m.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) July 3, 2024 (page 2)

Rise and Report Motions of the In-Camera Session

The Clerk noted that County Council met in camera to:

- a) adopt the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) Minutes dated June 5, 2024.
- b) adopt the Committee of the Whole In-Camera Minutes dated June 19, 2024 with respect to the following:
 - i. the acquisition of property in the City of Sarnia, and to provide instructions in relation thereto; and
 - ii. negotiations between the County and a third party relating to a development project in the City of Sarnia.

Councillor B. Hand joined the meeting in person at 9:16 a.m.

Delegation

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

Carried.

Traffic Safety Measures Around London Road Public School, Sarnia

Robert Dickieson presented to County Council regarding implementation of traffic safety measures around London Road Public School, Sarnia. Two short videos were also played as part of the presentation.

#3: Bradley/Sageman: That County Council refer the request to staff to review and consider the implementation of traffic safety measures around London Road Public School, Sarnia.

Carried.

Staff Presentation

Lambton County Housing and Homelessness Progress Report 2023

Ian Hanney, Program Supervisor, Homelessness Prevention and Social Planning, Social Services, The County of Lambton, presented to County Council regarding Lambton County Housing and Homelessness Progress Report 2023.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) July 3, 2024 (page 3)

#4: Case/McRoberts: That County staff request a meeting with Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to address the ongoing issue of housing and homelessness in Lambton County and to discuss the associated costs and funding for the development of affordable and supportive housing.

Carried.

Minutes of Council (Open Session)

The Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated June 5, 2024 were presented.

#5: Sageman/Miller: That the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated June 5, 2024 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

BOARD OF HEALTH (LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH)

Board of Health Information Reports

#6: Agar/Atkinson: That the following Information Reports from the Board of Health (Lambton Public Health) be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated July 3, 2024 regarding Lambton Drug and Alcohol Strategy - Update on First Year of Implementation.
- b) Information Report dated July 3, 2024 regarding Opioid Overdose Early Warning System and Alerts.
- c) Information Report dated July 3, 2024 regarding Supporting Healthy Growth and Development - Update.

Carried.

Items Not Requiring a Motion

#7: Case/Cook: That the following items be received and filed:

- a) Lambton Seniors' Advisory Committee minutes dated March 26, 2024.
- b) Lambton Creative County Committee minutes dated September 28, 2024.
- c) Tourism Sarnia-Lambton Board minutes dated November 16, 2023, December 14, 2023, February 7, 2024, April 4, 2024, and May 8, 2024.

Carried.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) July 3, 2024 (page 4)

#8: Bradley/Loosley:

- a) That County staff request for Tourism Sarnia-Lambton to provide its latest audited financial statements for inclusion in Lambton County Council September 4, 2024, meeting package, and that their audited financial statements also be included as part of the County grant process going forward.
- b) That County staff request for Tourism Sarnia-Lambton to provide its Board meeting minutes following each Board meeting.

Carried.

Reports Requiring a Motion

LONG-TERM CARE DIVISION

Report dated July 3, 2024 Regarding Small House Development Plan Update

#9: Miller/Cook:

- a) That the Small House Addition Project (“Project”) for Lambton Meadowview Villa (the “Project”) at an estimated cost of \$10.82M is hereby approved and authorized.
- b) That the Project be funded as follows:
 - a. \$2.5M from LTC Reserves;
 - b. \$7.72M from debt (recoverable);
 - c. \$0.6M from provincial grants; and
 - d. that Staff be authorized to draw and/or commit the corporation to the stated debt, as noted above.
- c) That Staff be authorized to finance the pre-construction costs for the Project by drawing from the LTC Reserve.
- d) That Staff be directed to award a Construction Manager contract for the Project without a signed Development Agreement with the Ministry of Long-Term Care to enable the County to issue the bid packages and prepare the Class B cost submission necessary for completion of the Development Agreement with the Ministry of Long-Term Care.
- e) That Staff update Council, through the Committee of the Whole, in September 2024 on the status of this project.

Carried.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) July 3, 2024 (page 5)

Committee of the Whole (Open Session) Minutes

The following minutes were presented to County Council:

- a) Committee of the Whole (Open Session) minutes dated June 19, 2024.
- b) Audit Committee minutes dated June 19, 2024

#10: Ferguson/Loosley:

- a) That motion #6 of the Committee of the Whole (Open Session) minutes dated June 19, 2024 be pulled from the minutes to be dealt with separately, and that the Committee of the Whole (Open Session) minutes dated June 19, 2024 be otherwise accepted.
- b) That the Audit Committee minutes dated June 19, 2024 be accepted as presented.
Carried.

Re: Motion #6 of the Committee of the Whole (Open Session) minutes dated June 19, 2024 Regarding Woodlands Conservation By-Law Revision

#11: Ferguson/White: That motion #6 of the Committee of the Whole (Open Session) minutes dated June 19, 2024 be amended to remove part b) a. "That the \$1,250 fee associated with the deleted Application for Exemption to Clear Woodlands be removed" and that the Woodlands By-Law be updated accordingly and brought back to Council for its consideration so that the motion now reads:

- a) That the revisions to the Woodlands Conservation By-Law, including the Woodlands Hearings Board Rules of Procedure ("Woodlands By-Law"), attached hereto are hereby approved, save and except that the discretionary exemptions shall remain within the Woodlands By-Law and that the revised Woodlands By-Law be presented to County Council for its review and consideration at its September 4, 2024 meeting and shall take effect on September 4, 2024.
- b) That By-Law No. 1 of 2024 ("Fees Schedule By-Law") be amended as follows:
 - a. That the Appeal Fee of \$400.00 be added;
 - b. That the \$275.00 fee for Farm Edge Maintenance Application be added;
and
 - c. That a revised Fees Schedule By-Law be presented to County Council for its review and consideration.

Defeated.

#12: Ferguson/Dennis: That County Council move motion #6 of the Committee of the Whole (Open Session) minutes dated June 19, 2024 as follows:

- a) That the revisions to the Woodlands Conservation By-Law, including the Woodlands Hearings Board Rules of Procedure (“Woodlands By-Law”), attached hereto are hereby approved and shall take effect on July 3, 2024, and that the revised Woodlands By-Law be presented to County Council for its review and consideration.
- b) That By-Law No. 1 of 2024 (“Fees Schedule By-Law”) be amended as follows:
 - a. That the \$1,250 fee associated with the deleted Application for Exemption to Clear Woodlands be removed;
 - b. That the Appeal Fee of \$400.00 be added;
 - c. That the \$275.00 fee for Farm Edge Maintenance Application be added; and
 - d. That a revised Fees Schedule By-Law be presented to County Council for its review and consideration.

A recorded vote starting with Councillor M. Bradley was requested by Councillor A. Broad on motion #12 of this day’s minutes.

Councillor	Vote
J. Agar	No (3)
G. Atkinson	No (3)
D. Boushy	No (3)
M. Bradley	No (3)
A. Broad	No (1)
T. Case	No (2)
D. Cook	No (3)
B. Dennis	No (3)
D. Ferguson	Yes (1)
B. Hand	No (1)
B. Loosley	No (2)
K. Marriott	No (1)
C. McRoberts	No (3)
S. Miller	No (2)
D. Sageman	No (2)
I. Veen	No (1)
B. White	No (3)

Yeas - 1; Nays - 36.

Motion Defeated.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) July 3, 2024 (page 7)

Notice of Motion

Councillor M. Bradley gave Notice of Motion at the July 3, 2024 County Council meeting for discussion at the September 4, 2024 County Council meeting requesting for staff to advise as to the role of the County, should a member municipality wish to pursue an injunction to address encampments in municipal parks across Lambton County.

Other Business

Councillor A. Broad informed County Council that the Minister of Environment is requiring a comprehensive Environmental Review for the York1 Dresden landfill.

Councillor A. Broad also informed County Council that Nick Wammes, from Dawn-Euphemia, will be representing Team Canada at the 2024 Summer Olympics in track cycling and extended a congratulations to Nick.

Councillor G. Atkinson announced that Garrett Rutledge will be hosting the 2024 Memorial Cup at the Wyoming Legion on Wednesday, July 10, 2024. All are welcome to visit and take photos.

By-Laws

#13: Sageman/Veen: That By-Laws #19, #20 and #21 of 2024, as circulated, be taken as read a first and second time.

Carried.

#14: Sageman/Veen: That By-Laws #19, #20 and #21 of 2024, as circulated, be taken as read a third time and finally passed.

Carried.

Adjournment

#15: McRoberts/Loosley: That the Warden declare the meeting adjourned and that the next regular meeting be held on Wednesday, September 4, 2024 with the In-Camera Session to commence at 9:00 a.m.

Carried.

Invitations

a) Marshall Gowland Manor Family BBQ, Tuesday, July 16th, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

b) North Lambton Lodge Family BBQ, Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 5:00 pm.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) July 3, 2024 (page 8)

c) Lambton Meadowview Villa Family BBQ, Thursday September 5, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

NOTE

The annual Council Steak Fry will be hosted by the Village of Point Edward this year, following the September 4, 2024 Council meeting. Invitations and details will be sent out at a later date.

Time: 10:21 a.m.

Kevin Marriott
Warden

Olivia Leger
Clerk



BOH 09-02-24

July 8, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Ministry of Health
Box 12, Toronto, ON
M7A 1N3

Dear Dr. Moore:

Re: Physical Literacy for Communities: A Public Health Approach

At its meeting on May 16, 2024, the Board of Health carried the following resolution #34-24:

WHEREAS according to ParticipACTION's Report Card on Physical Activity for adults: only 49% of Canadian adults ages 18-79 years get at least 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA) per week. Only 17.5% of children were getting at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every dayⁱ; and

WHEREAS higher levels of certain physical literacy attributes in childhood—specifically physical competence, motivation, and knowledge—were associated with increased physical activity levels in later years or during adulthoodⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts approved the Physical Literacy for Healthy Active Children ([motion #29-22](#)) which recognized that physical literacy sets the foundation for physical activity participation throughout life; and encouraged all area school boards, sport and recreation organizations, and early learning centres to work collaboratively to improve physical activity levels among children and youth across Sudbury and districts.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts endorses the Physical Literacy for Communities: A Public Health Approach as an exemplary guide for public health professionals to work collaboratively and efficiently within a multi-sector, community-based partnership to address physical literacy.

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

Letter
Re: Physical Literacy for Communities: A Public Health Approach
July 8, 2024
Page 2

The Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts is pleased to endorse the [Physical Literacy for Communities: A Public Health Approach](#) as an exemplary guide for public health professionals to work collaboratively and efficiently within a multi-sector, community-based partnership to address physical literacy. The document provides ways in which public health can work with other sectors (e.g., education, sport, and recreation) toward building a physically literate community.

The document was developed based on Public Health Sudbury & Districts' experience implementing the [Physical Literacy for Communities \(PL4C\)](#) strategy in partnership with Active Sudbury under the guidance of Sport for Life. The *Physical Literacy for Communities: A Public Health Approach* provides recommendations that public health agencies can help to implement to support a multi-sector strategy that builds a more physically literate community.

We hope this document encourages other communities and public health units to begin or continue their journey in becoming a physically literate community.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



René Lapierre
Chair, Board of Health



M. Mustafa Hirji, MD, MPH, FRCPC
Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Ian Culbert, Executive Director, Canadian Public Health Association
Susan Stewart, Chair, Health Promotion Ontario
Dr. Tamara Wallington, Chief Health Promotion and Environmental Health Officer,
Public Health Ontario
Richard Way, Chief Executive Officer, Sport for Life
Drew Mitchell, Senior Director of Physical Literacy, Sport for Life
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
All Ontario Boards of Health

ⁱ ParticipACTION (2022), Pandemic-Related Challenges & Opportunities for Physical Activity. Retrieved from: <https://www.participaction.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Report-Card-Key-Findings.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Lloyd, M., Saunders, T. J., Bremer, E., & Tremblay, M. S. (2014). Long-term importance of fundamental motor skills: A 20-year follow-up study. *Adapted physical activity quarterly*, 31(1), 67-78. <https://doi.org/10.1123/apaq.2013-0048>

BOH 09-03-24



Renfrew County and District Health Unit
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

July 24th, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

Hon. Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Government of Ontario
sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Hon. Andrea Khanjin
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Government of Ontario
minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Dear Honourable Premier and Ministers,

Re: Continued Support for Infectious Disease Wastewater Surveillance and Modern Case and Contact Management Software

On June 25th, 2024, the Board of Health for the Renfrew County and District Health Unit passed a resolution to request continued provincial funding and support for important public health enhancements achieved during the pandemic: cross-provincial infectious disease wastewater surveillance and modernized case and contact management software (i.e., the Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM)).

The Board has reviewed and supports the letter issued by Peterborough Public Health dated June 20th, 2024, regarding [continued provincial coordination and support of wastewater surveillance](#).

In May and April of 2024, the province announced discontinuation of funding for both initiatives. This means that there will no longer be local infectious disease wastewater surveillance in Renfrew County and District (or most other communities across Ontario) and that public health units must revert to using an older software platform for case and contact management with less functionality.

Wastewater surveillance of infectious diseases, previously supported by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, is a novel approach, and one of the successful innovations scaled up to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a cost-effective means of providing timely information on disease spread throughout the community that doesn't rely on individual testing, which is costly, has delays, and doesn't reflect the whole community. For example, individual testing for COVID-19 and influenza is limited to a small group of eligible people. Community members across Ontario have voiced the importance of this information to inform their risk assessments, and RCDHU has included it in its weekly Respiratory Illness Data Summary.

Additional benefits of wastewater surveillance that are being explored include the ability to rapidly identify emerging pathogens that may be circulating in a community, such as H5N1 (avian flu), and the potential to rapidly identify outbreaks in vulnerable populations, such as long-term care homes. These are exciting opportunities to better protect health that are only beginning to be explored.

The province has highlighted that there is a federal wastewater surveillance system. However, Toronto is the only city in Ontario included in the Federal program. Without ongoing support from the province, local wastewater surveillance will no longer be possible.

Additionally, the Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM) was a modern, highly functional software platform for COVID-19 case, contact, and outbreak management. CCM enabled greater efficiency, collaboration, and real-time analytics of disease trends; it was a key enabler for an effective pandemic response.

Public health units have been advised that CCM will eventually be superseded by a more all-encompassing, modern provincial platform. However, public health unit work would be more efficient and effective if the existing improvements were maintained until the full vision for Ontario's public health information technology infrastructure is realized.

Infectious disease pandemics cause immense mortality, morbidity, and economic burdens. It is essential that we learn from the COVID-19 pandemic and maintain investments in public health preparedness so that we can reduce and mitigate the harms of the next pandemic. Already, H5N1 avian flu is being closely monitored for its pandemic potential. A robust infectious disease wastewater surveillance system and highly functional case and contact management software are key enhancements from the COVID-19 pandemic that should be sustained so that we are more prepared for the next pandemic.

Sincerely,



Joanne King
Chair, Board of Health
Renfrew County and District Health Unit

cc: The Honourable John Yakabuski, MPP
Renfrew County and District Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Ontario Boards of Health



BOH 09-04-24

The Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Mark Holland
Minister of Health
mark.holland@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Steven MacKinnon
Leader of the Government in the House of Commons
Steven.MacKinnon@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Andrew Scheer
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Alain Thérien
House Leader of the Bloc Québécois
Alain.Therien@parl.gc.ca

Peter Julian
House Leader of the New Democratic Party
peter.julian@parl.gc.ca

Standing Senate Committee on National Finance
nffn@sen.parl.gc.ca

July 24, 2024

Re: Support for Bills S-233 and C-223 “An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income”

Dear Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Health, House Leaders, and National Finance Committee:

The Middlesex-London Board of Health supports a guaranteed livable basic income as a policy option for reducing poverty, income insecurity, and food insecurity and for providing opportunities for people with lower incomes. As such, we urge your support of Bills [S-233](#) and [C-223](#) “An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income”, currently being considered by the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance and in the process of the second reading in the House of Commons.

- Poverty, income insecurity, and household food insecurity have significant impacts on health and well-being.
- Income has a strong impact on health, with better health outcomes associated with higher income levels, and poorer health outcomes associated with lower income levels¹.
- Income increases access to other social determinants of health (e.g., education, food, housing)¹.
- Children living in poverty have an increased risk for cognitive shortfalls and behavioural conditions, and an increased risk of negative health outcomes into adulthood (e.g., cardiovascular disorders, certain cancers, mental health conditions, osteoporosis and fractures, dementia)²⁻⁴.
- Food insecurity is associated with an increased risk of a wide range of physical and mental health challenges, including chronic conditions, non-communicable diseases, infections, depression, anxiety, and stress⁵⁻¹².

www.healthunit.com

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- Among young children, food insecurity is also associated with poor child health, low birth weight, chronic illness, developmental risk, and poor cognitive outcomes, including vocabulary and math skills¹³⁻¹⁵.

A guaranteed livable basic income has the potential to reduce health inequities and positively impact many determinants of health (e.g., income, unemployment and job insecurity, food insecurity, housing, and early childhood development). Evidence suggests that basic income positively impacts health and wellbeing^{16,17}. 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 taken into account¹⁸. In addition, evidence suggests income supplementation reduces food insecurity for low-income Canadians¹⁸ and positively impacts childhood health outcomes (e.g., birth weight, mental health)¹⁹.

In 2022, 10.9% of Ontarians lived in poverty based on the Market Basket Measure, an increase from 7.7% in 2021²⁰. In our community in 2021, 16.6% of London households with or without children (89,030 people) were low income based on the Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AT)²¹. Approximately one in five Middlesex-London residents (18.8%) live in a food insecure household, which represents just over 85,500 residents^{22,23}.

The Middlesex-London Health Unit conducts the Nutritious Food Basket survey annually to monitor the affordability of food in London and Middlesex County. The 2023 results demonstrate that incomes, particularly when dependent on social assistance, are not adequate for many Middlesex-London residents to afford basic needs²⁴.

Upstream income-based solutions, such as a guaranteed livable basic income, are needed to address poverty, income insecurity, and household food insecurity and their significant impacts on health and well-being.

Yours truly,

Matt Newton-Reid
Chair, Middlesex-London Board of Health

cc:

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PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Kevin Churchill, Manager, Clinical & Family Services
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Taylor, General Manager Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	September 4, 2024
INFORMATION ITEM:	Clinical and Family Services Q2 2024 Update

BACKGROUND

Clinical and Family Services provides legislated public health programs, in accordance with the Ontario Public Health Standards and protocols. This multi-disciplinary team focuses on healthy growth and development, home visiting, positive parenting, breastfeeding, sexual health clinics, harm reduction for the prevention of blood borne diseases and sexually transmitted infections, contraception, prenatal education, and oral health programs for children and youth.

Reproductive Health, Harm Reduction, and Oral Health Services are designed to prevent unwanted pregnancies, reduce the burden of sexually transmitted infections, prevent the spread of blood borne illness, prevent opioid poisoning, and provide early screening for oral health problems which can help improve long-term health outcomes.

The purpose of this report is to provide County Council with an update on the second quarter of 2024 (the period from April 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024), including key program indicators within Clinical and Family Services.

DISCUSSION

The following tables highlight key indicators under the two main service areas within Clinical and Family Services.

Reproductive, harm reduction, and dental programs remain active in 2024. Harm Reduction program indicators remain consistent and are operated in accordance with best practice. Needle and syringe programs and other harm reduction programs play a key role in the collection and disposal of used substance-use equipment. Removing used equipment from circulation helps to reduce the risk of transmission of human

immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis C (HCV), hepatitis B (HBV), and other blood-borne pathogens associated with accidental needle-stick/sharps injury and equipment sharing.

Sexual health programs are designed to prevent, test, treat, and reduce the burden of sexually transmitted infections. Sexual Health programs also promote contraception and safer sex, which can save health care resources by preventing unintended pregnancies.

