



AGENDA
LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 9:00 AM
Council Chambers, Wyoming

Page

1. ROLL CALL

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

If any.

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

Recommendation

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

- a) to review the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) minutes dated June 4, 2025, pursuant to s. 239(2) (d) and (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- b) to receive a report regarding litigation between the County and a third party, pursuant to s. 239(2) (e) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- c) to review the Committee of the Whole In-Camera minutes dated June 18, 2025 pursuant to s. 239(2) (c),(d) (h) (i) and (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

5. OPEN SESSION

The Open Session meeting will commence immediately following the

Closed Session meeting.

6. SILENT REFLECTION

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

If any.

8. DELEGATIONS

- 6 - 19
- a) Ernest Morenz, Ontario Senior Games Association, will present to Council to raise awareness for the Ontario Senior Games Association's operations in Lambton County.
 - b) Brian Eves, President of Lambton Federation of Agriculture, and Crispin Colvin, Director with Ontario Federation of Agriculture will present to council an information update from Lambton Federation of Agriculture on key issues affecting primary agriculture production in Lambton County.

9. PRESENTATIONS

- 20 - 31
- a) Dr. Karalyn Dueck, Medical Officer of Health and Kevin Churchill, General Manager, Public Health Services will present to Council regarding the details of Lambton Public Health's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan.
- 32 - 43
- b) Ian Hanney, Manager, Homelessness Prevention and Social Planning will present to Council regarding the Lambton County Housing and Homelessness Progress Report 2024.

10. MINUTES OF COUNCIL (OPEN SESSION)

- 44 - 52
- a) Reading and adoption of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated June 4, 2025.

11. 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:

- 53 - 63
- a) BOH 07-05-25 A letter from Trudy Sachowski, Chair, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa), dated May 23, 2025, in response to the release of the Government of Ontario's 2025 Budget.

B) Board of Health Information Reports

- 64 - 70
- a) Information Report dated July 2, 2025 Regarding Air Quality

Agenda: Lambton County Council (OPEN SESSION) - July 2, 2025

and Extreme Temperature Initiatives - Update.

- 71 - 84 b) Information Report dated July 2, 2025 Regarding Community Safety and Well-Being Plan - Implementation Update.
- 85 - 111 c) Information Report dated July 2, 2025 Regarding Lambton Drug and Alcohol Strategy Implementation Progress Report, 2024.
- 112 - 115 d) Information Report dated July 2, 2025 Regarding Supporting Healthy Growth and Development - Update.
- 116 - 134 C) **Board of Health Reports Requiring a Motion**
- a) Report dated July 2, 2025 Regarding Lambton Public Health's 2025 to 2029 Strategic Plan.
- D) **Board of Health Other Business**

12. **CORRESPONDENCE**

A) **Correspondence to Receive and File Recommendation**

That the following correspondence items be received and filed:

- 135 a) CC 07-06-25 A letter from Delegate Integrity Commissioner, Rebecca Hines, Senior Associate with Hunter Legal LLP dated June 25, 2025, regarding the Integrity Commissioner Interim Report, Code of Conduct Complaint 2025-01.

13. **INFORMATION REPORTS**

A) **Social Services Division**

- 136 - 188 a) Information Report dated July 2, 2025 Regarding Housing and Homelessness Plan Progress Report.

14. **ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A MOTION**

- 189 - 191 a) Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership Board minutes dated June 27, 2025.

15. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- 192 - 200 a) Committee of the Whole (Open Session) minutes dated June 18, 2025.
- 201 - 203 b) Audit Committee minutes dated June 18, 2025.

16. **ITEMS TABLED FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

None at this time.

17. NOTICE OF MOTION

- 204 a) Councillor B. Dennis gave Notice of Motion at the June 18, 2025
Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion at the July 2, 2025
Lambton County Council meeting requesting that the County Council
resolution adopted on May 7, 2025 in Closed Session, resulting in the
donation of the George Street Lands to Indwell, be reconsidered.
- 205 b) Councillor C. McRoberts gave Notice of Motion at the June 18, 2025
Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion at the July 2, 2025
Lambton County Council meeting requesting that staff shall first
consult the neighbouring community on the following projects:

a) supportive housing builds that the County intends to undertake and
develop on its own; and

b) third-party supportive housing builds where the County intends on
donating its lands to and/ or intends to fund at least 50% of the capital
costs thereof, by providing the community with a description of the
project contemplated and of the services to be delivered, and present
the feedback received to County Council.