Reproductive, Harm Reduction and Dental Services Indicators:

Activity	Number
Harm Reduction - # of client visits	355
Harm Reduction- # of needles distributed	103,590
Harm Reduction - # of inhalation supplies distributed	21,963
Harm Reduction - # of community sharps disposal bin inspections	49
Harm Reduction - # of community sharps disposal bins exchanged	8
Harm Reduction - # of Naloxone Kits distributed (with community partners)	991
Sexual Health Clinic Visits	419
Sexual Health - % of clinic visits related to STI testing	31%
Sexual Health - % of clinic visits related to STI treatment	14%
Sexual Health - % of clinic visits related to sexual health counselling	64%
School Dental Screening - # of schools completed	18
School Dental Screening - # of students screened	1,255
Ontario Seniors Dental - # of newly eligible clients	39
Ontario Seniors Dental - # of seniors received treatment	294

Supporting young families and infants prenatally and post-partum is a key component of Healthy Growth and Development and Child Health programs. These programs and supports are designed to give infants the best possible start in life, promoting resilience and healthy relationships, including access to a Lactation Consultant and Public Health Nurses through our parent drop-ins. The Post Partum sessions are delivered in partnership with The Family Counselling Centre and St. Clair Child and Youth Services.

Healthy Growth and Development and Child Health Indicators:

Activity	Number
Family Health Line calls	115
Breastfeeding Inquiries	50

Healthy Growth & Development Inquiries	25
Prenatal Teaching Sessions	10
Healthy Babies Healthy Children Home Visits	498
Parent Drop-In - # of parents	620
Post Partum Support Group - # of sessions	8

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with the Clinical and Family Services programs are provincial and municipal cost-share funded, as included in the approved 2024 LPH budget. The exception is the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program, which is 100% funded by the Province.

CONSULTATIONS

In the preparation of this report, Lambton Emergency Medical Services, and the Ontario Harm Reduction Database were consulted. LPH’s Medical Officer of Health and the Clinical and Family Services Supervisors were also consulted in the preparation of this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The programs, services and activities delivered by Clinical and Family Services staff contribute to the 2024-2027 Lambton County Strategic Plan, Community Health and Wellness Area of Effort - *Implementing, monitoring and updating community health and wellness-related plans and priorities*. Many of the programs are delivered in partnership with local community agencies, fulfilling the Partnerships Area of Effort.

CONCLUSION

Clinical and Family Services continue to deliver valuable programs in accordance with the Ontario Public Health Standards. This report highlights the breadth and scope of activities undertaken by the Clinical and Family Services team and provides an update on the second quarter of 2024, including key program indications within Clinical and Family Services.



PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Jordan Banninga, Manager, Health Promotion Donna Schmidtmeier, Supervisor, Health Promotion
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Taylor, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	September 4, 2024
INFORMATION ITEM:	Tobacco, Vape and Cannabis Strategy Update

BACKGROUND

Widespread vaping is reported throughout Ontario and Canada, and youth and young adults under 25 now make up the largest percentage of past 30-day users of e-cigarettes or vapes.¹ The effects of vaping and substance use are particularly detrimental to youth with research showing that vaping nicotine and cannabis directly affects the developing brain, impairs learning and decision making, and negatively impacts mental health; including elevated risk of anxiety, depression, and addiction.² Youth who vape are also at higher risk for use of other substances such as tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis.³

The Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drugs Survey shows that the proportion of Canadian youth in grades 7 to 12 who have ever tried an e-cigarette has increased dramatically from 18% in 2014-15⁴ to 34% in 2018-19.⁵ Since then, usage rates among Canadian youth remain high but appear to be stabilizing and decreasing with the most recent data from 2021-22 showing that 29% had ever tried an e-cigarette.⁶ This trend is shown in Table 1 - E-Cigarette Usage Trends (CSTADS Survey) at the end of this report.

¹ Health Canada. (2023, September 19). Canadian Tobacco and Nicotine Survey (CTNS): summary of results for 2022. Government of Canada. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/canadian-tobacco-nicotine-survey/2022-summary.html>

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The *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*, S.O. 2017, c. 26, Sched. 3 (“**SFOA**”) includes measures to protect youth such as limits on display and promotion of tobacco and vapour products, restrictions on where they can be used, and measures to restrict youth access. Additionally, the Ministry of Education recently adopted Policy / Program Memorandum 128 to enhance schools' ability to manage vaping at school by ensuring school codes of conduct include notification of parents regarding possession and use of these substances, surrender of the items, and policies for how to handle surrendered items.

The issue of youth vaping is further discussed in the September 4, 2024, Council report “*Automatic Prohibition for Vapour Product Sale Non-Compliance*” and the November 1, 2023, Council report “*Tobacco, Vape, and Cannabis Strategy Update*”. The purpose of this report is to provide County Council with an update on Lambton Public Health’s actions related to youth use and access to tobacco and vapour products.

DISCUSSION

Lambton Public Health is prioritizing interventions related to issue of youth use of tobacco and vapour products using a comprehensive approach including (1) vendor inspections and education, (2) school enforcement and youth education, and (3) parent and youth ally education and support.

1. Vendor Inspections and Education

Enforcement Officers conduct inspections for all tobacco and vapour product vendors. These inspections ensure that restrictions related to display and promotion of tobacco and vapour products as per the SFOA are followed. Common infractions include tobacco and vapour product visibility to the public or display of manufacturer signage that constitutes promotion. Vendors in Lambton County are receptive to education and correction at inspections and issues are usually resolved at subsequent inspections.

Youth access inspections are conducted with youth Test Shoppers attempting to purchase tobacco or vapour products under the supervision of Enforcement Officers. Test shops had been put on hold in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and were resumed in 2022. The test shopping inspections had a pass rate of 98% in 2019. In 2022, the pass rate had dropped to 86% but climbed to 91% in 2023. This demonstrates the importance of test shopping to monitor and enforce compliance with age restrictions and ID requirements.

To further enhance vendor compliance with the SFOA, Enforcement Officers provide ongoing education during inspections and a quarterly newsletter is distributed to all tobacco and vapour vendors with information regarding emerging issues, current trends, and the importance of checking identification and training staff to check identification.

2. School Enforcement and Youth Education

Lambton Public Health has been working collaboratively with schools to address widespread vaping, as well as tobacco and cannabis use. Enforcement Officers respond to school offence notifications, meet with students to discuss the offence and the SFOA, and have issued a combined 49 warnings and/or charges through 2023, and 61 warnings and/or charges through the first six months of 2024.

In addition to enforcement of the SFOA, Health Promoters have delivered training on evidence-based curriculum (i.e., Catch My Breath) with educators, and conducted presentations about tobacco/vaping/cannabis at both secondary schools and elementary schools, reaching 2,744 students and 147 teachers, and 22 Child and Youth and Social Workers in the 2023/2024 school year. The presentations for elementary students are focused on preventing the use of substances, whereas the secondary school presentations also provide cessation resources. All presentations include information on the SFOA so that students understand the potential legal implications in addition to the negative effects on health and well-being.

3. Education and Support for Parents and Youth Allies

As discussed in the previous Council report, since early 2023, Lambton Public Health's Health Promotion team has been engaging the Lambton County adult community with their comprehensive substance use prevention program "Talk Early, Talk Often". The goal of this campaign is to educate and support all youth allies, including educators, parents/caregivers, and youth leaders, on how to have informed, supportive conversations about vaping and other substances with all youth in their lives. In partnership with Lambton Drug and Alcohol Strategy community partners and Lambton County Library, a Talk Early, Talk Often educational workshop series will be provided this September for both professionals and the public throughout the County.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with enforcement of the SFOA are cost share funded between the province and municipality, as approved within Lambton Public Health's 2024 Budget.

CONSULTATIONS

In preparation for this report, staff consulted with Lambton Public Health Epidemiologists, Health Promoters and Enforcement Officers, public health units, and local school boards about these issues.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This work aligns with Lambton Public Health's Strategic Priorities Mental Health & Addictions pillar. In addition, it supports the Lambton Drug and Alcohol Strategy Supply Reduction objective to decrease youth access to substances.

CONCLUSION

Alongside local partners, Lambton Public Health will continue to prioritize decreasing access to, and the use of tobacco and vapour products through a comprehensive approach. Each component of this approach protects the health of our youth by preventing early initiation of vaping and creating more supportive environments to reduce the use of tobacco and vapour products.

Table 1 - E-Cigarette Usage Trends (CSTADS Survey)

Year	Prevalence of ever trying an e-cigarette among students grade 7-12
2014-15	18%
2016-17	23%
2018-19	34%
2021-22	29%

** In 2014-15, CSTADS surveyed students in grades 6 to 12, while subsequent surveys were limited to grades 7 to 12. As a result of including this younger age group, the 2014-15 rate may be lower than what would be expected if the survey were limited to grades 7 to 12*



PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Jordan Banninga, Manager, Health Promotion Donna Schmidtmeier, Supervisor, Health Promotion
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Taylor, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	September 4, 2024
SUBJECT:	Automatic Prohibition for Vapour Product Sale Non-Compliance - BOH 09-05-24

BACKGROUND

Preventing access to vapour products is essential to combatting widespread vaping amongst youth. Under the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*, S.O. 2017, c. 26, Sched. 3 (“**SFOA**”), sales of tobacco and vapour products to youth under the age of 19 are prohibited and two or more vendor convictions for tobacco sale non-compliance result in an Automatic Prohibition (“**AP**”). However, the SFOA does not provide an AP related to convictions for vapour sales. Currently, even if a retailer has an AP for tobacco sales, they may continue to sell vapour products. To address this gap, some public health units have issued Section 13 orders under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7, to compel action from retailers who are consistently non-compliant.

At the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (“**alpha**”), the following resolution was passed:

RESOLUTION A24-01, Permitting Applications for Automatic Prohibition Orders under the Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017 for Vapour Product Sales Offences

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies urge through the Ministry of Health to the Government of Ontario to include automatic prohibition order applications by public health for convictions related to vapour product retail sales to prevent unauthorized sales to the public;

AND FURTHER that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies advise all Ontario Boards of Health to recommend their local Members of Provincial Parliament to advocate for an amendment to Section 22 of the Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017 to include vapour product sales convictions for inclusion within automatic prohibition order applications.

The full resolution and background is attached to this report.

Through addressing this regulatory gap, it will provide a consistent approach to offences and act as a deterrent to providing youth access to these highly addictive products.

DISCUSSION

As discussed in the November 1, 2023, Council report entitled “*Tobacco, Vape, and Cannabis Strategy Update*”, vaping has surged among youth despite their vulnerability to the detrimental effects of vaping on brain development and lung health. According to the 2022 Canadian Tobacco and Nicotine Survey, 30% of youth aged 15 to 19 years reported trying vaping in their lifetime.¹ Widespread vaping has been reported at schools throughout Ontario, with Lambton Public Health Enforcement Officers responding to school offence notifications and issuing a combined 49 warnings and/or charges through 2023, and 61 warnings and/or charges through the first six months of 2024.

Given the use of vapour products among youth, the current enforcement measures for sales offences of these products could be strengthened to reduce sales to this young population. Of particular concern is that retailers report the revenue from the sale of vapour products far exceeds the fines and risk of product seizure. In 2023, there were five charges or warnings in Lambton County and 414 charges in Ontario to either a clerk or an owner for the supply or sale of a vapour product to a person under 19 years of age.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with enforcement of the SFOA are cost share funded between the province and municipality, as approved within Lambton Public Health’s 2024 Budget.

CONSULTATIONS

In preparation of this report, Lambton Public Health’s Health Promoters and Enforcement Officers were consulted.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This work aligns with Lambton Public Health’s Strategic Priorities Mental Health & Addictions pillar. In addition, it supports the Lambton Drug and Alcohol Strategy Supply Reduction objective to decrease youth access to substances.

¹ Health Canada. (2024, March 19). Canadian Tobacco and Nicotine Survey (CTNS): summary of results for 2022. Government of Canada. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/canadian-tobacco-nicotine-survey/2022-summary.html>

CONCLUSION

Vapour product usage by youth in Lambton County is an important public health concern and is being addressed comprehensively through collaborations with schools and youth organizations and engagement with parents, youth allies, and youth. However, these measures need to be complemented by reduced access to vapour products through enhanced enforcement measures as outlined in the recent ALPHA resolution. Amending the SFOA to eliminate the regulatory gap between vapour products and tobacco products is a meaningful action to reduce youth access to these products.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) **That Council support ALPHA RESOLUTION A24-01: Permitting Applications for Automatic Prohibition Orders under the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* for Vapour Product Sales Offences.**
- b) **That Council direct staff to submit a letter to The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health, Mr. Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister, Mental Health and Addictions, and Mr. Bob Bailey, Member of Provincial Parliament for Sarnia-Lambton requesting that the Province of Ontario amend Section 22 of the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* to include vapour product sales convictions for automatic prohibition order applications.**



alPHa RESOLUTION A24-01

TITLE: Permitting Applications for Automatic Prohibition Orders under the *Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017* for Vapour Product Sales Offences

SPONSOR: Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU)

WHEREAS In Ontario, there are approximately 800 age-restricted specialty vape stores and 12,000 retail outlets that sell both commercial tobacco and vapour products; and

WHEREAS in Ontario, under the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*, the sale of menthol, mint, and tobacco-flavoured e-cigarettes (vapour products) is permitted at convenience stores, gas stations, and any other retail environment where vulnerable individuals have access; and

WHEREAS in Ontario, the sale of menthol, mint, tobacco-flavoured, fruit, and candy-flavoured vapour products are permitted at age-restricted specialty vape stores; and

WHEREAS in 2023, approximately 414 charges were issued against retailers of vapour products in Ontario for selling a vapour product to a person under the age of 19 years of age; and

WHEREAS in 2023, approximately 182 charges were issued against retailers of vapour products in Ontario for selling flavoured e-cigarettes and/or selling vapour products with greater than 20 mg/ml nicotine, contrary to regulations under the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*; and,

WHEREAS automatic prohibition orders under Section 22 of the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* apply to tobacco product sales convictions only; and

WHEREAS the membership previously carried resolution A21-1 proposing provincial and federal policy measures to address youth vaping, several of which have not been implemented.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies urge through the Ministry of Health to the Government of Ontario to include automatic prohibition order applications by public health for convictions related to vapour product retail sales to prevent unauthorized sales to the public;

AND FURTHER that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies advise all Ontario Boards of Health to recommend their local Members of Provincial Parliament to advocate for an amendment to Section 22 of the *Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017* to include vapour product sales convictions for inclusion within automatic prohibition order applications.

CARRIED

Statement of Sponsor Commitment

The Middlesex-London Health Unit is discouraged by the level of non-compliance by vapour product retailers despite the provisions under the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*. Regardless of the development of regulatory measures to reduce youth access and appeal of vapour products, the number of brick-and-mortar retailers in Ontario has increased significantly. Increased youth access to vapour products threatens to reverse what has been a downward trend in smoking rates and nicotine addiction within our youth and young adult populations.

The Middlesex-London Health Unit's Tobacco Enforcement Officers have been noting an increase in the number of warnings and charges being issued against vapour product retailers for sales to persons under the age of 19 years of age. Retailers that are prohibited from offering to sell candy and fruit-flavoured vapour products and e-cigarettes with nicotine concentrations greater than 20 mg/ml continue to do so, despite the deployment of progressive enforcement measures. It has become apparent that the issuance of fines and seizures of vapour products are an insufficient deterrent.

Under the *Smoke-free Ontario Act, 2017*, routine non-compliance with tobacco sales offences results in the issuance of an automatic prohibition order under Section 22. At present, a similar enforcement tool for routine non-compliance with regulatory measures for vapour products does not exist. An amendment to Section 22 of the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* to include vapour product sales convictions for inclusion within automatic prohibition order applications is warranted to help reduce youth access to these highly addictive products.

Dr. Alex Summers, Medical Officer of Health for the Middlesex-London Health Unit, will be present at the 2024 Annual General Meeting to provide clarification on the proposed resolution.

Background

Under the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 (SFOA, 2017)*, an Automatic Prohibition Order will be issued by the Ministry of Health, and served by the local public health unit, when there are two or more registered convictions within a five-year period against any owner for tobacco sales offences committed at the same location. Automatic Prohibition Orders can be based on registered convictions against multiple owners (past and present); that is, ownership of the business at that location may change but the convictions and the Automatic Prohibition Order stay with the address. The length of the prohibition on the sale and storage of tobacco at an address depends upon the number of convictions within a five-year period. Two convictions registered at the address within five years results in a six-month prohibition, three convictions registered at the address within a five-year period warrants a nine-month prohibition, and four convictions within a five-year period result in a twelve-month prohibition. While an Automatic Prohibition Order is in effect, wholesalers or distributors are prohibited from delivering tobacco products to that location.

Under Section 22 of the *SFOA, 2017*, only registered convictions for tobacco sales offences are eligible for inclusion in the application of an Automatic Prohibition Order. Examples of tobacco sales offences that can result in the issuance of an Automatic Prohibition Order include:

- The sale or supply of tobacco to someone under the age of 19 years.
- Failing to request identification from someone appearing to be less than 25 years of age.
- Selling tobacco without posting required age restriction and government identification signs.
- The sale of improperly packaged tobacco.
- The sale of tobacco in vending machines.
- The sale or storage of tobacco during an automatic prohibition.

- Selling unmarked or unstamped tobacco in violation of section 8 or 9 of the *Tobacco Tax Act*.

Vapour products can continue to be sold at a retailer even if they are under an Automatic Prohibition Order for violating either the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* or the *Tobacco Tax Act*. Between 2011 and 2023, Middlesex-London Health Unit has served 25 Automatic Prohibition Orders, with 3 Orders in effect at the present time.¹

The Changing Vapour Product Retail Landscape

Since the legalization of nicotine vapour products in Canada on May 23, 2018, under Canada's *Tobacco and Vaping Products Act*, the retail market landscape has undergone significant changes in Ontario. In the Middlesex-London jurisdiction, the number of retailers that sell vapour products has grown from 186 in 2018, to 253 in 2023. Provincially, it is estimated that there are approximately 800 age-restricted specialty vape stores and 12,000 retail outlets that sell both commercial tobacco and vapour products. This growth in community availability of vapour products is in alignment with the growth of the global e-cigarette market. In 2021, the global e-cigarette market was valued at approximately 20.4 billion US dollars, with projections to continue its rapid growth to 30 billion US dollars by 2027 (Business Wire, 2022).

Nicotine is highly addictive, and the negative effects on youth brain development (US Surgeon General, 2016) and growing evidence regarding cardiovascular and lung health harms associated with vapour product use is a significant public health concern (Buchanan et al., 2020; Davis et al., 2022; Keith and Bhatnagar, 2021; Kennedy et al., 2019; Willis et al., 2020). To reduce youth access, it is illegal to sell or supply a vapour product to a person under the age of 19 years in Ontario under the *SFOA, 2017*. Additionally, only vapour products flavoured with mint, menthol, and tobacco can be sold in non-specialty vape stores (e.g., convenience stores, grocery stores, gas station kiosks, etc.); whereas, all flavoured vapour products, including candy- and fruit-flavoured products can be sold in age-restricted specialty vape stores. Under Canada's *Tobacco and Vaping Products Act*, the sale of vapour products with nicotine concentrations greater than 20 mg/ml is prohibited. Despite these health protective regulatory measures, public health units report significant retailer non-compliance.

¹ *The Smoke-Free Ontario Act* came into force on May 31, 2006. Although retailers were already selling tobacco products, convictions prior to this date were not applicable to APs which is why the date of 2011 is used (2006 + 5 years = 2011). Same applies for the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* – it came into force on October 17, 2018, so any convictions prior to this date were not applicable to APs which is relative to the 3 APs that were issued in 2023 and are still active (2018 + 5 years = 2023).

Table 1
Retailer Non-Compliance as Reported by Ontario Public Health Units for 2023

# of charges issued to either a clerk OR an owner (e.g., sole proprietor, general limited partnership, or corporation) for the supply or sale of a vapour product to a person under the age of 19 years of age .	414¹
# of charges issued to either a clerk OR an owner for the supply or sale of a vapour product to a person who appears to be less than 25 years of age without requesting government ID	54¹
# of charges issued for selling or offering to sell flavoured e-cigarettes in a prohibited place (e.g., fruit or candy flavoured vaping products in a non-specialty vape store) and/or selling or offering to sell vapour products with greater than 20 mg/ml nicotine	182¹
# of vapour product seizures	474²

¹ These numbers are an underrepresentation of non-compliance. Many Health Units reported that due to the COVID-19 pandemic response and staff redeployments between 2020 and 2022, enforcement programs were not fully functional until 2023. In 2023, the emphasis was on education, the issuing of warnings (versus charges), and re-inspections to gain compliance.