The County's consultation shall include neighbouring commercial
entities and residents located within a 250-metre radius of the
property identified for supportive housing.

18. OTHER BUSINESS

19. NOTICE OF BY-LAWS

- 206 - 208 a) 17 of 2025 A By-Law to Appoint a Chief Building Official and
Inspectors for The County of Lambton.
- 209 - 210 b) 18 of 2025 A By-Law to Amend By-Law No. 28 of 2011.
- 211 c) 19 of 2025 A By-Law of The Corporation of the County of Lambton to
confirm the resolutions and motions of Lambton County Council
which were adopted up to and including July 2, 2025.

A) First and Second Reading of By-Laws

#17, #18 and #19 of 2025.

B) Third and Final Reading of By-Laws

#17, #18 and #19 of 2025.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Recommendation

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

21. O CANADA!

22. INVITATIONS

- a) The annual County Councillor's BBQ will be hosted by the Township of St. Clair on Wednesday, September 3, 2025. Please see the attached invitation for full details.

212



OFA UPDATE

2025

Crispin Colvin,
Director - Lambton Middlesex



INTERPROVINCIAL TRADE BARRIERS

- Ontario Government has taken a lead on labour inter change
- Need to expand and lobby for trans provincial agricultural commodity trade
- Reduce barriers to processing, whether meat or other commodities



ELBOWS
JUD

TARIFFS

-



WHY WE NEED TO PROTECT FARMLAND

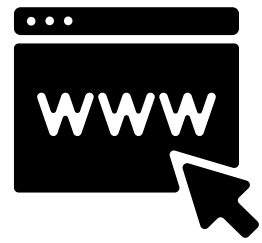
- 90% of the earth's soil will be degraded by 2050 (UNFAO)
- World population by 2050 = 9.7 billion (United Nations, 2024)



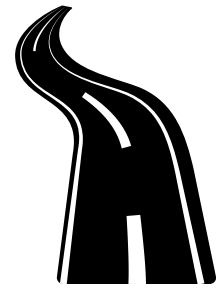
WHY WE NEED TO PROTECT FARMLAND

- Over half (52%) of prime soils in Canada are in Ontario (OMAFRA, 2016)
- In Ontario farmland makes up less than 5% of land base (OMAFRA, 2016)
- Between 2016 and 2021, Ontario lost 319 acres of farmland per day (Census of Agriculture, 2021)
- Agricultural land is: productive, valuable, essential, finite and non-renewable

SUPPORTING THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR



Reliable broadband internet for business development and utilizing precision agriculture technology.



Roads, bridges and culverts to transport farm equipment and distribute agri-food products.



Access to natural gas to attract and retain businesses in rural communities.



HYDRO ONE CORRIDOR

St Thomas Line:

- Route has been selected - 24 landowners
- Best based on natural environment, socio-economic, indigenous culture, land use and cost
- Draft environmental assessment report released May 28 with 30 day comment period

Longwood to Lakeshore Line:

- Route has been selected - over 300 land owners
- Costs will be announced once details finalized





RAILWAYS

- \$45M to improve safety nationally
- Railways refuse to acknowledge Drainage Act
- Farm crossings upgrade costs