² This number is an underestimation of non-compliance. Some Health Units were unable to report due to insufficient time provided to collate local tracking data. Additionally, due to capacity challenges in 2023, some public health units relied on referrals to Health Canada for seizures.

Overall, compliance with vapour product provisions under the *SFOA, 2017* is decreasing. Operators have shared with Tobacco Enforcement Officers that the total revenue from sales of vapour products far exceeds both the fine amounts and the risk of product seizures and is viewed as a cost of doing business. Public Health Units also reported that in 2023, convenience store operators began to explore how to operate an age-restricted specialty vape store in conjunction with their convenience store, to expand the inventory of vapour products that they could legally sell. This change in the retail marketplace has the potential to further increase market availability of vapour products to youth. Based on current compliance rates and reported retailer behaviours, current vapour product regulations are insufficient.

Opportunity to Strengthen Controls to Reduce Youth Access and Increase Retailer Compliance

Rates of youth vaping are escalating at a concerning rate. According to the 2022 Canadian Tobacco and Nicotine Survey, 30% of youth aged 15 to 19 years and 48% of young adults aged 20 to 24 years reported having tried vaping in their lifetime (Statistics Canada, 2023). Reducing youth access to vaping products through the enforcement of age restriction legislation is an important public health measure. Current test shopping and inspection practices of Ontario public health unit staff are critical to promote and monitor retailer compliance; however, opportunity exists to strengthen controls at retail. As noted in the [Middlesex-London Health Unit’s 2022 submission](#) to Health Canada to help inform the legislative review of Health Canada’s *Tobacco and Vaping Products Act*, there is no automatic prohibition lever that can be applied to retailers who continue to sell vapour products to persons under the age of 19 years, nor for non-specialty vape stores that continue to sell vapour products that should only be available for sale in age-restricted stores in Ontario. Retailers are not held to the same level of accountability for non-compliance with the sections of the *SFOA, 2017* that regulate the sale of vapour products.

Based on lessons learned from the enforcement of the regulations under the *SFOA, 2017* for commercial tobacco products, the Middlesex-London Health Unit recommends that the Ontario Government implements an automatic prohibition regime for vaping products that is modelled after Section 22, which would apply to repeated convictions against retailers who:

- Sell or supply vaping products to someone under the age of 19 years.
- Fail to request identification from someone appearing to be less than 25 years of age.

- Sell or offer to sell vapour products without posting required age restriction and government identification signs.
- Sell or offer to sell vaping products that are regulated by law in a prohibited place.
- Sell or offer to sell vaping products that are prohibited by law.
- Sell or store vapour products during an automatic prohibition.

By permitting public health units to apply to the Ministry of Health for an automatic prohibition order against a retailer who has committed either tobacco product and/or vapour product violations, retailers who are providing either of these products to vulnerable individuals will be prevented from doing so for a defined period of time depending upon the number of registered convictions on file for a location. Nicotine, whether in the form of a vaping product or a commercial tobacco product, is harmful for youth and young adults. Nicotine interferes with healthy brain development, which continues until the age of 25, and young people can become heavily addicted with lower levels of exposure than adults (US Surgeon General, 2016). It is important to hold retailers of these harmful products accountable when commercial tobacco and vaping products are being sold in contravention of the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*.

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THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SARNIA
Office of the City Clerk

August 15, 2024

Olivia Leger, General Manager, Corporate Services and County Clerk/Solicitor
The Corporation of the County of Lambton
789 Broadway Street, Box 3000
Wyoming ON N0N 1T0

Re: Temporary Health and Safety Measures at Rainbow Park

Dear Ms. Leger,

In response to the encampment of individuals experiencing homelessness at Rainbow Park, the City of Sarnia has enacted several measures to protect the health and safety of those living at the park, nearby residents and park users.

These temporary measures include:

- Temporary fencing
- 24-hour security
- Temporary lighting
- Portable washrooms
- Drinking water
- Waste disposal units

As reported to Sarnia City Council on August 1, 2024, the invoices processed as of July 26, 2024 totaled approximately \$90,000. These expenses do not include other associated costs such as staff time and policing.

City staff were directed to explore any available opportunities for financial support for these temporary measures from senior levels of government and the County of Lambton.

Recognizing the County's crucial role as the organization responsible for the delivery of frontline housing and homelessness services, the City of Sarnia is respectfully requesting financial assistance from the County of Lambton to support the ongoing health and safety measures which have been implemented at Rainbow Park.

We look forward to County Council's favourable consideration of this request as we work along with our partners at the Province and Federal Government to address the impacts of a national homelessness crisis.

Yours Sincerely,



Amy Burkhart, City Clerk

Encl. August 1, 2024 Non-Agenda Report

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THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SARNIA
People Serving People

**CITY ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
NON-AGENDA REPORT**

TO: Mayor and members of Council
FROM: Chris Carter, Chief Administrative Officer
DATE: August 1, 2024
SUBJECT: Rainbow Park Encampment Expenses

At the June 14, 2024 Special Council Meeting, the following resolution was passed:

That the CAO be authorized to implement temporary measures in Rainbow Park, including, but not limited to fencing, sanitation, lighting, and security measures until further legal options become available; and,

That staff be directed to explore any available opportunities for financial support for these temporary measures from senior levels of government and the County of Lambton; and,

That the CAO be instructed to report to Council on the actions taken under this directive; and, That Council review this directive in 30 days.

At the July 8, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, the following motion was passed:

That City staff report on a public basis monthly the total costs related to the encampment including:

- ***policing related costs (to be obtained from SPS)***
- ***any security, lighting, hygiene, harm reduction, environmental, waste management, water or any other type of costs incurred related to the encampment***
- ***hours of Sarnia staff time involved in any encampment matters.***

That such monthly reporting also include the number of City staff visits, police visits, fire visits and paramedic visits to the encampment.

As of July 26, 2024, the expenses related to the temporary measures at the Rainbow Park Encampment are as follows (invoices processed to date):

- Security: \$30,845.75
- Lighting: \$11,993.06 (one-time installation expense)

- Portable washrooms: \$35,219.14
- Large-scale site clean up: \$6,628.22
- Dumpster: \$217.50
- Fencing: \$4,976.48
- Police related costs: \$33,635.77 (estimated attributable cost due to redeployment of existing resources)

Costs will fluctuate monthly as measures are adjusted. During the July meeting, staff committed to implementing 24/7 security in the park.

A summary of the staff time involved in any encampment matters and number of visits are as follows:

- Management: approximately 65 hours (including but not limited to contract administration, vendor management, legal services)
- By-Law Enforcement: 100 hours spent at Rainbow Park, and 60 unique visits (June 15-July 26)
- Sarnia Police Service: 219 hours of officer time and 114 responses to Rainbow Park (July 1-24)
- Sarnia Fire Rescue: 14 responses to Rainbow Park (June 14 – July 23)
- Lambton County Emergency Medical Services: 10 responses to Rainbow Park in June, 11 responses to Rainbow Park in July

Using this data, staff will initiate requests for financial support for these temporary measures from senior levels of government and the County of Lambton.



FINANCE, FACILITIES AND COURT SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	DIVISIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Stephanie Harper, CPA, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Larry Palarchio, CPA, General Manager Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	September 4, 2024
INFORMATION ITEM:	Debt Management – Status Update

BACKGROUND

This report serves to update County Council on the County’s outstanding debt levels and debt servicing costs.

Debt is a capital financing instrument available to municipalities and when used responsibly, it can be a powerful tool to help finance longer term capital needs and manage municipal tax burden to complete projects such as bridge/road improvements, buildings, or social housing initiatives. Municipalities are not able to borrow money over the long-term to fund operating expenses.

DISCUSSION

The County of Lambton may take on long-term debt to help finance key new infrastructure in the future such as reconstruction and rehabilitation of roads and transportation initiatives, and other urgent capital needs/improvements. As highlighted in the Council approved Debt Management Policy, the County strives to have zero debt for its life cycle renewal projects and will consider issuing debt as a funding source for “service improvement” capital initiatives.

The County of Lambton has adopted a “smart debt” philosophy on capital projects. It considers debt financing when there is a strong business case to justify issuing debt for a capital project or when a major reconstruction project is needed on a large expensive asset. The County of Lambton has strived to maintain long-term financial health by effectively managing debt levels and debt servicing costs while retaining important public services.

Existing tax supported debt is made up of roads, bridges, buildings, as well as other improvements such as the Lambton Shared Services Centre building and the Long-Term Care Small House project.

The attached **Appendix A** outlines the County of Lambton’s net debt levels over the last 12 years. The County of Lambton has successfully reduced its total debt levels from \$31.5 million to \$14.6 million in the years 2012 to 2024. However, the total debt levels are expected to increase to approximately \$44.1 million as a result of recent Council approved capital budget approvals.

Key investments that utilized debt financing include:

- County Road 22 (Egremont Road) and County Road 79 (Nauvoo Road): \$2.1 million.
- Affordable Housing - Maxwell Park Place (24 units): \$3.0 million.
- Long-Term Care Homes Small House project: \$7.3 million of debt.
- Kathleen House Development: \$7.6 million of debt.
- Delayed Issuance on Prior Year Capital (2022/2023): \$7.7 million.

As at approval of Budget 2024 in March, the County’s issued debt was \$14.6 million. However, it is important to note that the County has “authorized” \$29.5 million of additional debt as noted above which has resulted in a total “issued” and “authorized” debt level of \$44.1 million at the end of 2024.

In addition, foreseeable potential debt-financed expenditures could further impact the County’s debt obligations in the future. These include the following potential project expenditures:

- County Road 4 (Petrolia Line) and County Road 31 (Kimball Road) Roundabout: \$3.8 million.
- Capital Contingency: \$1.7 million.

CONSULTATIONS

The CAO and General Managers were consulted in the preparation of this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

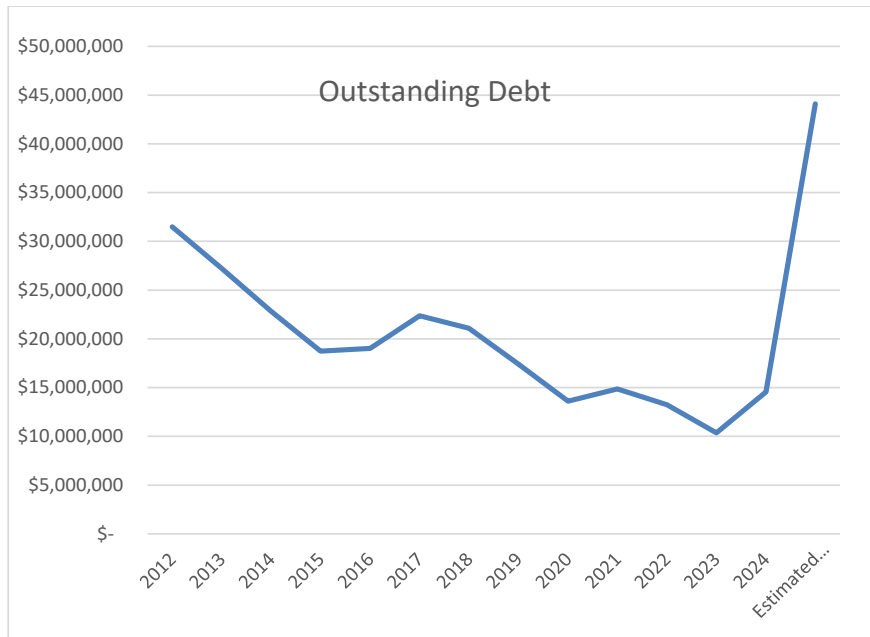
In keeping with the Principles and Values of the County of Lambton through leadership and accountability, the County's current efforts employ reasonable and sound decision-making and is accountable to ratepayers for the appropriate stewardship of their tax dollars.

CONCLUSION

As at 2024 Budget approval, the total issued debt of \$14.6 million has increased by \$29.5 million for a total “issued” and “authorized” debt level of \$44.1 million in 2024. Foreseeable projects could send debt load rising to \$49.6 million in 2025.

APPENDIX A

**County of Lambton
Debt Management Summary**



COUNTY OF LAMBTON			
OUTSTANDING EXISTING LONG TERM PRINCIPLE AND PROPOSED FUTURE DEBT			
Description	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Estimated Remaining Principle Dec 31, 2024
Bridge/Culvert Rehabilitation(2019)	1.671%	2025	169,008
Bridge/Culvert Rehabilitation(2020)	1.839%	2026	341,504
Bridge/Culvert Rehabilitation(2021)	5.183%	2027	525,112
Resurfacing	1.839%	2026	142,469
Bear Creek Bridge (2019)	1.671%	2025	240,053
Noble Wooley	1.671%	2025	38,463
Callinan Drain	1.671%	2025	38,479
Clark Drain Culvert	5.183%	2027	166,874
Black Creek Culvert	5.183%	2027	160,102
Talford Creek Bridge	5.183%	2027	191,079
Intersection Improvement	5.183%	2027	20,371
Building Depot	5.183%	2027	30,379
Lambton Meadowview Villa Secondary Road	3.234%	2029	51,811
North Lambton Lodge Rebuild	3.234%	2029	576,171
Marshal Gowland Manor Rebuild	Variable	2030	1,149,923
Marshal Gowland Manor - Building Sustainability	2.800%	2024	
NLL Emergency Generator Replacement	1.671%	2025	21,719
NLL Energy Upgrades	1.839%	2026	53,157
Lambton Heritage Parking Lot	1.839%	2026	68,714
Alix Art Gallery	5.499%	2032	1,270,717
OMC Capital Projects	5.183%	2027	288,154
Art Gallery Bldg Sustainability	5.183%	2027	10,977
Housing Capital Project(2005)		2026	14,342
Housing Capital Project(2009 - Kathleen)	3.234%	2029	63,572
Maxwell Park Place	Variable	2030	1,378,079
Housing Capital Project (2021)	5.183%	2027	123,358
County Admin Building Projects(2019)	1.671%	2025	8,055
County Admin Parking Lot Restoration (2019)	1.671%	2025	16,102
LSSC Bayside Purchase	Variable	2044	6,825,000
EMS Station Rebuild(Watford, Corunna)		2026	50,847
IT Computer Refresh/Licensing (2021)	4.450%	2025	9,206
Inn of the Good Shepherd	3.234%	2029	206,612
Strathroy Middlesex Hospital Grant	Grant	2027	315,000
Existing County Long Term Debt			\$ 14,565,409
Debt Authorized but not Issued			
Debt Approved but not issued			1,808,981
CR 22 (Egremont) and CR 79 (Nauvoo Rd) Roundabout - Debt Approved in 2022			2,060,000
Maxwell Place - Debt Approved in 2021			3,014,991
2022 Approved Projects to be funded by debt in 2024			4,944,942
2023 Projects Estimated to be funded by Debt in 2024			2,778,100
Kathleen Ave. Development			7,611,620
Small House Project			7,320,000
Existing and Future County Long Term Debt			\$ 44,104,043
Potential Debt Pressures			
CR 4 (Petrolia Line) and CR 31 (Kimball Road) Roundabout			3,800,000
Capital Contingency			1,700,000
Potential County Long Term Debt			\$ 5,500,000
CLCDC			
Demand Loan as of April 30/23	2.062%		13,555,000
Demand Loan	Prime - 0.5%		1,119,980
\$2M Line of Credit	Prime - 0.5%		1,255,610
The County of Lambton Community Development Corporation			\$ 15,930,590



FINANCE, FACILITIES AND COURT SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	FINANCE, FACILITIES AND COURT SERVICES DIVISION
PREPARED BY:	Larry Palarchio, CPA, CMA, General Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	September 4, 2024
INFORMATION ITEM:	2nd Quarter – 2024 Budget Monitoring Report

BACKGROUND

Staff is committed to providing Council with regular updates on the County’s budget status. Staff last reported on this subject-matter on June 19, 2024.

This serves to report on the County’s current fiscal forecast following completion of the second quarter.

Unfortunately, at this time the County is currently projecting a **\$550,000** operational year-end deficit.

The projected deficit may be explained as follows, from the following operations/revenue sources:

- Social Services: \$425,000 deficit;
- Infrastructure & Development Services: \$200,000 deficit; and
- General Government: \$350,000 deficit.

The deficit is partially offset by projected savings in Finance, Facilities and Court Services, Long-Term Care, and Public Health Services. In order to further offset the projected deficits, all County Divisions have been directed to focus on cost containment initiatives to attain a balanced year-end position in 2024, to the extent reasonably possible.

Drawdowns from the County’s Tax Stabilization and Contingencies & Opportunities Reserves may be necessary to keep the budget in a balanced position by 2024 year-end.

DISCUSSION

The County Divisions, with the support of the Divisional Support Services staff, continue to monitor their 2024 budgets to ensure fiscal stability and to mitigate any potential budget shortfalls.

As of the date of this report, staff is forecasting a **\$550,000** operational deficit for the 2024 year.

The County faces the following unforeseen expenditures and revenue shortfalls:

1. **Social Services:** The Division is projecting a **\$425,000 operational deficit** primarily as a result of the County's unanticipated continued operation of the Out of the Cold emergency shelter for an additional six (6) months, in response to the encampments in Sarnia. Cost containment initiatives such as position management savings, are in place to try to mitigate these additional expenses.
2. **Infrastructure & Development Services:** The Division is projecting a **\$200,000 deficit** primarily as a result of unanticipated culvert repairs.
3. **General Government:** Interest from investments are projected to result in a **\$350,000** revenue shortfall due to reserve/reserve fund balances being lower than originally anticipated, on account of the following additional approved draws therefrom post budget approval:
 - a) \$1.4 million for The County of Lambton Community Development Corporation (CLCDC - Research Park).
 - b) \$6.5 million for the purchase of the Lambton Shared Services Centre ("LSSC").

Moreover, the decline in interest rates has contributed to the forecasted operational deficit.

As for the other Divisions, staff can report as follows:

1. **CAO's Division:** The CAO's Division is in a **balanced position** at this time.
2. **Corporate Services Division:** The Corporate Services Division's budget is projecting a **balanced position** at this time.
3. **Finance, Facilities and Court Services Division:** The Lambton Shared Services Centre operations is projecting a **\$150,000** operational savings primarily as a result of lower operational costs (debt servicing (mortgage) payments are less than rental payments) associated with the recent acquisition of LSSC.

4. **Long-Term Care Division:** The Long-Term Care Division is projecting a **\$50,000 surplus** due to a one-time increase in Ministry funding to support staffing needs and building repairs.
5. **Public Health Services Division:** The Division is projecting a surplus of **\$225,000** primarily as a result of a one-time staff savings in Public Health as well as operational savings in the Emergency Medical Services (“**EMS**”) Department.
6. **Cultural Services Division:** The Cultural Services Division is projecting a **balanced year-end position** at this time.

In summary, the cost pressures that are being faced by a number of the County’s Divisions, has resulted in a projected corporate \$550,000 operational deficit as at the 2nd quarter of 2024.

The County will continue to implement cost containment initiatives across County Divisions to try to mitigate any operational deficit by 2024 year-end. On this, staff will work towards achieving a balanced budget by year-end, primarily from the anticipated savings currently projected in those operations noted above.

Absent of such savings being realized, drawdowns from the County’s Tax Stabilization and Contingencies & Opportunities Reserves may be necessary to balance 2024 year-end operations.

CONSULTATIONS

The Chief Administrative Officer, General Managers, and Divisional Support Services staff were consulted in the preparation of this report.


STRATEGIC PLAN

In keeping with the Principles and Values of the County of Lambton through leadership and accountability, the County’s current efforts employs reasonable and sound decision-making and is accountable to ratepayers for the appropriate stewardship of their tax dollars.

CONCLUSION

Staff will continue to provide quarterly financial updates to County Council as part of the regular budget monitoring reporting processes throughout 2024.

Cost containment initiatives as well as funding from the Tax Stabilization and Contingencies & Opportunities Reserves may be required to fund a projected **\$550,000 operational deficit** by 2024 year-end.