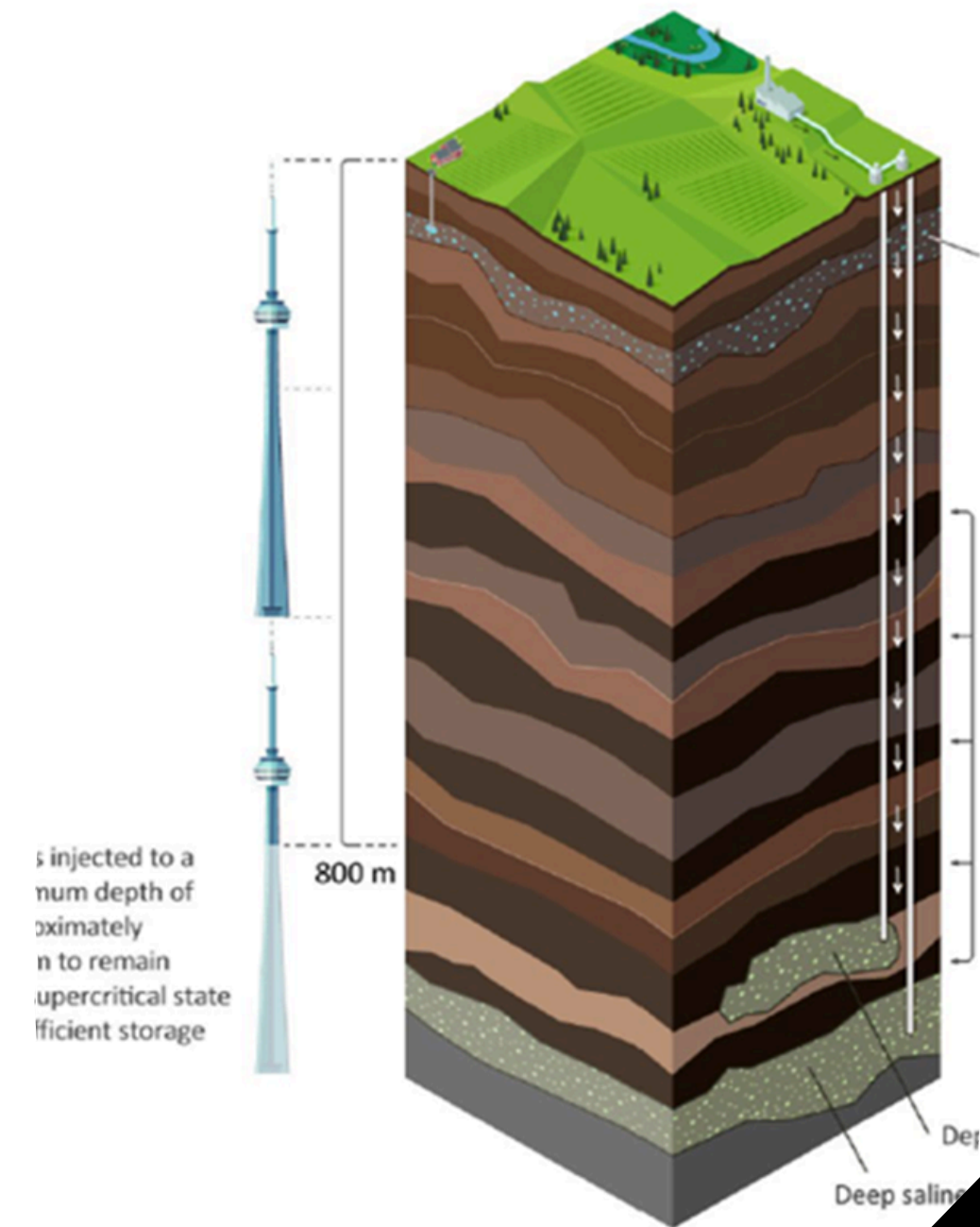
CARBON STORAGE

Recommendations:

- Recognize landowner rights / concerns
- Need more info / education
- Need to keep companies accountable
- Understand long term impacts

Questions:

- CO2 leakage into water
- Who assumes long term risk
- Transport of CO2



BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

- Lots of unknowns
- Could lose up to 2.2M acres of land
- Fire suppression
- End of use (recycling vs landfill)
- Estimated Ontario will need to expand from 42,000 to 88,000 MW by 2050