 <p style="text-align: center;">SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	HOUSING SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Melisa Johnson, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Valerie Colasanti, General Manager Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	September 4, 2024
INFORMATION ITEM:	Housing Services Statistical Report - Quarter 2

BACKGROUND

The Housing Services Department provides rental assistance and support services to over 2,300 residents of Lambton County. This assistance helps some of the most vulnerable residents to acquire and maintain permanent housing that is safe and affordable.

The Housing Services Department administers legislated housing programs, numerous housing agreements, maintains a wait list for approximately 1,500 units and manages 832 housing units owned by the County of Lambton.

DISCUSSION

The 2024 second quarter statistical report is attached and provides a quarterly comparison over 2023.

There were 31 households that moved into rent geared-to-income (“**RGI**”) assisted housing units in quarter two of 2024 compared to 70 households in quarter two of 2023. The 70 housed in 2023 include 37 that were housed under the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (“**COHB**”). The 2024 COHB allocation has not yet been announced by the Province resulting in 0 households housed under this program in 2024.

The average monthly rent arrears for the 832 County of Lambton owned units slightly decreased to \$8,638 in the second quarter of 2024 from \$9,508 in the previous year. This saw an average of 11 households in arrears compared to 29 households over the same period in 2023. Staff continue to work with individuals to address arrears, make repayment agreements and/or access funding to assist.

The Housing Advocacy Program is an eviction prevention program. Community Support Workers (“**CSWs**”) within this program provide outreach and supports to tenants and their

families by advocating on behalf of tenants to improve their quality of life while maintaining their housing. The CSWs have caseloads that consist of many individuals with complex needs. In the second quarter of 2024, the CSWs assisted an average of 136 individuals monthly and prevented evictions for an average of 17 tenancies each month. They had an average of 261 client visits per month and assisted clients in accessing a cumulative average of \$14,322 per month in funds such as community resources related to eviction prevention and retro payments of government assistance such as pension or child tax benefits.

The average number of applicants on the wait list for rental assistance in quarter two of 2024 has increased 26% to 886, up from 705 in the second quarter of 2023. The Housing Services Department has seen an increase in the number of eligible applicants applying for RGI assistance which is partially attributed to the lack of affordable housing and low vacancy rates in the area.

Wait times in quarter two of 2024 for various sized units across the housing portfolio have been consistent with wait times in quarter two of 2023. Although this rate is consistent with 2023, it represents a significant increase when compared to prior years. This increase can be attributed to the lack of affordable housing and low vacancy rates in the community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

CONSULTATIONS

Not applicable.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Providing safe affordable housing is in keeping with the County's Mission to promote an enhanced quality of life through the provision of responsive and efficient services accomplished by working with municipal and community partners.

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

Quarterly statistics provide information which assists in the management of the wait list and rent arrears. This information will also be helpful as the County implements the *County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020 – 2024*.

HOUSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Statistical Report

Comparative Data	Quarter 2 2024	Quarter 2 2023
Number of applicants housed	31	33
Number of applicants housed (COHB)	0	37
Total applicants housed	31	70
Average monthly tenant rent arrears	\$8,638	\$9,508
Housing Advocacy Program		
Average number of unique individuals receiving services per month	136	151
Average number of evictions prevented per month	17	Not available
Average ongoing case management appointments per month	261	Not available
Average funds per month obtained by clients including eviction prevention and retro benefit payments	\$14,322	Not Available
Average Number of Eligible Applicants for Rent-Geared-to-Income Assistance		
Bachelor/1 Bedroom	683	559
2 Bedroom	75	56
3 Bedroom	73	48
4 Bedroom	53	40
5 Bedroom	2	2
Total	886	705
Average Minimum Wait Times for Rent-Geared-to-Income Assistance		
Bachelor/1 Bedroom	48 months	44 months
2 Bedroom	36 months	36 months
3 Bedroom	36 months	36 months
4 Bedroom	36 months	36 months

 <p style="text-align: center;">SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	HOUSING SERVICES HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES ONTARIO WORKS
PREPARED BY:	Melisa Johnson, Manager Melissa Fitzpatrick, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Valerie Colasanti, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	September 4, 2024
INFORMATION ITEM:	Homelessness Prevention and Affordable Housing Update

BACKGROUND

At its meeting dated April 3, 2024, Lambton County Council asked that staff *provide brief monthly updates on its affordable housing projects and homelessness prevention efforts within the community.*

As the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (“**CMSM**”), the Social Services Division is responsible for the delivery of homelessness prevention services as well as housing services.

This report is an update on the current state of each program area.

DISCUSSION

Ontario Works

Ontario Works (“**OW**”) provides financial assistance to those in financial need including emergency assistance to individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless. Financial assistance is provided to assist with living expenses including food, rent and utilities. OW is often the first point of contact for someone who is at risk of becoming homeless and in addition to financial support, action plans are developed, and referrals are made to prevent homelessness. This plan may include housing applications, childcare applications, life stabilization supports and employment readiness activities. Hundreds of households receive these supports monthly.

For the month of June 2024, the OW caseload was 3,052. This represents an increase of 4% over the May 2024 caseload. During the same time frame, the number of OW emergency applications received were 81. In addition to this, 95 households were supported through the Housing Stability Assistance benefit. This includes households in receipt of OW, Ontario Disability Support Program (“**ODSP**”), low-income families not in receipt of social assistance, and seniors. OW data is extracted from the provincial database called the Social Assistance Management System (“**SAMS**”).

Housing Services

The Housing Advocacy Program is an eviction prevention program. Community Support Workers (“**CSWs**”) within this program provide outreach and supports to tenants and their families by advocating on behalf of tenants to improve their quality of life while maintaining their housing. The CSWs have caseloads that consist of many hard to serve individuals with complex needs.

During the month of June:

- 119 unique tenants were assisted to maintain their tenancy.
- 225 visits/contacts were made.
- 18 evictions were prevented.
- 7 applicants were housed from the centralized housing wait list.
- 57 applications were received for the centralized wait list.
- 886 households remain on the centralized wait list.
- 48 months is the average wait time on the list for a one-bedroom unit.
- 3 Lambton Renovates conditional letter of approvals were issued.

Kathleen Avenue Development

Pre-development work is progressing on Kathleen Ave. The proposed project’s schematic design has been approved and the architect is working on design development. The zoning application has been submitted to the City of Sarnia, and while it is being reviewed by City staff, design work will proceed so that the project can move to site plan approval, building permit and shovel in the ground without delay.

Victoria Street Parking Lot

After receiving Council approval on June 5, 2024, staff reached out to City of Sarnia staff to discuss the amount of the site the City would like to retain for use as public parking. A proposed draft Option Agreement was also presented to City staff. Once the portion of the parking lot to be donated is determined by the City, the Option Agreement can be finalized and staff will return to Council for final instructions and directions on the proposed Option agreement.

The Ontario Aboriginal Housing Corporation has started construction on their 40 unit affordable housing development at 940 Confederation Street.

Housing Accelerator Fund 2 (HAF2)

On July 8, 2024 the launch of the second round of the Housing Accelerator Fund (**HAF2**) was announced. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (**CMHC**) contacted staff on July 9, 2024 to advise that the County of Lambton was eligible to apply for HAF2. The CMHC later advised that Lambton is not eligible for HAF2 as the program is primarily designed for lower-tier municipalities who have authority over zoning. The County will not be proceeding with an application under HAF2, however the County will support the Town of Petrolia, Town of Plympton-Wyoming and Township of Warwick, where possible, with their HAF2 application, being those municipalities within Lambton that have sought the County's assistance

By-Name-List

The By-Name List ("**BNL**") is a comprehensive, real-time list of every known and consenting individual experiencing homelessness. This number includes individuals experiencing absolute homelessness (i.e. living rough) as well as individuals or family without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect means and ability of acquiring housing. As of July 31, there were 319 individuals on the BNL. This represents a decrease of 3 individuals or 1.1% from June's numbers There were 207 individuals who were experiencing chronic homelessness, which represents an increase of 19 individuals. Chronic homelessness refers to individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness and have a total of at least six months of homelessness over the past year.

Integrated Homelessness Prevention Team

The County's integrated homelessness team contains CSWs that serve as either Intensive Housing Case Managers or Rapid Rehousing Workers. Intensive Housing Case Managers support lower caseloads of households that are experiencing chronic homelessness, often facing concurrent complex mental health and addictions challenges, to secure and retain permanent housing.

Rapid Rehousing Workers support larger caseloads of households that are newly or episodically experiencing homelessness, to retain or quickly resecure permanent housing. Both forms of CSW offer life stabilization supports, and work in close partnership with several local multidisciplinary teams to ensure the health and social needs of these households are supported.

During the month of July

- 221 unique individuals received services from a CSW.
- 496 visits/contacts were made.
- 2 individuals/families were moved into more permanent housing.

- 2 rent supplements were approved to assist individuals move into more permanent housing.

Community Outreach Workers

The Community Outreach Workers provide assertive community outreach to households experiencing homelessness. The team’s efforts are primarily directed toward individuals that are experiencing absolute homelessness. The housing case management provided through this team is brought to households experiencing homelessness, wherever they are, and is often delivered outside. Assistance is concentrated on progressing the household along the housing continuum for long-term success. While addressing the basic needs of this vulnerable population is a vital component of the service, the primary goals of engagement are housing centric. Tools for engagement are commonly used to meet immediate needs including food security, temporary shelter, hygiene, health, and sanitation.

During the month of July:

- 108 unique individuals were served.
- 201 contacts/visits were made.
- 8 individuals moved from the street to more permanent housing (some individuals may have entered the shelter system for several nights).
- 82% of the above-noted contacts took place at or were related to Rainbow Park, in the City of Sarnia.
- 17 successful referrals to external services were made.
- 12 coordinated visits with partner outreach teams occurred.

Based on our conversations and interventions, the top three reasons individuals provided for sleeping rough are as follows:

Reason for sleeping rough	Proportion
Chose not to stay in shelter, personal relationships	19%
Chose not to stay in shelter, substance use	28%
Chose not to stay in shelter, mental health	28%

Emergency Shelter Capacity.

The County provides funding to the Inn of the Good Shepherd to operate the following shelter services:

- The Good Shepherd’s Lodge – 35 beds. 75.5% occupancy during July.
- Out of the Cold Program – 28 temporary beds. 54.70% occupancy during July.

- Haven Youth Shelter – 9 beds. 60.20% occupancy during July.
- Overall system occupancy for the month of July was 63.4%.

River City Vineyard Church may have capacity at their Sanctuary however the site adopted a drug-free policy earlier this year which limits who may be eligible to stay at the Sanctuary.

In addition to the above, the County has secured additional beds through local motels and hotels to provide greater capacity and flexibility within the emergency shelter system, should the need arise. Due to staffing challenges, the Inn of the Good Shepherd has not been able to fully staff the Out of the Cold overflow shelter and as a result, as in the recent past, County Social Services staff continue to have operate the program. Even though the overall emergency shelter system is operating at only 63% capacity, the overflow shelter has remained open due to the situation at Rainbow Park.

Landlord Engagement Worker

The County Integrated Homelessness team contains a landlord engagement support worker role. This position focuses on directly engaging local property managers and landlords for the purposes of strengthening communication and cooperation related to households supported by case managers. This work better enables mediation to maintain existing tenancies and securing private market rental opportunities for housing case managers.

During the month of June:

- 30 landlords were engaged.
- 58 tenancy concerns were addressed.
- 2 apartment units were viewed with individuals experiencing homelessness.

The total number of unique individuals experiencing homelessness that progressed into more permanent housing with assistance from the integrated homelessness prevention team during the month of July was 10.

Housing and Homelessness Resource Centre

- 94 unique individuals were provided supports at the centre.
- 498 visits were made to the centre.
- 63 referrals were made to support services and community partners.

During the month of July referrals included but are not limited to, Canadian Mental Health Association, Community Legal Assistance Services, assisting with ODSP and OW issues, connecting clients with their doctors and setting up telephone and virtual appointments, meeting with clients and possible landlords, referrals to Bluewater Health mental health and addictions services, calling The Lodge for beds (male and female), assisting client

with reconnection of hydro, assisting with income tax preparation, and connecting with IMPACT for wellness checks on clients that have not been seen or staff have concerns about, and referrals to the County's CHIC team for medical and health related concerns.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

CONSULTATIONS

Not applicable.


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

This report provides a snapshot of the work the three Departments within the Social Services Division delivered through an integrated program delivery approach. It includes the outputs and outcomes of each program. It does not include the longer-term systems related planning occurring within the Division and with community partners on an ongoing basis to address the underlying issues of homelessness.

 <p style="text-align: center;">SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Stephanie Ferrera, Project Coordinator SL-LIP
REVIEWED BY:	Valerie Colasanti, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	September 4, 2024
INFORMATION ITEM:	Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership Annual Report

BACKGROUND

The establishment of the Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership (**SL-LIP**) Council in 2010 marked a significant milestone in the collaborative effort to foster a thriving and inclusive community in Lambton County. Comprising representatives from various sectors including settlement, healthcare, education, employment services, social services, economic development, and business, the Council serves as a vital advisory body tasked with guiding the implementation of a Settlement Strategy. The attached progress report highlights the work completed over the past year on the implementation of the Settlement Strategy.

DISCUSSION

The Strategy, comprised of four pillars, each with its own set of goals and objectives, is representative of a collective approach to community development aiming to create a welcoming environment by leveraging the expertise and resources of multiple sectors and seeks to respond to the multifaceted needs of newcomers and existing residents to foster social cohesion and economic growth. The four pillars include employment, community engagement, coordination of services and research and facilitation.

Some key accomplishments during the 2023 year include the following:

- Facilitated the development and execution of a two-day hybrid Equity, Diversity and Inclusion training platform in partnership with the Sarnia Lambton Economic Partnership's (**SLEP**) Newcomer Connection Program, for 60 local employers to promote the benefits of a diverse workforce and guide the development of strategies for creating an inclusive work environment.

- Hosted a bus tour for 25 employment-ready newcomers in partnership with SLEP, highlighting significant locations across Lambton and organized a networking event where participants were interviewed by four local employers.
- Hosted a vibrant multicultural New Year's Eve celebration, with the goal being to unite newcomers with community members. The event was free, family-friendly and offered a rich cultural experience. Over 300 people participated in this festive gathering.
- Increased its SL-LIP Facebook page following by 150 new followers, resulting in an 85.2% increase over the previous year. An Instagram account was created, and 257 new followers were recorded in just four months with numbers increasing weekly.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no financial impact to the County as a result of this report.

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations were conducted with the SL-LIP Council, the Social Services Division team, and the General Manager of Social Services.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The activities of the Division support the Economic and Prosperity Area of Effort # 1 along with the Community Development Area of Effort #3 and Partnership Area of Effort # 5 in the County of Lambton's Strategic Plan.

CONCLUSION

The Council continues to serve the community in accordance with its mandate. Moreover, as of April 1, 2024, the SL-LIP began the final year of its most recent five-year grant agreement with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), which spans from 2020 to 2025. In advance of the next funding period, a Call for Proposals was issued by IRCC, extending an invitation to LIPs, settlement service organizations and other immigrant serving institutions across Canada to apply for funding for the next five-year term encompassing years 2025 to 2030. In response, the SL-LIP submitted a grant proposal on January 31, 2024. The County of Lambton will be made aware of approvals by late summer of 2024. The SL-LIP will continue to work towards realizing the community's vision of fostering integration, inclusion, and overall well-being for newcomers, immigrants, and refugees.

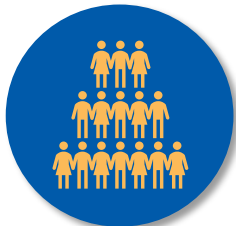
2023 ANNUAL REPORT



The Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership supports a collective and comprehensive community effort to create positive settlement outcomes for immigrants and newcomers locally.

SARNIA-LAMBTON LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (SL-LIP) COUNCIL

The establishment of the SL-LIP Council in 2010 marked a significant milestone in the collaborative effort to foster a thriving and inclusive community in Lambton County. Comprising representatives from various sectors including settlement, healthcare, education, employment services, social services, economic development, and business, the council serves as a vital advisory body tasked with guiding the implementation of a community driven Settlement Strategy. The Strategy is representative of a collective approach to community development, aiming to create a welcoming environment by leveraging the expertise and resources of multiple sectors.



36 Members



9+ Sectors



21 Organizations

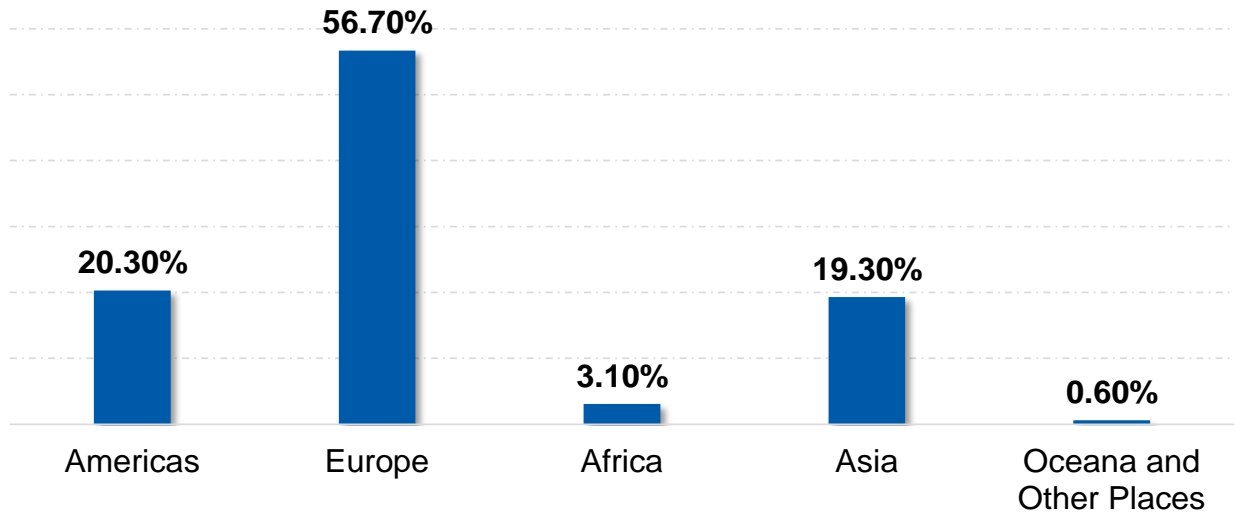


Several Working Groups
Created for multi-layered SL-LIP projects and events

IMMIGRATION IN SARNIA-LAMBTON

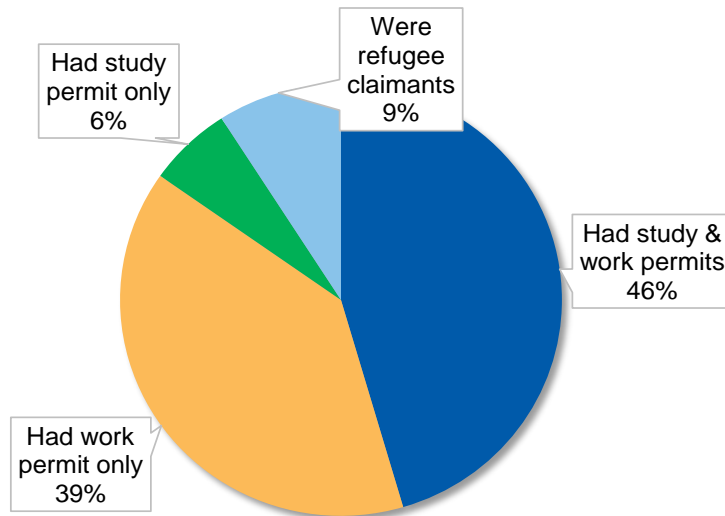
Stats Can Census 2021

Region of Birth of Immigrants Sarnia-Lambton 2021



12,195 Immigrants currently live in Sarnia-Lambton

79% of immigrants in Lambton County had become Canadian citizens.



Recent Immigrants

LAMBTON COUNTY NEWCOMER SETTLEMENT STRATEGY

The Strategy seeks to address the multifaceted needs of newcomers and existing residents alike to foster social cohesion and economic growth and is implemented via ad hoc working groups through the following areas of focus or Pillars:



Employment



Community Engagement



Coordination of Services



Research & Facilitation



EMPLOYMENT



Outcomes:

1. Increased awareness of pathways to hiring immigrants.
2. Improved understanding of the benefits of hiring and retaining immigrants.
3. Improved connection between employers and newcomer job seekers.



- ✓ Provided ongoing administrative support for employment navigation tools for both employers and newcomers on the Welcome to Lambton App.
- ✓ Created and streamed a webinar in partnership with WILL Immploy that focused on recent immigration trends through insights from industry experts.
- ✓ Facilitated the development and delivery of a two-day hybrid Equity, Diversity and Inclusion training platform in partnership with Sarnia Lambton Economic Partnership, for 60 local employers to promote the benefits of a diverse workforce and guide the development of strategies for creating an inclusive work environment.
- ✓ Hosted a tour for 25 employment-ready newcomers in partnership with SLEP, highlighting significant locations across Lambton and organized a networking event where participants were interviewed by local employers.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Outcomes:

1. Increased newcomer, immigrant and refugee participation within the community.
 2. Increase awareness of the specific needs of vulnerable immigrant and refugee populations.
 3. Increased awareness and accessibility of local programming and events.
 4. Increased participation in local recreation and sporting opportunities.
 5. Increased awareness of racial discrimination issues in Lambton County.
-
- ✓ Hosted the annual Multicultural Canada Day event.
 - ✓ Planned the *"Racism is Bad for your Health"* forum to solicit community input, informing the development of an anti-racism strategy, website, and resource materials.
 - ✓ Contributed to the planning of the annual University of Western Ontario Pathways to Prosperity Annual LIPs Conference.
 - ✓ Provided migrant workers in Lambton with information on available services and supports in the community in partnership with the North Lambton Community Health Centre through TeamWork, a Migrant Worker Support Program.
 - ✓ Hosted a multiphase Anti-black youth arts campaign together with the Sarnia-Lambton Alliance Against Hate, to engage students and the broader community in raising awareness around hate and discrimination workshops while promoting diversity and inclusion.
 - ✓ Participated in community events and fairs to promote the *Welcome to Lambton App*, the *Sarnia-Lambton Alliance against Hate* program and the *All are Welcome Here* campaign.



@SARNIALAMBTONLIP

In 2023, our LIP Facebook increased by 150 new followers which was 85.2% increase from the previous year.



@SARNIA-LAMBTON-LIP

In 2023 an Instagram account was created, and 257 new followers were recorded in just 4 months with numbers increasing weekly.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES



Outcomes:

1. Increased awareness of programs and supports, communication and engagement between settlement and non-settlement organizations.
2. Increased understanding of barriers to effective services and learn about newcomer needs.
3. Services better coordinated at the community level.
4. Programming and service delivery by mainstream institutions is adapted to newcomer needs.

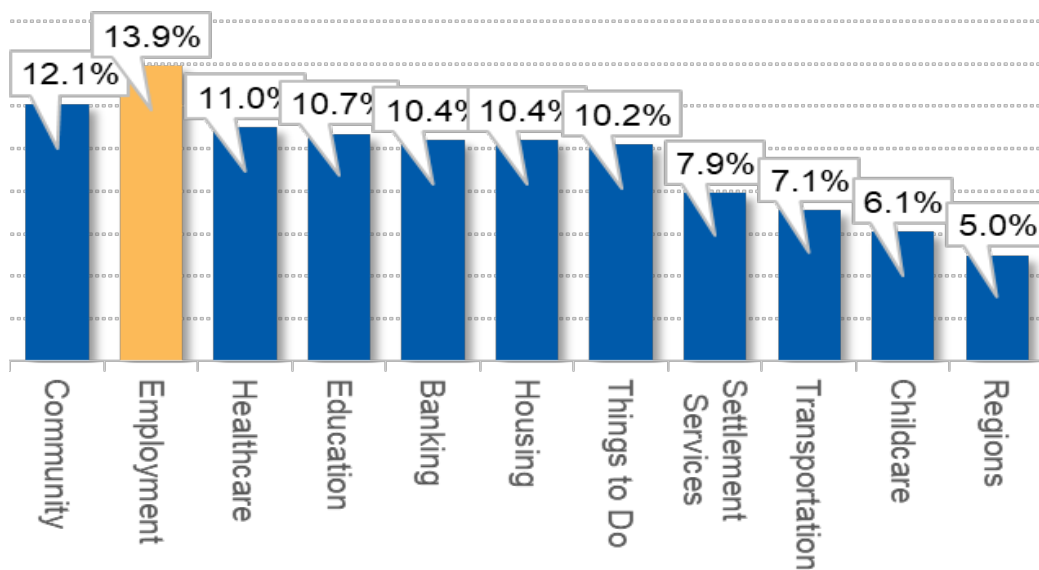
-
- ✓ Created a collaborative partnership between the YWHO Youth Hub and YMCA and College Boreal, Newcomers Services programs.
 - ✓ Leveraged partnerships within the SL-LIP Council and created a community action group within the Immigration Taskforce Framework to implement activities to coordinate services at the community level.
 - ✓ Addressed language barriers through the use of AI technology on the Welcome to Lambton App, a feature that works to close the gap between newcomers and local services and increase positive settlement outcomes.



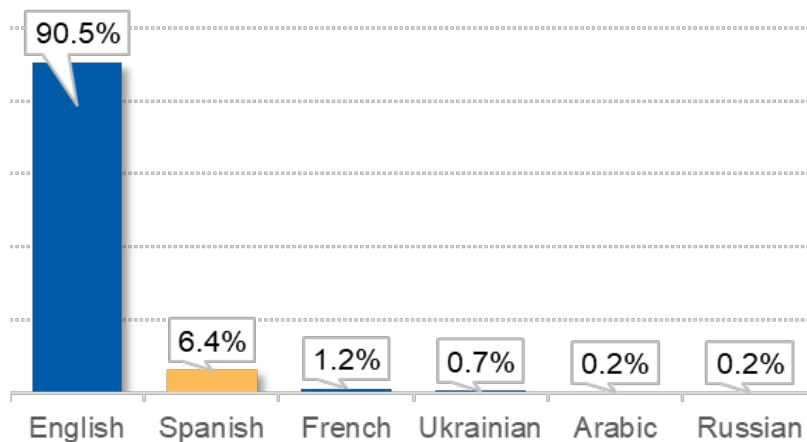
THE WELCOME TO LAMBTON APP USER DATA

Created by the Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership, the Welcome to Lambton app is a user-friendly, helpful guide to support newcomers to Lambton County.

Users Areas of Priority



App Language Usage September 2023



RESEARCH AND FACILITATION



Outcomes:

1. Strengthened connections between cultural or religious groups, and the supports and newcomers in the community.
2. The development of strategies within the community in response to emerging needs.

- ✓ In 2023, the SL-LIP hosted a number of events during Welcoming Week, a nationally recognized initiative that works to celebrate the inclusive spirit of local communities across Canada, that featured local service provider information tables with entertainment for newcomers in Lambton.
- ✓ Conducted an in-depth look at the discrimination experienced by immigrants and racialized individuals in the region using interviews and focus groups paired with input from the *Racism is Bad for your Health* forum, resulting in the development strategic recommendations.



Community Multicultural Activities



- ✓ Screened historically relevant feature films at the Sarnia Public Library and YMCA Newcomer Centre.
- ✓ Hosted a campaign featuring 40 Black Canadians who shared their stories through social media platforms, including online webinars and other informative content.
- ✓ Partnered to host a family-style dinner at Centre Communautaire Francophone with African cuisine, culturally relevant artifacts and entertainment.



Black History Month:

Throughout the month of February, SL-LIP hosted events to honor the legacy of Black Canadians:

- ✓ Presenters travelled to Lambton from The Buxton National Historic Site & Museum to host an afternoon for youth.
- ✓ Eight Slam Poetry events were hosted by a Black, Francophone multimediam artist from Montreal, a form of performance poetry that combines the elements of performance, writing, competition, and audience participation



Festival of Cultures - New Year's Eve 2023

Hosted a multicultural New Year's Eve celebration, aimed at uniting newcomers with community members. The event was free, family-friendly and offered a rich cultural experience. Over 300 people participated in this festive gathering.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

Sarnia-Lambton Local immigration Partnership Council
162 Lochiel Street
Suite 100
Sarnia, Ontario N7T 7W5
sarnia-lambtonlip@county-lambton.on.ca



@SARNIALAMBTONLIP



@SARNIA-LAMBTON-LIP

<https://www.lambtononline.ca/en/resident-services/local-immigration-partnership.aspx>

TOURISM SARNIA LAMBTON INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

**TOURISM SARNIA LAMBTON INC.
INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

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Statement of Net Assets	4
Statement of Cash Flows	5
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BDO Canada LLP
Kenwick Place, 250 Christina Street North
P O Box 730
Sarnia, Ontario N7T 7J7

Independent Review Engagement Report

To the Board Members of
Tourism Sarnia Lambton Inc.

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Tourism Sarnia Lambton Inc. that comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2022 and the statements of operations, statement of net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Tourism Sarnia Lambton Inc. as at December 31, 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

BDO Canada LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Sarnia, Ontario
October 3, 2023

BDO Canada LLP, a Canadian limited liability partnership, is a member of BDO International Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, and forms part of the international BDO network of independent member firms.

**TOURISM SARNIA LAMBTON INC.
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2022**

	2022 ACTUAL \$	2021 ACTUAL \$
<u>ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash (Note 2)	1,556,180	1,152,621
Accounts Receivable	56,424	1,000
Sales Tax Recoverable	4,219	5,116
Prepaid Expenses (Note 3)	4,162	4,162
Inventory	14,301	9,338
	1,635,286	1,172,237
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (Note 4)	25,405	29,634
TOTAL ASSETS	1,660,691	1,201,871
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	347,288	317,020
Deferred Revenue (Note 5)	389,074	151,447
	736,362	468,467
TOTAL LIABILITIES	736,362	468,467
COMMITMENTS (Note 6)		
NET ASSETS	924,329	733,404
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	1,660,691	1,201,871

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

**TOURISM SARNIA LAMBTON INC.
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

	2022 BUDGET \$	2022 ACTUAL \$	2021 ACTUAL \$
REVENUE			
Grants:			
The Corporation of the County of Lambton (Note 7)	774,751	774,748	762,536
Summer Student Programs	16,000	24,645	18,992
Tourism Relief Fund	100,000	100,000	-
Room Rental	-	1,550	125
Municipal Accomodation Tax	398,000	257,663	108,054
Participating Partners	20,000	21,508	77,648
Visitor Services	9,000	10,500	11,523
Special Events	55,000	144,466	14,000
Miscellaneous Income	15,000	9,881	12,290
Investment Income	30,000	37,631	10,218
	<u>1,417,751</u>	<u>1,382,592</u>	<u>1,015,386</u>
EXPENSES			
Administration and Office	73,275	60,553	49,793
Advertising, Memberships and Travel Shows	97,300	77,587	60,219
Amortization	-	4,229	4,926
E-Marketing and Website	40,000	29,719	37,762
Experience Guide	15,000	1,057	11,772
Marketing	388,581	379,407	128,370
Motorcoach	3,100	799	958
Occupancy	65,505	61,087	64,014
Product Development	-	73	2,314
Sports Tournaments	12,400	5,989	20,480
Visitor Services	11,600	1,351	6,470
Wages and Benefits	560,990	569,816	478,094
	<u>1,267,751</u>	<u>1,191,667</u>	<u>865,172</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>150,000</u>	<u>190,925</u>	<u>150,214</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

**TOURISM SARNIA LAMBTON INC.
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

	2022 ACTUAL \$	2021 ACTUAL \$
NET ASSETS , beginning of year	733,404	583,190
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>190,925</u>	<u>150,214</u>
NET ASSETS , end of year	<u><u>924,329</u></u>	<u><u>733,404</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

**TOURISM SARNIA LAMBTON INC.
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

	2022 ACTUAL \$	2021 ACTUAL \$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of Revenues over Expenses	190,925	150,214
Items not requiring an outlay of cash:		
Amortization of Property, Plant and Equipment	4,229	4,926
	195,154	155,140
Changes in non-cash working capital balances		
Accounts Receivable	(55,424)	28,881
Sales Tax Recoverable	897	2,902
Inventory	(4,963)	(1,281)
Prepaid Expenses	-	4,999
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	30,268	67,079
Deferred Revenue	237,627	11,731
	403,559	269,451
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment	-	(1,543)
	-	(1,543)
INCREASE IN CASH AND EQUIVALENTS		
	403,559	267,908
CASH, beginning of year	1,152,621	884,713
CASH, end of year	1,556,180	1,152,621

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

**TOURISM SARNIA LAMBTON INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2022**

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIESBasis of Organization and Nature of Activities

Tourism Sarnia Lambton Inc. ("TSL") is incorporated as a corporation without share capital under the Business Corporations Act of the Province of Ontario. The organization provides direction and leadership to the growth and development of the tourism industry in the City of Sarnia and the County of Lambton. The organization is exempt from income tax.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Financial InstrumentsMeasurement of Financial Instruments

The company initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value, except for certain related party transactions that are measured at the carrying amount or exchange amount, as appropriate.

The company subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at cost or amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value of these financial instruments are recognized in net income.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost on a straight-line basis include cash and accounts receivable.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost on a straight-line basis include the accounts payable.

Impairment

Financial assets measured at cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment. The amount of the write-down is recognized in net income. The previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account, provided it is no greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in net income.

Transaction Costs

The company's transaction costs related to financial instruments that will be subsequently measured at fair value are recognized in net income in the period incurred. The carrying amount of the financial instruments that will not be subsequently measured at fair value is adjusted for transaction costs directly attributable to the origination, issuance or assumption of these instruments.

**TOURISM SARNIA LAMBTON INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2022**

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand and bank balances.

Inventory

Inventory is stated at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Cost is determined on the first-in, first-out basis.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment, including expenditures which improve or prolong the useful lives of the assets, are stated at cost. Amortization is computed on a declining balance basis at the following rates:

Equipment, furniture and fixtures	30%	declining balance
Computer software	100%	declining balance
Computer hardware	55%	declining balance
Leasehold improvements	10	years straight-line

One-half year's amortization is expensed in the year of acquisition.

Revenue Recognition

TSL follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Revenues from services are recognized at the time services are rendered. Payments in advance of services are included in future revenue. Contributed materials and services that the organization would otherwise have paid for in normal operations are recorded at fair value when fair value can be reliably determined.

Contributed Materials and Services

Due to difficulty of determining the fair value of materials and services contributed to the organization, they are not recognized in the financial statements.

2. CASH

The TSL bank account is held at one financial institution.

3. PREPAID EXPENSES

The balance of \$4,162 prepaid expenses represents January rent paid to the Bluewater Bridge Canada.

**TOURISM SARNIA LAMBTON INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2022**

4. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>
	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>
Equipment, furniture and fixtures	\$ 27,803	3,123
Computer software	11,221	-
Computer hardware	35,395	1,427
Leasehold Improvements	53,713	25,084
	<u>\$ 128,132</u>	<u>\$ 29,634</u>

5. DEFERRED REVENUE

During the year, TSL recorded \$389,074 (2021 - \$151,447) of deferred revenue. The funds represent \$45,449 (2021 - \$12,100 related to 2022 travel guide) in advertising fees from numerous organizations for the 2023 Travel Map Guide, to be published by TSL in mid 2023 and \$343,625 (2021 - \$139,347) in Municipal Accommodation Tax.

6. COMMITMENTS

Tourism Sarnia Lambton Inc. is committed under a premises rental agreement effective January 1, 2015 until December 31, 2024. Monthly payments of \$1,904.17 for April 2017 to December 2017 increase to \$3,203 for January 2018 to December 2020 and increase to \$4,003.75 for January 2021 to December 2024. In addition, quarterly payments of \$624.62 for the photocopier lease agreement are in effect from February 2018 to January 2023. The photocopier lease agreement will be renewed April 2023. Total annual payments under this lease are estimated as follows:

2023	\$	48,045
2024		48,045

7. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

Grant revenue from The Corporation of the County of Lambton represents 56% of the organization's total revenue for the year ended December 31, 2022 (December 31, 2021 - 75%). TSL and The Corporation of the County of Lambton have a funding agreement that expires March 31, 2027.

The Corporation of the County of Lambton has provided bookkeeping services to Tourism Sarnia Lambton Inc. at no charge. This contributed service has not been reflected in these financial statements as the fair value can not be reliably determined.

**TOURISM SARNIA LAMBTON INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2022**

8. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Risks and Concentrations

The organization is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides a measure of the company's risk exposure as at December 31, 2022.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk than an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The organization is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its accounts payable.

There have not been any changes in the risk from the prior year.

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The organization's main credit risks relate to its accounts receivable. The company provides credit to its clients in the normal course of its operations.

There have not been any changes in the risk from the prior year.

Tourism Sarnia Lambton

Draft Budget 2024

January 1st to December 31, 2024

	Year to Date	Projected Annual Budget	YTD%
Revenue			
TSL Lambton County Grant		812,598	0.0%
TSL Other Grants		18,536	0.0%
TSL Assembly Room		866	0.0%
TSL Business Partners (Travel Guide Advertisers)		45,000	0.0%
TSL MAT		390,000	0.0%
TSL Interest Income		96,000	0.0%
TSL Other Revenue		10,000	0.0%
TSL Other Revenue - Visitor Services		12,000	0.0%
TOTAL Revenue		1,385,000	0.00%
Expenditures			
Salaries & Benefits		573,040	0.0%
Rent & Utilities		65,520	0.0%
Operational/Costs		70,740	0.0%
Audit & Bank Charges		7,500	0.0%
Contribution of MAT Reserve		125,000	0.0%
Advertising & Promotions		384,200	0.0%
Marketing & Membership		65,000	0.0%
Travel Guide		82,000	0.0%
Visitor Services		12,000	0.0%
TOTAL Expenditures		1,385,000	0.00%

Notes:

TOURISM SARNIA-LAMBTON
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
WEDNESDAY JULY 17, 2024, 9:00 am

HELD AT: Tourism Sarnia-Lambton

PRESENT: Bev Hand, Stephane Thiffeault, Angela Edlington, Rose Atkins, Al Duffy, Kevin Marriott, Matthew Slotwinski, Kelly Provost, Geoff Eisenbraun, Laura Boogemans, Dan Sageman, Thera Wagner, Kevin Marriott, Mark Perrin (Executive Director)

REGRETS: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:02am.

2. COMPLETION AND ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

MOTIONED BY DAN AND SECOND BY THERA. CARRIED

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

NONE

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2024 (JUNE 12 – No Quorum)

MOTIONED BY KELLY AND SECOND BY BEV. CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/AGENDA:

NONE

6. BOARD ACTIVITIES

NONE

7. FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

- a) Financial Update
- i) County Accounting Meeting

MOTIONED BY ANGELA AND SECOND BY KEVIN TO ACCEPT FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES. CARRIED

8. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- a) **Directors Report**
- b) **Tall Ships**

MOTIONED BY GEOFF AND SECOND BY ANGELA TO DECLINE TALLSHIPS 2025. CARRIED

- c) **Hockey Canada U17 World Hockey Challenge Update**
- d) **Stars on Ice / Silver Stick**
- e) **Summer Student Program / Destination Ontario**
- f) **Travel Guide / Maps – Distribution**

TOURISM SARNIA-LAMBTON
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
WEDNESDAY JULY 17, 2024, 9:00 am

9. IN CAMERA – In Camera Discussion Carried

10. UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

- a) Next Board Meeting Dates, Location being TSL.
- a) August 22nd, 2024 – No Quorum, Updated to August 28th.
- b) September 19th, 2024
- c) October 24th, 2024
- d) December 19th, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY

Dated _____

Dated _____

MINUTES
COUNTY OF LAMBTON AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 14, 2024

A meeting was held at Committee Room #1 in the County Building at 10:00 a.m. on the above date.

Present

Chair Mr. G Atkinson and Members Mr. C. Anderson, Mr. H. van Wieren, Mr. M. Rombouts, Ms. J. Ball, Mr. J. Zekveld, Mr. R. Core. Staff members were present, including Mr. K. Marriott, Warden, County of Lambton, Mr. J. Cole, General Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services, Ms. O. Leger, General Manager, Corporate Services, Ms. C Nauta, Manager, Planning and Development Services (temporary), Mr. K. Bulgin, Planner, Planning & Development Services, Ms. L. Bydeley, Executive Assistant, Infrastructure and Development Services. Mr. B. Boyle, Facilitator was also in attendance.

Absent

Mr. S. Leystra, Ms. J Maw.

Welcome (Gary Atkinson)

Gary Atkinson welcomed the group to the inaugural meeting.

Membership Introductions

Members introduced themselves to the group.

Items for Discussion

A) Code of Conduct and Procedural Rules (Olivia Leger)

Olivia discussed procedural matters and provided a high-level overview of the County's Code of Conduct. A copy of the Code of Conduct and Procedural By-Law was provided to members.

B) History of CLAAC (Bryan Boyle)

The history of CLAAC from 2009-2016 was presented. Revitalization of the group was driven by a desire to collaborate and build relationships with community partners and for the agricultural community to provide advice to Council on matters affecting the sector.

C) Terms of Reference (Bryan Boyle)

The updated Terms of Reference were reviewed with members. Each member is able to serve a maximum of two 3-year terms. In order to ensure continuity, one-

CLAAC August 14, 2024 (page 2)

third of the membership will turn over each year. Members randomly drew their initial term:

3 year term

“Feathers” Livestock Industry - Mackie Rombouts
Producer with Woodlot and/or Wildlife Interests - Ron Core
Lambton Soil & Crop Improvement - Jill Ball

2 year term

Lambton Cattlemen’s - Chad Anderson
Lambton Dairy Producers - Harry van Wieren
Grain Farmers of Lambton - Julie Maw

1 year term

Lambton Pork Producers - Scott Leystra
Vegetable & Specialty Crop - John Zekveld
Chair – The Chair is elected annually by County Council.

D) Meeting Schedule

Members agreed to meet three times per year in late March/early April, mid-August and early December.

E) Next Steps

Options for the December 2024 meeting date will be sent out for consideration. A Vice-Chair will be elected at the December meeting. Members will send agenda items for upcoming meetings to the Chair.

Other Business

Members held a roundtable discussion about the current state in their sector. Members participated in a brainstorming exercise and shared important characteristics for members to have including being respectful, committed, open minded, knowledgeable in their sector, prepared for meetings, and willing to consider the needs of the entire sector in decision making.

Adjournment

#1 van Wieren/Rombouts: That the Chair declare the meeting adjourned and that the next meeting be held at a time as coordinated by Staff in early December.

Carried.

Time: 11:20 a.m.

**MINUTES
LAMBTON CREATIVE COUNTY COMMITTEE**

Administrative Building, Committee Room #3

November 30, 2023

Present: Warden Kevin Marriot, Brad Loosely (Chair), Barbara Prescott, Beverly Bressette, Dave Ferguson, Kristy Kilner-Holmes, Tracey Kingston. Also, Andrew Meyer, Tara Pounds, Jessica Cohmer (Recording Secretary).

Regrets: Chrissy McRoberts, Todd Case.

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Chair, B. Loosely called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion #1: B. Prescott/ K. Kilner-Holmes: That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Chair, B. Loosely asked members to disclose any conflict of interest at the time the funding applications are being presented. B. Loosely notified the committee of his intent to declare on application #1278 *IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter 75th Anniversary High Tea* and submitted a written declaration of pecuniary interest to staff.

4. Approval of Minutes – September 28, 2023

Motion #2: T. Kingston/ D. Ferguson: That the Minutes of September 28, 2023 be approved as presented.

Carried.

5. Unfinished Business

None.

6. New Business

a) Review of Applications – 2023 Creative County Grant Program

A. Meyer presented to the Committee a summary of the 2024 Creative County Grant Program applications received, and reviewed recommendations for each application based on program eligibility criteria.

The members evaluated a total of 29 applications related to the County-wide, Sarnia quadrant, North quadrant, Central quadrant, and South quadrant, representing a total funding request of \$197,646.

The grant review process resulted in the following motions:

Motion #3: D. Ferguson/ B. Prescott: That staff communicate to applicant #1291 *Bi-Weekly Sunday Youth Focused Art Workshops 2024* that under the program criteria related to sustainability, this will be the final year of eligibility for grant funding.

Carried.

Motion #4: T. Kingston/ D. Ferguson: That the Committee accept the staff recommendations and amounts to be approved as presented.

The County-wide applicants for 2024 approving funding for applicants #1287 *Farmerette Documentary Film*, funding total of \$5,000; #1289 *The 1918 Flu Pandemic in Lambton County*, funding total of \$2,250; #1290 *Within a War*, funding total of \$7,350; #1293 *Celebration of 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Lambton Concert Band*, funding total of \$2,000; #1295 *Educational Community Awareness Support Through Art*, funding total of \$4,575; #1296 *Art is for Everyone*, funding total of \$1,500; #1300 *Look of Lambton 2024*, funding total of \$2,500. TOTAL COUNTY-WIDE: \$25,175.

The Sarnia Quadrant applicants for 2024 approving funding for applicants #1279 *Community Outreach: Welcoming A More Diverse Audience to the Sarnia Concert Association*, funding total of \$1,500; #1280 *Notre chansons dans notre place*, funding total of \$3,500; #1292 *Arabic Literacy Enrichment Program*, funding total of \$1,000; #1302 *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland: A Ballet Narrative*, funding total of \$1,980; #1303 *2024 Cultural Activation of the City of Sarnia's CIP Identified Areas*, funding total

of \$4,900; #1304 *Act II*, funding total of \$5,000. TOTAL SARNIA QUADRANT: \$17,880.

The North Quadrant applicants for 2024 approving funding for applicants #1276 *Indigenous Film and Food Festival-Celebrating Together*, funding total of \$2,700; #1281 *Young Gull Hologram Realization*, funding total of \$2,800; #1299 *Bus Shelter Illumination & Community Identification*, funding total of \$2,500; #1301 *Wayfinding Signage*, funding total of \$3,400. TOTAL NORTH QUADRANT: \$11,400.

The Central Quadrant applicants for 2024 approving funding for applicants #1277 *Enriching the Bridgeview Public School Learning Commons: A Space for Truth and Inclusion*, funding total of \$2,500; #1278 *IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter 75th Anniversary High Tea*, funding total of \$2,000; #1283 *Petrolia Historic Downtown Business Project*, funding total of \$6,000; #1297 *Historical Interpretive Signs and Flags*, funding total of \$6,045. TOTAL CENTRAL QUADRANT: \$16,545.

B. Loosely abstained from voting on appl #1278 due to a declaration of pecuniary interest.

The South Quadrant applicants for 2023 approving funding for applicants #1291 *Brooke-Alvinston Youth Art Workshops*, funding total of \$2,000; #1298 *Inwood 150th Celebration Commemorative Book*, funding total of \$2,000. TOTAL SOUTH QUADRANT: \$4,000.

Carried.

In total, 23 applications were recommended for some level of funding for a total grant contribution amount of \$75,000 (in alignment with the program budget).

b) Communication of Funding Decisions

A. Meyer informed the committee that the funding of these projects is conditional on budget availability.

A communication will be sent to all applicants following the meeting stating that their application has been received and is currently under review, and that they will receive confirmation on the status of their application in March of 2024 following the County budget process.

As such, the Committee acknowledges that all information regarding the 2024 annual grant program and decisions related to individual applications is to remain confidential until the budget is approved and communications are sent to applicants. Staff will advise.

7. Scheduling of Meetings

Motion #5: K. Kilner-Holmes/T. Kingston: That the proposed next meeting be for Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 1:00 p.m via electronic conferencing.

Carried.

8. Adjournment

Motion #6: D. Ferguson/ K. Kilner-Holmes: That this meeting be adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Carried.



**INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES DIVISION**

REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION
PREPARED BY:	Jason Cole, P. Eng., General Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	September 4, 2024
SUBJECT:	Canada Community-Building Fund Municipal Funding Agreement

BACKGROUND

The Canada Community-Building Fund (“**CCBF**”), formerly known as the Federal Gas Tax Fund, is a long-term, predictable, and indexed source of funding provided by the federal government to municipalities. This funding targets investment in essential community infrastructure and can be directed toward 18 different project categories. In Ontario, the CCBF program is administered by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (“**AMO**”) through Municipal Funding Agreements with individual municipalities.

Since entering into the original funding agreement in 2005, the County of Lambton has received over \$67 million through the current and previous iteration of the CCBF. This money has consistently been invested in road and bridge infrastructure renewal throughout the County of Lambton.

DISCUSSION

The term of the prior CCBF Municipal Funding Agreement ended on March 31, 2024. AMO has circulated a new 10-year Agreement for signature by all municipalities to continue participation in the program. Any funding scheduled to be received as part of the 2024 CCBF allocation will be released upon execution of the new agreement. A copy of the new Municipal Funding Agreement issued by AMO is attached to this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The scheduled 2024 CCBF allocation to the County of Lambton is \$3,970,038.36. This funding is included in the County of Lambton 2024 Approved Budget, assigned to various Road and Bridge Tangible Capital Asset projects through Public Works.

CONSULTATIONS

The Solicitor/Clerk, Financial Administrative Services Department, and Public Works Department were consulted as part of the preparation of this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Application of Area of Effort #3: Community Development, Health, and Wellness – Capitalizing on opportunities that enrich the quality of life and future prospects of the community by:

- 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.

Application of Area of Effort #6: Corporate Sustainability – Ensuring long-term environmental and financial sustainability in all its operations, by:

- Continuing to implement strong financial plans, policies, and practices that bolster and safeguard municipal services and infrastructure.
- Committing to a sound *Asset Management Plan* to maintain and fund critical infrastructure.

CONCLUSION

AMO has distributed the new 10-year CCBF Municipal Funding Agreement to municipalities for execution. This agreement dictates the future receipt and conditions of funding through this program. It is recommended that the County continue to participate in this program and enter into the provided agreement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) That The Corporation of the County of Lambton is hereby authorized to enter into the Municipal Funding Agreement (“Agreement”) with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario related to funding provided by the Government of Canada under the Canada Community-Building Fund, for a term commencing on April 1, 2024 and terminating on March 31, 2034.**
- b) That the Warden and Clerk be authorized to execute the Agreement and any other documents necessary to give effect to the Agreement.**
- c) That By-Law 22 of 2024 as presented be approved by Council.**

**MUNICIPAL FUNDING AGREEMENT
ON THE CANADA COMMUNITY-BUILDING FUND**

BETWEEN:

THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO

(referred to herein as “**AMO**”)

AND:

THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON

(a municipal corporation pursuant to the *Municipal Act, 2001*, referred to herein as the “**Recipient**”)

WHEREAS the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, AMO, and the City of Toronto are signatories to the Administrative Agreement on the Canada Community-Building Fund effective April 1, 2024 (the “**Administrative Agreement**”), which governs the transfer and use of the Canada Community-Building Fund (“**CCBF**”) in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS AMO is responsible for the administration of CCBF funding made available to all Municipalities in Ontario – except the City of Toronto – under the Administrative Agreement, and will therefore undertake (and require the Recipient to undertake) certain activities as set out in this Agreement;

AND WHEREAS the Recipient wishes to enter into this Agreement to access CCBF funding;

NOW THEREFORE the Parties agree as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

1.1 **Definitions.** For the purposes of this Agreement, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them below:

“Annual Report” means the duly completed report to be prepared and delivered to AMO as described in Section 6.1.

“Asset Management” is a principle/practice that includes planning processes, approaches, plans, or related documents that support an integrated lifecycle approach to the effective stewardship of infrastructure assets to maximize benefits and effectively manage risk.

“Canada” means the Government of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities.

“Canada Community-Building Fund” or “CCBF” means the program established under section 161 of the *Keeping Canada’s Economy and Jobs Growing Act*, S.C. 2011, c. 24 as amended by section 233 of the *Economic Action Plan 2013 Act, No. 1*, S.C. 2013, c. 33, as the Gas Tax Fund and renamed the Canada Community-Building Fund in section 199 of *Budget Implementation Act, 2021, No. 1*.

“Contract” means an agreement between the Recipient and a Third Party whereby the latter agrees to supply a product or service to an Eligible Project in return for financial consideration.

“Eligible Expenditure” means an expenditure described as eligible in Schedule B or deemed eligible by Canada in accordance with Section 4.2.

“Eligible Investment Category” means an investment category listed in Schedule A or deemed eligible by Canada in accordance with Section 3.2.

“Eligible Project” means a project that fits within an Eligible Investment Category.

“Event of Default” has the meaning given to it in Section 13.1 of this Agreement.

“Funds” mean the funds made available to the Recipient through the CCBF or any other source of funding as determined by Canada. Funds are made available pursuant to this Agreement and includes any interest earned on the said Funds. Funds transferred to another Municipality in accordance with Section 5.3 of this Agreement are to be treated as Funds by the Municipality to which the Funds are transferred; and Funds transferred to a non-municipal entity in accordance with Section 5.4 of this Agreement shall remain as Funds under this Agreement for all purposes and the Recipient shall continue to be bound by all provisions of this Agreement with respect to such transferred Funds.

“Housing Needs Assessment” or **“HNA”** means a report informed by data and research describing the current and future housing needs of a Municipality or community according to guidance provided by Canada.

“Ineligible Expenditures” means those expenditures described as ineligible in Schedule C or deemed ineligible by Canada in accordance with Section 4.2.

“Infrastructure” means tangible capital assets that are primarily for public use or benefit in Ontario – whether municipal or regional, and whether publicly or privately owned.

“Lower-Tier Municipality” means a Municipality that forms part of an Upper-Tier Municipality for municipal purposes, as defined under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25.

“Municipal Fiscal Year” means the period beginning January 1st of a year and ending December 31st of the same year.

“Municipality” and **“Municipalities”** means every municipality as defined under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25.

“Non-Municipal Transfer By-law” means a by-law passed by Council of the Recipient pursuant to Section 5.4 of this Agreement.

“Parties” means AMO and the Recipient.

“Prior Agreement” means the municipal funding agreement for the transfer of federal gas tax funds entered into by AMO and the Recipient, effective April 2014 and with an expiry date of March 31, 2024.

“Single-Tier Municipality” means a Municipality, other than an Upper-Tier Municipality, that does not form part of an Upper-Tier Municipality for municipal purposes, as defined under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001 c. 25.

“Third Party” means any person or legal entity, other than the Parties to this Agreement, who participates in the implementation of an Eligible Project by means of a Contract.

“Transfer By-law” means a by-law passed by Council of the Recipient pursuant to Section 5.3 of this Agreement.

“Unspent Funds” means the amount reported as unspent by the Recipient as of December 31, 2023 in the Recipient’s 2023 Annual Report (as defined under the Prior Agreement).

“Upper-Tier Municipality” means a Municipality of which two or more Lower-Tier Municipalities form part for municipal purposes, as defined under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001 c. 25.

1.2 Interpretations

- a) **“Agreement”** refers to this agreement as a whole, including the cover and execution pages and all of the schedules hereto, and all amendments made hereto in accordance with the provisions hereof.
- b) The words **“herein”**, **“hereof”** and **“hereunder”** and other words of similar import refer to this Agreement as a whole and not any particular schedule, article, section, paragraph or other subdivision of this Agreement.
- c) The term **“including”** or **“includes”** means including or includes (as applicable) without limitation or restriction.
- d) Any reference to a federal or provincial statute is to such statute and to the regulations made pursuant to such statute as such statute and regulations may at any time be amended or modified and in effect and to any statute or regulations that may be passed that have the effect of supplementing or superseding such statute or regulations.

2. TERM OF THE AGREEMENT

- 2.1 **Term.** Subject to any extension or termination of this Agreement or the survival of any of the provisions of this Agreement pursuant to the provisions contained herein, this Agreement shall come into effect as of April 1, 2024 up to and including March 31, 2034.
- 2.2 **Review.** This Agreement will be reviewed by AMO by June 30, 2027.
- 2.3 **Amendment.** This Agreement may be amended at any time in writing as agreed to by AMO and the Recipient.
- 2.4 **Notice.** Any of the Parties may terminate this Agreement on two (2) years written notice.
- 2.5 **Prior Agreement.** The Parties agree that the Prior Agreement, including Section 15.5 thereof, is hereby terminated. Notwithstanding the termination of the Prior Agreement, including Section 15.5, the reporting and indemnity obligations of the Recipient thereunder with respect to expended Funds governed by the Prior Agreement as set forth in Sections 5, 7, 10.3, 10.4 and 10.5 of the Prior Agreement shall survive the said termination.

3. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- 3.1 **Eligible Projects.** Eligible Projects are those that fit within an Eligible Investment Category. Eligible Investment Categories are listed in Schedule A.
- 3.2 **Discretion of Canada.** The eligibility of any investment category not listed in Schedule A is solely at the discretion of Canada.
- 3.3 **Recipient Fully Responsible.** The Recipient is fully responsible for the completion of each Eligible Project in accordance with Schedule A and Schedule B.

4. ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

- 4.1 **Eligible Expenditures and Ineligible Expenditures.** Eligible Expenditures are described in Schedule B. Ineligible Expenditures are described in Schedule C.
- 4.2 **Discretion of Canada.** The eligibility of any item not listed in Schedule B or Schedule C to this Agreement is solely at the discretion of Canada.
- 4.3 **Reasonable Access.** The Recipient shall allow AMO and Canada reasonable and timely access to all documentation, records and accounts and those of their respective agents or Third Parties related to the receipt, deposit and use of Funds and Unspent Funds, and any interest earned thereon, and all other relevant information and documentation requested by AMO or Canada or their respective designated representatives for the purposes of audit, evaluation, and ensuring compliance with this Agreement.
- 4.4 **Retention of Receipts.** The Recipient will keep proper and accurate accounts and records of all Eligible Projects including invoices and receipts for Eligible Expenditures for at least six (6) years after the completion of the project.
- 4.5 **Contracts.** The Recipient will award and manage all Contracts in accordance with its relevant policies and procedures and, if applicable, in accordance with any domestic or international trade agreements, and all other applicable laws. The Recipient will ensure any of its Contracts for the supply of services or materials to implement its responsibilities under this Agreement will be awarded in a way that is transparent, competitive, consistent with value for money principles and pursuant to its adopted procurement policy.

5. FUNDS

- 5.1 **Use of Funds.** The Recipient acknowledges and agrees the Funds are intended for and shall be used only for Eligible Expenditures in respect of Eligible Projects.

- 5.2 **Unspent Funds.** Any Unspent Funds, and any interest earned thereon, will be subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, and will no longer be governed by the terms and conditions of the Prior Agreement.
- 5.3 **Transfer of Funds to a Municipality.** Where a Recipient decides to allocate and transfer Funds to another Municipality (the “Transferee Municipality”):
- a) The allocation and transfer shall be authorized by a Transfer By-law. The Transfer By-law shall be passed by the Recipient’s council and submitted to AMO as soon thereafter as practicable. The Transfer By-law shall identify the Transferee Municipality and the amount of Funds the Transferee Municipality is to receive for the Municipal Fiscal Year(s) specified in the Transfer By-law.
 - b) The Recipient is still required to submit an Annual Report in accordance with Section 6.1 hereof with respect to the Funds transferred.
 - c) No transfer of Funds pursuant to this Section 5.3 shall be effected unless and until the Transferee Municipality has either (i) entered into an agreement with AMO on substantially the same terms as this Agreement, or (ii) has executed and delivered to AMO a written undertaking to assume all of the Recipient’s obligations under this Agreement with respect to the Funds transferred, such as undertaking in a form satisfactory to AMO.
- 5.4 **Transfer of Funds to a Non-Municipal Entity.** Where a Recipient decides to support an Eligible Project undertaken by a non-municipal entity (whether a for profit, non-governmental, or not-for profit organization):
- a) The provision of such support shall be authorized by a Transfer By-law (a “Non-Municipal Transfer By-law”). The Non-Municipal Transfer By-law shall be passed by the Recipient’s council and submitted to AMO as soon as practicable thereafter. The Non-Municipal Transfer By-law shall identify the non-municipal entity, and the amount of Funds the non-municipal entity is to receive for that Eligible Project.
 - b) The Recipient shall continue to be bound by all the provisions of this Agreement notwithstanding any such transfer.
 - c) No transfer of Funds pursuant to this Section 5.4 shall be effected unless and until the non-municipal entity receiving the Funds has executed and delivered to AMO a written undertaking to assume all of the Recipient’s obligations under this Agreement with respect to the Funds transferred, in a form exclusively satisfactory to AMO.
- 5.5 **Payout of Funds.** Subject to Sections 5.14 and 5.15, AMO will transfer Funds twice yearly, on or before the dates agreed upon by Canada and AMO.

- 5.6 **Deposit of Funds.** The Recipient will deposit the Funds in:
- a) An interest-bearing bank account; or
 - b) An investment permitted under:
 - i. The Recipient's investment policy; and
 - ii. Provincial legislation and regulation.
- 5.7 **Interest Earnings and Investment Gains.** Interest earnings and investment gains will be:
- Proportionately allocated to the CCBF when applicable; and
 - Applied to Eligible Expenditures for Eligible Projects.
- 5.8 **Funds Advanced.** Funds shall be spent (in accordance with Sections 3 and 4) or transferred (in accordance with Sections 5.3 or 5.4) within five (5) years after the end of the year in which Funds were received. Unexpended Funds shall not be retained beyond such five (5) year period without the documented consent of AMO. AMO reserves the right to declare that unexpended Funds after five (5) years become a debt to Canada which the Recipient will reimburse forthwith on demand to AMO for transmission to Canada.
- 5.9 **Expenditure of Funds.** The Recipient shall expend all Funds by December 31, 2038.
- 5.10 **HST.** The use of Funds is based on the net amount of harmonized sales tax to be paid by the Recipient net of any applicable tax rebates.
- 5.11 **Limit on Canada's Financial Commitments.** The Recipient may use Funds to pay up to one hundred percent (100%) of Eligible Expenditures of an Eligible Project.
- 5.12 **Federal Funds.** The Recipient agrees that any Funds received will be treated as "federal funds" for the purpose of other federal infrastructure programs.
- 5.13 **Stacking.** If the Recipient is receiving federal funds under other federal infrastructure programs in respect of an Eligible Project to which the Recipient wishes to apply Funds, the maximum federal contribution limitation set out in any other federal infrastructure program agreement made in respect of that Eligible Project shall continue to apply.
- 5.14 **Withholding Payment.** AMO may, in its exclusive discretion, withhold Funds where the Recipient is in default of compliance with any provisions of this Agreement.
- 5.15 **Insufficient Funds Provided by Canada.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 2, if Canada does not provide sufficient funds to continue the Funds for any Municipal

Fiscal Year during which this Agreement is in effect, AMO may immediately terminate this Agreement on written notice to the Recipient.

6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- 6.1 **Annual Report.** The Recipient shall submit a report to AMO by April 30th each year, or as otherwise notified by AMO. The report shall be submitted in an electronic format deemed acceptable by AMO and shall contain the information described in Schedule D.
- 6.2 **Project List.** The Recipient shall ensure that projects are reported in advance of construction. Information required is as noted in Section 2.3 of Schedule E.

7. ASSET MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 **Implementation of Asset Management.** The Recipient will develop and implement an Asset Management plan, culture, and methodology in accordance with legislation and regulation established by the Government of Ontario (e.g., O. Reg. 588/17).
- 7.2 **Asset Data.** The Recipient will continue to improve data describing the condition of, long-term cost of, levels of service provided by, and risks associated with infrastructure assets.

8. HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 **Requirement.** While an HNA is encouraged for all Municipalities, the Recipient must complete a HNA if it had a population of 30,000 or more on the 2021 Census of Canada and is a Single-Tier Municipality or a Lower-Tier Municipality.
- 8.2 **Content of the HNA.** The Recipient will prepare the HNA in accordance with the guidance provided from time to time by Canada.
- 8.3 **Use of HNA.** The Recipient is expected to prioritize projects that support the growth of the housing supply. The HNA is to be used by Municipalities to prioritize, where possible, Infrastructure or capacity building projects that support increased housing supply where it makes sense to do so.
- 8.4 **Publication of the HNA.** The Recipient will publish the HNA on its website.
- 8.5 **HNA reporting requirements.** The Recipient will send to AMO by March 31, 2025, unless otherwise agreed upon:
 - a) A copy of any HNA it is required to complete in accordance with Section 8.1; and

- b) The URL to the published HNA on the Recipient's website.

9. COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS

- 9.1 The Recipient will comply with all communication requirements outlined in Schedule E.

10. RECORDS AND AUDIT

- 10.1 **Accounting Principles.** All accounting terms not otherwise defined herein have the meanings assigned to them; all calculations will be made and all financial data to be submitted will be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") in effect in Ontario. GAAP will include, without limitation, those principles approved or recommended for local governments from time to time by the Public Sector Accounting Board or the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada or any successor institute, applied on a consistent basis.
- 10.2 **Separate Records.** The Recipient shall maintain separate records and documentation for the Funds and keep all records including invoices, statements, receipts, and vouchers in respect of Funds expended on Eligible Projects in accordance with the Recipient's municipal records retention by-law. Upon reasonable notice by AMO or Canada, the Recipient shall submit all records and documentation relating to the Funds for inspection or audit.
- 10.3 **External Auditor.** AMO or Canada may request, upon written notice to Recipient, an audit of Eligible Project(s) or Annual Report(s). AMO shall retain an external auditor to carry out an audit and ensure that any auditor who conducts an audit pursuant to this Agreement or otherwise, provides a copy of the audit report to the Recipient.

11. INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY

- 11.1 **Insurance.** The Recipient shall put in effect and maintain in full force and effect or cause to be put into effect and maintained for the term of this Agreement all the necessary insurance with respect to each Eligible Project, including any Eligible Projects with respect to which the Recipient has transferred Funds pursuant to Section 5 of this Agreement, that would be considered appropriate for a prudent Municipality undertaking similar Eligible Projects, including, where appropriate and without limitation, property, construction, and liability insurance, which insurance coverage shall identify Canada and AMO as additional insureds for the purposes of the Eligible Projects.
- 11.2 **Certificates of Insurance.** Throughout the term of this Agreement, the Recipient shall have a valid certificate of insurance that confirms compliance with the requirements

of Section 11.1. The Recipient shall produce such certificate of insurance on request, including as part of any AMO or Canada audit.

11.3 **AMO Not Liable.** In no event shall Canada or AMO be liable for:

- Any bodily injury, death or property damages to the Recipient, its employees, agents, or consultants or for any claim, demand or action by any Third Party against the Recipient, its employees, agents, or consultants, arising out of or in any way related to this Agreement; or
- Any incidental, indirect, special, or consequential damages, or any loss of use, revenue or profit to the Recipient, its employees, agents, or consultants arising out of any or in any way related to this Agreement.

11.4 **Recipient to Compensate Canada.** The Recipient will ensure that it will not, at any time, hold the Government of Canada, its officers, servants, employees or agents responsible for any claims or losses of any kind that the Recipient, Third Parties or any other person or entity may suffer in relation to any matter related to the Funds or an Eligible Project and that the Recipient will, at all times, compensate Canada, its officers, servants, employees and agents for any claims or losses of any kind that any of them may suffer in relation to any matter related to CCBF funding or an Eligible Project.

11.5 **Recipient to Indemnify AMO.** The Recipient hereby agrees to indemnify and hold harmless AMO, its officers, servants, employees or agents (each of which is called an “**Indemnatee**”), from and against all claims, losses, damages, liabilities and related expenses including the fees, charges and disbursements of any counsel for any Indemnatee incurred by any Indemnatee or asserted against any Indemnatee by whomsoever brought or prosecuted in any manner based upon, or occasioned by, any injury to persons, damage to or loss or destruction of property, economic loss or infringement of rights caused by or arising directly or indirectly from:

- The Funds;
- The Recipient’s Eligible Projects, including the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and repair of any part or all of the Eligible Projects;
- The performance of this Agreement or the breach of any term or condition of this Agreement by the Recipient, its officers, servants, employees, and agents, or by a Third Party, its officers, servants, employees, or agents; and
- Any omission or other wilful or negligent act of the Recipient or Third Party and their respective officers, servants, employees, or agents.

12. TRANSFER AND OPERATION OF MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- 12.1 **Reinvestment.** The Recipient will invest into Eligible Projects, any revenue that is generated from the sale, lease, encumbrance, or other disposal of an asset resulting from an Eligible Project where such disposal takes place within five (5) years of the date of completion of the Eligible Project.
- 12.2 **Notice.** The Recipient shall notify AMO in writing 120 days in advance and at any time during the five (5) years following the date of completion of an Eligible Project if it is sold, leased, encumbered, or otherwise disposed of.
- 12.3 **Public Use.** The Recipient will ensure that Infrastructure resulting from any Eligible Project that is not sold, leased, encumbered, or otherwise disposed of, remains primarily for public use or benefit.

13. DEFAULT AND TERMINATION

- 13.1 **Event of Default.** AMO may declare in writing that an Event of Default has occurred when the Recipient has not complied with any condition, undertaking or term in this Agreement. AMO will not declare in writing that an Event of Default has occurred unless it has first consulted with the Recipient. For the purposes of this Agreement, each of the following events shall constitute an “Event of Default”:
- Failure by the Recipient to deliver in a timely manner an Annual Report or respond to questionnaires or reports as required;
 - Delivery of an Annual Report that discloses non-compliance with any condition, undertaking or material term in this Agreement;
 - Failure by the Recipient to co-operate in an external audit undertaken by Canada, AMO or their agents;
 - Delivery of an external audit report that discloses non-compliance with any condition, undertaking or term in this Agreement; and
 - Failure by the Recipient to expend Funds in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, including Section 5.8.
- 13.2 **Waiver.** AMO may withdraw its notice of an Event of Default if the Recipient, within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the notice, either corrects the default or demonstrates, to the satisfaction of AMO in its sole discretion that it has taken such steps as are necessary to correct the default.
- 13.3 **Remedies on Default.** If AMO declares that an Event of Default has occurred under Section 13.1, after thirty (30) calendar days from the Recipient’s receipt of the notice

of an Event of Default, it may immediately terminate this Agreement or suspend its obligation to pay the Funds. If AMO suspends payment, it may pay suspended Funds if AMO is satisfied that the default has been cured.

- 13.4 **Repayment of Funds.** If AMO declares that an Event of Default has not been cured to its exclusive satisfaction, AMO reserves the right to declare that prior payments of Funds become a debt to Canada which the Recipient will reimburse forthwith on demand to AMO for transmission to Canada.

14. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 14.1 **No Conflict of Interest.** The Recipient will ensure that no current member of the AMO Board of Directors and no current or former public servant or office holder to whom any post-employment, ethics and conflict of interest legislation, guidelines, codes or policies of Canada applies will derive direct benefit from the Funds, the Unspent Funds, and any interest earned thereon, unless the provision of receipt of such benefits is in compliance with such legislation, guidelines, policies or codes.

15. NOTICE

- 15.1 **Notice.** Any notice, information or document provided for under this Agreement will be effectively given if in writing and if delivered by hand, or overnight courier, mailed, postage or other charges prepaid, or sent by email to the addresses in Section 15.3. Any notice that is sent by hand or overnight courier service shall be deemed to have been given when received; any notice mailed shall be deemed to have been received on the eighth (8) calendar day following the day on which it was mailed; any notice sent by email shall be deemed to have been received on the sender's receipt of an acknowledgment from the intended recipient (such as by the "return receipt requested" function, as available, return email or other written acknowledgment), provided that in the case of a notice sent by email, if it is not given on a business day before 4:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, it shall be deemed to have been given at 8:30 a.m. on the next business day for the recipient.
- 15.2 **Representatives.** The individuals identified in Section 15.3 of this Agreement, in the first instance, act as AMO's or the Recipient's, as the case may be, representative for the purpose of implementing this Agreement.
- 15.3 **Addresses for Notice.** Further to Section 15.1 of this Agreement, notice can be given at the following addresses:

- If to AMO:

Executive Director
Canada Community-Building Fund Agreement
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
155 University Avenue, Suite 800
Toronto, ON M5H 3B7

Telephone: 416-971-9856
Email: ccbf@amo.on.ca

- If to the Recipient:

Treasurer
The County of Lambton
789 Broadway St., Box 3000
Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0

16. MISCELLANEOUS

- 16.1 **Counterpart Signature.** This Agreement may be signed (including by electronic signature) and delivered (including by facsimile transmission, by email in PDF or similar format or using an online contracting service designated by AMO) in counterparts, and each signed and delivered counterpart will be deemed an original and both counterparts will together constitute one and the same document.
- 16.2 **Severability.** If for any reason a provision of this Agreement that is not a fundamental term is found to be or becomes invalid or unenforceable, in whole or in part, it will be deemed to be severable and will be deleted from this Agreement, but all the other terms and conditions of this Agreement will continue to be valid and enforceable.
- 16.3 **Waiver.** AMO may waive any right in this Agreement only in writing, and any tolerance or indulgence demonstrated by AMO will not constitute waiver of rights in this Agreement. Unless a waiver is executed in writing, AMO will be entitled to seek any remedy that it may have under this Agreement or under the law.
- 16.4 **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario and the laws of Canada applicable in Ontario.
- 16.5 **Survival.** The Recipient agrees that the following sections and provisions of this Agreement shall extend for seven (7) years beyond the expiration or termination of this Agreement: Sections 4, 5.8, 5.9, 6.1, 11.4, 11.5, 12, 13.4 and 16.8.
- 16.6 **AMO, Canada and Recipient Independent.** The Recipient will ensure its actions do not establish or will not be deemed to establish a partnership, joint venture, principal-

agent relationship, or employer-employee relationship in any way or for any purpose whatsoever between Canada and the Recipient, between AMO and the Recipient, between Canada and a Third Party or between AMO and a Third Party.

- 16.7 **No Authority to Represent.** The Recipient will ensure that it does not represent itself, including in any agreement with a Third Party, as a partner, employee, or agent of Canada or AMO.
- 16.8 **Debts Due to AMO.** Any amount owed under this Agreement will constitute a debt due to AMO, which the Recipient will reimburse forthwith, on demand, to AMO.
- 16.9 **Priority.** In the event of a conflict, the part of this Agreement that precedes the signature of the Parties will take precedence over the Schedules.
- 16.10 **Complementarity.** The Recipient is to use the CCBF to complement, without replacing or displacing, other sources of funding for municipal infrastructure.
- 16.11 **Equity.** The Recipient is to consider Gender Based Analysis Plus (“**GBA+**”) lenses when undertaking a project.

17. SCHEDULES

17.1 This Agreement, including:

Schedule A	Eligible Investment Categories
Schedule B	Eligible Expenditures
Schedule C	Ineligible Expenditures
Schedule D	The Annual Report
Schedule E	Communications Requirements

constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter contained in this Agreement and supersedes all prior oral or written representations and agreements.

18. SIGNATURES

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, AMO and the Recipient have respectively executed, and delivered this Agreement, effective April 1, 2024.

THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON

By: _____
Name: _____ Date _____
Title: _____

Name: _____ Date _____
Title: _____

THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO

By: _____
Name: _____ Date _____
Title: Executive Director

Witness: _____ Date _____
Title: _____

**SCHEDULE A:
ELIGIBLE INVESTMENT CATEGORIES**

1. **Broadband connectivity** – investments in the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of infrastructure that provides internet access to residents, businesses, and/or institutions in Canadian communities.
2. **Brownfield redevelopment** – investments in the remediation or decontamination of a brownfield site within municipal boundaries – provided that the site is being redeveloped to construct a public park for municipal use, publicly owned social housing, or Infrastructure eligible under another investment category listed in this schedule.
3. **Capacity-building** – investments that strengthen the Recipient’s ability to develop long-term planning practices as described in Schedule B, item 2.
4. **Community energy systems** – investments in the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of infrastructure that generates energy or increases energy efficiency.
5. **Cultural infrastructure** – investments in the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of infrastructure that supports the arts, humanities, or heritage.
6. **Drinking water** – investments in the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of infrastructure that supports drinking water conservation, collection, treatment, and distribution systems.
7. **Fire halls** – investments in the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of fire halls and fire station infrastructure.
8. **Local roads and bridges** – investments in the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of roads, bridges, tunnels, highways, and active transportation infrastructure.
9. **Public transit** – investments in the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of infrastructure that supports a shared passenger transport system that is available for public use.
10. **Recreational infrastructure** – investments in the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of recreational facilities or networks.
11. **Regional and local airports** – investments in the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of airport-related infrastructure (excluding infrastructure in the National Airports System).
12. **Resilience** – investments in the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of built and natural infrastructure assets and systems that protect and strengthen the resilience

of communities and withstand and sustain service in the face of climate change, natural disasters, and extreme weather events.

13. **Short-line rail** – investments in the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of railway-related infrastructure for carriage of passengers or freight.
14. **Short-sea shipping** – investments in the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of infrastructure related to the movement of cargo and passengers around the coast and on inland waterways, without directly crossing an ocean.
15. **Solid waste** – investments in the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of infrastructure that supports solid waste management systems (including the collection, diversion, and disposal of recyclables, compostable materials, and garbage).
16. **Sport infrastructure** – investments in the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of amateur sport infrastructure (facilities housing professional or semi-professional sports teams are ineligible).
17. **Tourism infrastructure** – investments in the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of infrastructure that attracts travelers for recreation, leisure, business, or other purposes.
18. **Wastewater** – investments in the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of infrastructure that supports wastewater and storm water collection, treatment, and management systems.

Note: Investments in health infrastructure (e.g., hospitals, long-term care facilities, convalescent centres, and senior centres) are not eligible.

**SCHEDULE B:
ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES**

Eligible Expenditures will be limited to the following:

1. **Infrastructure investments** – expenditures associated with acquiring, planning, designing, constructing, or renovating a tangible capital asset and any related debt financing charges specifically identified with that asset.
2. **Capacity-building costs** – for projects eligible under the capacity-building category only, expenditures associated with the development and implementation of:
 - Capital investment plans, integrated community sustainability plans, integrated regional plans, housing needs assessments, or asset management plans;
 - Studies, strategies, systems, software, third-party assessments, plans, or training related to asset management;
 - Studies, strategies, systems, or plans related to housing or land use;
 - Studies, strategies, or plans related to the long-term management of infrastructure; and
 - Other initiatives that strengthen the Recipient's ability to improve local and regional planning.
3. **Joint communications and signage costs** – expenditures directly associated with joint federal communication activities and with federal project signage.
4. **Employee costs** – the costs of the Recipient's employees for projects eligible under the capacity-building category only – provided that the costs, on an annual basis, do not exceed the lesser of:
 - 40% of the Recipient's annual allocation (i.e., the amount of CCBF funding made available to the Recipient by AMO under Section 5.5 of this Agreement); or
 - \$80,000.

**SCHEDULE C:
INELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES**

The following are deemed Ineligible Expenditures:

1. **Costs incurred before the Fund was established** – project expenditures incurred before April 1, 2005.
2. **Costs incurred before categories were eligible** – project expenditures incurred:
 - Before April 1, 2014 – under the broadband connectivity, brownfield redevelopment, cultural infrastructure, disaster mitigation (now resilience), recreational infrastructure, regional and local airports, short-line rail, short-sea shipping, sport infrastructure, and tourism infrastructure categories; and.
 - Before April 1, 2021 – under the fire halls category.
3. **Internal costs** – the Recipient’s overhead costs (including salaries and other employment benefits), operating or administrative costs (related to planning, engineering, architecture, supervision, management, and other activities normally carried out by the Recipient’s staff), and equipment leasing costs – except in accordance with Eligible Expenditures described in Schedule B.
4. **Rebated costs** – taxes for which the Recipient is eligible for a tax rebate and all other costs eligible for rebates.
5. **Land costs** – the purchase of land or any interest therein and related costs.
6. **Legal fees.**
7. **Routine repair or maintenance costs** – costs that do not result in the construction, material enhancement, or renewal of a tangible capital asset.
8. **Investments in health infrastructure** – costs associated with health infrastructure or assets (e.g., hospitals, long-term care facilities, convalescent centres, and senior centres).
9. **Investments in professional or semi-professional sports facilities** – costs associated with facilities used by professional or semi-professional sports teams.

**SCHEDULE D:
ANNUAL REPORT**

The Annual Report may include – but is not necessarily limited to – the following information pertaining to the previous fiscal year:

1. **Financial information** – and particularly:
 - Interest earnings and investment gains – in accordance with Section 5.7;
 - Proceeds from the disposal of assets – in accordance with Section 12.1;
 - Outgoing transfers – in accordance with Sections 5.3 and 5.4;
 - Incoming transfers – in accordance with Section 5.3; and
 - Amounts paid – in aggregate for Eligible Expenditures on each Eligible Project.
2. **Project information** – describing each Eligible Project that started, ended, or was ongoing in the reporting year.
3. **Results** – and particularly:
 - Expected outputs and outcomes for each ongoing Eligible Project;
 - Outputs generated and outcomes achieved for each Eligible Project that ended construction in the reporting year; and
 - Housing outcomes resulting from each Eligible Project that ended construction in the reporting year, and specifically:
 - i. The number of housing units enabled, supported, or preserved; and
 - ii. The number of affordable housing units enabled, supported, or preserved.
4. **Other information** – such as:
 - Progress made in the development and implementation of asset management plans and systems; and
 - The impact of the CCBF on housing pressures tied to infrastructure gaps, the housing supply, and housing affordability.

**SCHEDULE E:
COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS**

1. COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES

- 1.1 **Scope.** The provisions of this Schedule apply to all communications activities related to any Funds and Eligible Projects.
- 1.2 **Definition.** Communications activities may include (but are not limited to) public or media events, news releases, reports, web articles, blogs, project signs, digital signs, publications, success stories and vignettes, photo compilations, videos, advertising campaigns, awareness campaigns, editorials, award programs, and multi-media products.

2. INFORMATION SHARING REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 **Notification requirements.** The Recipient must report all active Eligible Projects to AMO in advance of construction each year. Reports must be submitted in an electronic format deemed acceptable by AMO.
- 2.2 **Active Eligible Projects.** Active Eligible Projects are those Eligible Projects that either begin in the current calendar year or are ongoing in the current calendar year.
- 2.3 **Information required.** The report must include, at a minimum, the name, category, description, expected outcomes, anticipated CCBF contribution, anticipated start date, and anticipated end date of each active Eligible Project.

3. PROJECT SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 **Installation requirements.** Unless otherwise approved by Canada, the Recipient must install a federal sign to recognize federal funding for each Eligible Project in accordance with design, content, and installation guidelines provided by Canada.
- 3.2 **Permanent signs, plaques, and markers.** Permanent signage, plaques, and markers recognizing municipal or provincial contributions to an Eligible Project must also recognize the federal contribution and must be approved by Canada.
- 3.3 **Responsibilities.** The Recipient is responsible for the production and installation of Eligible Project signage in accordance with Section 3 of this Schedule E, except as otherwise agreed upon.
- 3.4 **Reporting requirements.** The Recipient must inform AMO of signage installations in a manner determined by AMO.

4. DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 **Social media.** AMO maintains accounts dedicated to the CCBF on several social media networks. The Recipient must @mention the relevant account when producing content that promotes or communicates progress on one or more Eligible Projects. AMO's CCBF-dedicated social media accounts are identified on www.buildingcommunities.ca.
- 4.2 **Websites and webpages.** Websites and webpages created to promote or communicate progress on one or more Eligible Projects must recognize federal funding using either:
- a) A digital sign; or
 - b) The Canada wordmark and the following wording (as applicable):
 - i. "This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada"; or
 - ii. "This project is funded by the Government of Canada".

The Canada wordmark or digital sign must link to www.infrastructure.gc.ca. Guidelines describing how this recognition is to appear and language requirements are posted at <http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/pub/signage-panneaux/intro-eng.html>.

5. REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDIA EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 5.1 **Definitions.** Media events and announcements include, but are not limited to, news conferences, public announcements, and the issuing of news releases to communicate the funding of Eligible Projects or achievement of key milestones (such as groundbreaking ceremonies, grand openings, and completions).
- 5.2 **Authority.** Canada, AMO, or the Recipient may request a media event or announcement.
- 5.3 **Notification requirements.** Media events and announcements must not proceed without the prior knowledge and agreement of AMO, Canada, and the Recipient.
- 5.4 **Notice.** The requester of a media event or announcement must provide at least fifteen (15) business days' notice to other parties of their intention to undertake such an event or announcement. If communications are proposed through a news release with no supporting event, Canada additionally requires five (5) business days with the draft news release to secure approvals and confirm the federal representative's quote.
- 5.5 **Date and location.** Media events and announcements must take place at a date and location that is mutually agreed to by the Recipient, AMO and Canada.

- 5.6 **Representatives.** The Recipient, AMO, and Canada will have the opportunity to participate in media events and announcements through a designated representative. Each Party will choose its own designated representative.
- 5.7 **Responsibilities.** AMO and the Recipient are responsible for coordinating all onsite logistics for media events and announcements unless otherwise agreed on.
- 5.8 **No unreasonable delay.** The Recipient must not unreasonably delay media events and announcements.
- 5.9 **Precedence.** The conduct of all joint media events, announcements, and supporting communications materials (e.g., news releases, media advisories) will follow the [Table of Precedence for Canada](#).
- 5.10 **Federal approval.** All joint communications material related to media events and announcements must be approved by Canada and recognize the funding of all contributors.
- 5.11 **Federal policies.** All joint communications material must reflect Canada's Policy on Official Languages and the Policy on Communications and Federal Identity.
- 5.12 **Equal visibility.** The Recipient, Canada, and AMO will have equal visibility in all communications activities.

6. PROGRAM COMMUNICATIONS

- 6.1 **Own communications activities.** The Recipient may include messaging in its own communications products and activities with regards to the use of Funds.
- 6.2 **Funding acknowledgements.** The Recipient must recognize the funding of all contributors when undertaking such activities.

7. OPERATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

- 7.1 **Responsibilities.** The Recipient is solely responsible for operational communications with respect to the Eligible Projects, including but not limited to, calls for tender, construction, and public safety notices. Operational communications as described above are not subject to the federal official languages policy.
- 7.2 **Federal funding acknowledgement.** Operational communications should include, where appropriate, the following statement (as appropriate):
 - a) "This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada"; or
 - b) "This project is funded by the Government of Canada".


- 7.3 **Notification requirements.** The Recipient must share information promptly with AMO should significant emerging media or stakeholder issues relating to an Eligible Project arise. AMO will advise the Recipient, when appropriate, about media inquiries received concerning an Eligible Project.

8. COMMUNICATING SUCCESS STORIES

- 8.1 **Participation requirements.** The Recipient must work with Canada and AMO when asked to collaborate on communications activities – including, but not limited to, Eligible Project success stories (including positive impacts on housing), Eligible Project vignettes, and Eligible Project start-to-finish features.

9. ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS

- 9.1 **Responsibilities.** The Recipient may, at its own cost, organize an advertising or public information campaign related to the use of the Funds or Eligible Projects, provided that the campaign respects the provisions of this Agreement.
- 9.2 **Notice.** The Recipient must inform Canada and AMO of its intention to organize a campaign no less than twenty-one (21) working days prior to the launch of the campaign.

 <p style="text-align: center;">CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION
PREPARED BY:	Andrew Meyer, General Manager, Cultural Services / Deputy CAO Jason Cole, General Manager, Infrastructure & Development Services
REVIEWED BY:	Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	September 4, 2024
SUBJECT:	County of Lambton Land Stewardship Program

BACKGROUND

In September of 2023, County Council provided direction to staff to develop an internal staff working group to guide the development of a Climate Change Strategy for the Corporation. At the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 19, 2024, County Council received the *County of Lambton Corporate Climate Change Strategy* (the “**Strategy**”) for its consideration, resulting in the following motion:

#9: Cook/Miller: That the Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Strategy attached hereto be adopted.

Carried.

The Strategy focuses on measuring corporate greenhouse gas (“**GHG**”) emissions each year and monitoring and reporting on reduction progress. The Strategy also identifies actions within each County Division/Department to build on the success of existing efforts to overcome climate-related challenges and reasonably reduce the County’s environmental impact, including GHG emissions, in its operations.

The development of the Strategy included consultation with representatives of St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (“**SCRCA**”) and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (“**ABCA**”), including a review and discussion regarding the climate change planning priorities for each. The internal climate change working group also engaged with the County of Huron to learn from their recent experience with the development and implementation of a Corporate Climate Change Strategy and the corporate policies and programs Huron has established supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation.

DISCUSSION

Through the consultation with SCRCA, ABCA and Huron County, the internal working group was made aware of the *Huron Clean Water Project*, a program that provides financial and technical assistance to Huron County residents to improve and protect water quality in Huron County. The County of Huron provides funds to support the program, and service delivery is provided by Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley conservation authorities. Funding from the County of Huron is combined with other cost-share programs and landowner contributions and used to implement various stewardship projects that aim to protect water quality on Huron County farms and rural properties, and reduce impacts to the water quality of watercourses draining into Lake Huron. Since 2004, Huron County residents have completed more than 3,865 stewardship projects with funding from the Clean Water Project. The total value of past projects completed is more than \$16.3 million, supported by \$4.6 million in Huron Clean Water Project funding. The funds leveraged demonstrate the return on investment for the program, providing both environmental benefit and significant economic impact. More information about the Huron Clean Water Project can be found at the following website: [Huron Clean Water Project](#).

The success of this long-standing program in Huron County helped to shape Strategic Direction 4 (Development of Agriculture, Resources and Tourism) of the *County of Lambton Corporate Climate Change Strategy*, which outlines actions to leverage County lands and partnerships with agriculture and rural communities to naturalize areas and support land stewardship projects.

Among the specific actions adopted as part of the Strategy, Action 4.1 reads as follows:

“Work in collaboration with the SCRCA, ABCA and the County of Lambton’s Agricultural Advisory Committee (“CLAAC”), to investigate an annual County grant program to support land stewardship among farmers and landowners for the consideration of County Council (emulating the Huron Clean Water Project). Develop programs to enhance and encourage land stewardship”.

In an effort to advance this action item, County staff have worked in collaboration with SCRCA, ABCA and Huron County staff to explore options for a similar funding program to be implemented in Lambton County, with the support of external funding sources.

The proposed program would provide an annual contribution of grant funding to landowners to help offset the cost of implementing land stewardship projects. Funding requests will be considered for projects that align with the SCRCA and ABCA conservation goals within their respective watersheds/jurisdictions including:

- Rural stormwater management and wetland management plans
- Community projects (tree planting)
- Well decommissioning
- Cover crop incentive

- Forest management plans and woodlot enhancement
- Wetland restoration incentive programs (including phragmites management)
- Erosion control
- Living snow fences, windbreaks, riparian buffers, and woodlot expansion/increasing wildlife habitat connectivity

These project types were selected for their ability to mitigate the impacts of climate change locally, build soil resiliency, reduce agricultural and rural impacts to water quality, and reduce financial barriers to project adoption and uptake.

While the eligibility criteria and program guidelines have yet to be established (subject to Council's direction to proceed), in an effort to minimize the demand on County resources, the grant program could be managed through established SCRCA/ABCA Project Review Committees that evaluate the overall environmental benefit/impact of each stewardship project and determine funding allocations to individual projects. The intention is to initiate a Lambton County Land Stewardship program as a pilot in 2025, allocating \$85,000 in grant contributions to landowners with the support of external funding sources (as outlined below in the Financial Implications section of this report). This allocation is comparable to the annual contribution to the Creative County Grant Program (\$75,000) offered by Lambton County, and like this established program, the intention would be to provide matching grants to landowners of up to 50% (to a maximum of \$10,000) to leverage private investment and additional funding as needed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost implications of the proposed Lambton County Land Stewardship Program are identified at \$100,000 (\$85,000 for grant allocation, \$10,000 for administrative costs, and \$5,000 for program promotion and community engagement related expenses) for the initial pilot year of the program, with the intention to pursue external funding sources. The Province of Ontario recently announced a call for applications through the Great Lakes Local Action Fund (“**GLLAF**”). Funding supports local scale projects that engage community members in protecting and/or restoring the Great Lakes and/or their connecting rivers, improve climate change resiliency through ecosystem protection and restoration, and protect and improve water quality through prevention, mitigation and public awareness. GLLAF can provide 100% funding in support of projects up to \$100,000, occurring between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025.

The deadline for applications to this program is September 26, 2024. This report is seeking Council's direction to proceed with an application to support the initial year of a Lambton County Land Stewardship Program. Subject to direction from County Council, it is the recommendation of staff to request the maximum contribution amount of \$100,000 to support the initial funding year as a pilot project in Lambton County. If the project is not supported through the GLLAF program, staff would defer the establishment of the Lambton County Land Stewardship Program to 2025 budget deliberations, and identify an appropriate funding source (such as established reserves, levy or a combination thereof) for the consideration of Council.

After the first year, staff would work with the SCRCA and ABCA to evaluate the success of the program and make a recommendation to council regarding its continuation and potential funding options.

CONSULTATIONS

The Lambton County Land Stewardship Program was developed through consultation with the Climate Change Working Group, as well as external consultation with representatives of St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. The group also engaged with the County of Huron to learn from their experience with the development and implementation of a similar program that provides financial and technical assistance to Huron County residents to improve and protect water quality and mitigate impacts of climate change.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The development of a Lambton County Land Stewardship Program aligns with the County of Lambton mission statement and the strategic plan outcome related to *Environmental Stewardship: practicing sound environmental principles that are transferable from one generation to the next and that promote and protect local waterways, shorelines, marshes, agricultural lands, and other components of the natural environment.*

The development of a Land Stewardship Program also aligns with the Lambton County Strategic Plan Area of Effort related to *Corporate Sustainability*, and specifically addresses Strategic action (4.1) of Lambton County Climate Change Strategy.

CONCLUSION

As an outcome of the recently adopted *County of Lambton Corporate Climate Change Strategy*, staff have worked in collaboration with the SCRCA, ABCA and the County of Lambton's Agricultural Advisory Committee to investigate an annual County grant program to support land stewardship among farmers and landowners for the consideration of County Council.

The proposed program, to be supported in its initial pilot year through external funding sources, would provide an annual contribution of grant funding to landowners to help offset the cost of implementing land stewardship projects. Funding requests would be considered for projects that align with the SCRCA and ABCA conservation goals, connecting Lambton County farmers and landowners with resources to help implement Best Management Practices and stewardship projects on their property.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) **Subject to paragraphs (b) and (c) below, and the funding noted therein first being secured, that staff then be authorized to work in consultation with the County of Lambton Agricultural Advisory Committee and its partner agencies, the St. Clair Region and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authorities, to develop a Lambton County Land Stewardship grant funding pilot program, to be administered by The County of Lambton with the support of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority.**

- b) **That County Council hereby authorize staff to respond to the Province of Ontario's call for funding applications through the Great Lakes Local Action Fund to support the full cost of the Lambton County Land Stewardship grant funding pilot program, up to \$100,000.**

- c) **That if the funding contemplated in paragraph (b) above is not secured through the Great Lakes Local Action Fund, staff bring forward options to fund the program for Council's consideration and defer this program to 2025 budget deliberations.**

Lambton County Council (Open Session) July 3, 2024 (page 7)

Notice of Motion

Councillor M. Bradley gave Notice of Motion at the July 3, 2024 County Council meeting for discussion at the September 4, 2024 County Council meeting requesting for staff to advise as to the role of the County, should a member municipality wish to pursue an injunction to address encampments in municipal parks across Lambton County.



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SARNIA
Office of the Mayor

August 28, 2024

To: Warden Kevin Marriott and Members of Lambton County Council

Re: Notice of Motion served at the July 3, 2024 Lambton County Council Meeting – Homeless Encampment Crisis in Cities Across Ontario and Canada

The City of Sarnia has stepped forward to cover costs to bring basic support services to the encampment at Rainbow Park. The city has adopted an encampment protocol ([Encampment Response Protocol – City of Sarnia](#))

To date the courts have not been supportive of granting communities across Canada the right to remove encampments unless they can satisfy a number of conditions, which is not the case in Lambton County at the present time.

As of July 19, the county-funded shelters had the following availability:

- The Lodge: 35 beds, 9 available
- Out of the Cold (overflow): 28 beds, 18 available
- Haven (only accessible to those under 22 years of age): 9 beds, 3 available

Also, as of July 25, River City Vineyard, which requires residents to pass a drug test to be admitted, had 18 available beds. As of the July date, there were 48 total available beds in Sarnia.

The City of Sarnia has received legal advice from John Mascarin of Aird & Berlis LLP, who is highly respected and one of the leading practitioners in municipal law in Ontario. Mr. Mascarin also serves as the County's Integrity Commissioner. The advice received is that if we wish to move forward with an injunction to bring control to the Rainbow Park encampment or any others, all prohibitions would need to be removed to satisfy the courts. This has led to a number of questions which I am bringing forward to the County of Lambton:

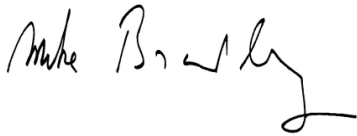
- Has the County looked at the restrictions as it relates to couples and other issues that would remove any court challenge? If not, why not?
- Although no decision has been made, if Sarnia City Council decides to move forward on an injunction at some point, then what is the County's

position? Will the County support the City of Sarnia as a co-applicant on the application for an injunction to dismantle the encampment currently established at Rainbow Park?

- If the answer to the above question is no, would the County of Lambton provide the City of Sarnia and/or legal counsel appointed by the City of Sarnia with Affidavit evidence from County Staff to support an application for an injunction to dismantle the encampment established a Rainbow Park, if the City proceeds with an application in the future.

Knowing the County's position is an important step forward for Sarnia City Council if the situation changes in the courts or if the supply of available shelter beds in the community meets the criteria of the courts if an injunction is sought.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Bradley
Mayor of Sarnia

Cc. Lambton County General Managers Group

255 Christina St N
Sarnia ON N7T 7N2
P: 519-332-0330 ext. 3312 F: 519-332-3995 mayor@sarnia.ca www.sarnia.ca

THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON

BY-LAW NO. 22 OF 2024

**"A By-Law to Authorize an Agreement with
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario"**

WHEREAS Subsection 5(3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, SO 2001, c 25, as amended ("**Act**") provides that a municipal power shall be exercised by By-Law;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada agreed to transfer funds to municipalities for municipal infrastructure under the Canada Community-Building Fund ("**CCBF**");

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario ("**AMO**"), and the City of Toronto are signatories to the Administrative Agreement effective April 1, 2024, which governs the transfer and use of the CCBF in Ontario (the "**Administrative Agreement**");

AND WHEREAS AMO is responsible for the administration of CCBF made available to all municipalities in Ontario, except the City of Toronto, under the Administrative Agreement;

AND WHEREAS the Corporation of the County of Lambton ("**County**") is required to enter into the Municipal Funding Agreement with AMO in order to access CCBF funding until March 31, 2034:

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the County enacts as follows:

1. The County is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with AMO, in the form attached hereto as Appendix "A".

2. The Warden and Clerk are authorized to execute the attached agreement on behalf of the County and such other documents reasonably necessary to give effect to the attached agreement and to affix to it the Corporate Seal of the County.

DRAFT

3. THIS BY-LAW shall come into force and take effect upon passing hereof.

THIS BY-LAW read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 4th day of September, 2024.

Kevin Marriott
Warden

Olivia Leger
Clerk

DRAFT

Appendix A

DRAFT

THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON

BY-LAW NO. 23 OF 2024

"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 September 4, 2024"

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 September 4, 2024, be hereby confirmed.

THIS BY-LAW read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 4th day of September, 2024.

Kevin Marriott
Warden

Olivia Leger
Clerk

DRAFT

*The Village of Point
Edward Invites you to*

The Annual County Council Steak Fry

Wednesday, September 4,

Social | 11:30 AM

Lunch | 12:30 PM

210 Monk St, Point Edward, ON

Cost \$25 per plate

RSVP and to advise of any dietary restrictions to :

Jvilleneuve@villageofpointedward.com
by 4:00PM, Thursday, August 29, 2024

Partners & Spouses welcome

SEE YOU THERE