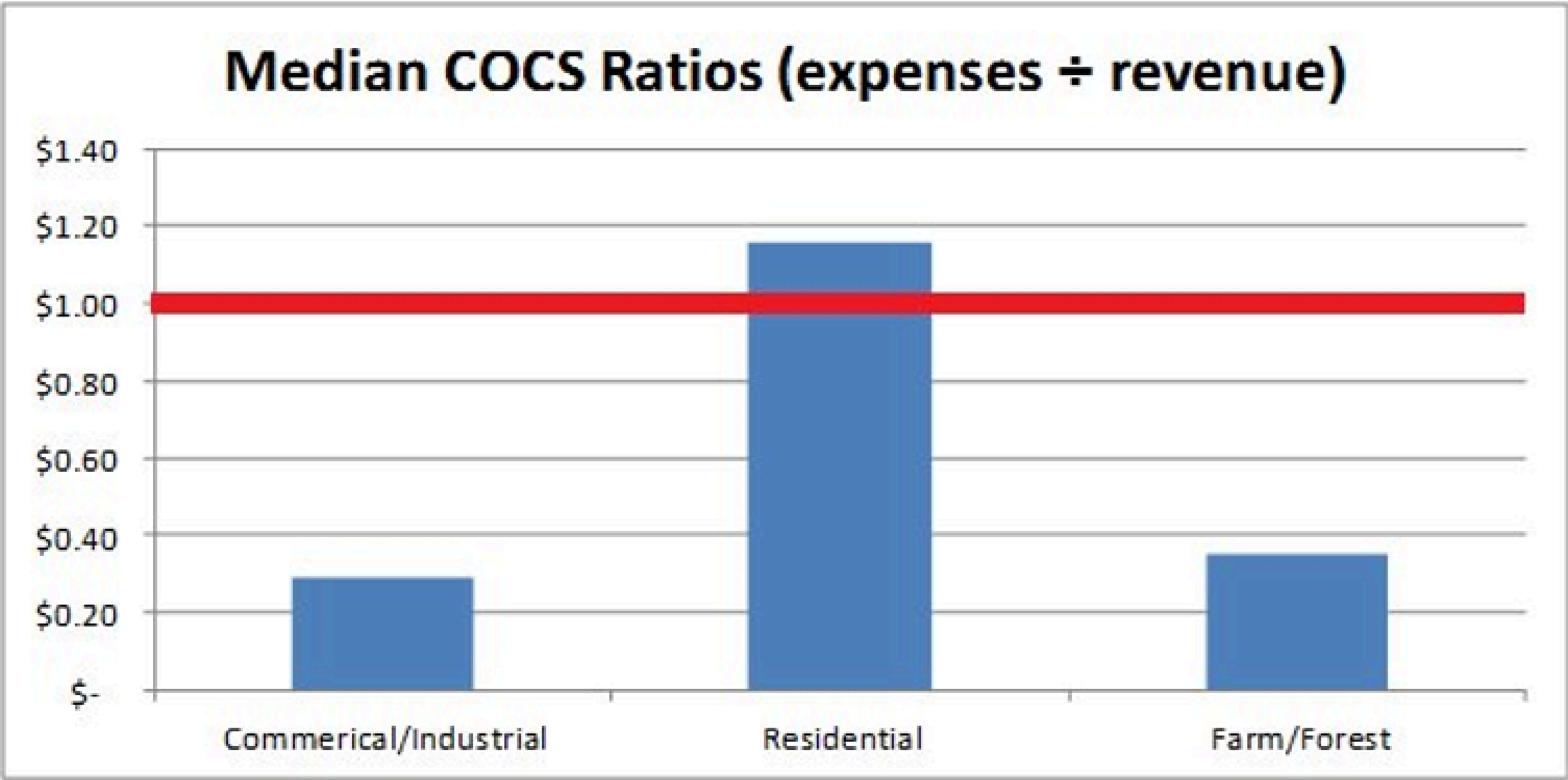


COST OF COMMUNITY SERVICES (COCS)

- Methodology developed by the American Farmland Trust in the mid-1980s.
- Snapshot in time of a single local government's revenues versus expenditures categorized by land-use type.
- Over 150 case studies have been completed across the United States.
- Compare revenue a municipality received and how it was spent on community services.
- Inform municipal land-use planning by showing the fiscal impacts of land-use.



MEDIAN RESULTS OF THE 151 COCS STUDIES



INTERPRETING RESULTS

- One-year snapshot of a single local government's revenues versus expenditures categorized by land-use type.
- Conclusions should not be made based on specific municipalities.
- The AFT has published Median (not average) results:
- Residential: \$1 Revenue : \$1.16
Expenditure on Services
- Agriculture: \$1 : \$0.37
- Business: \$1 : \$0.30

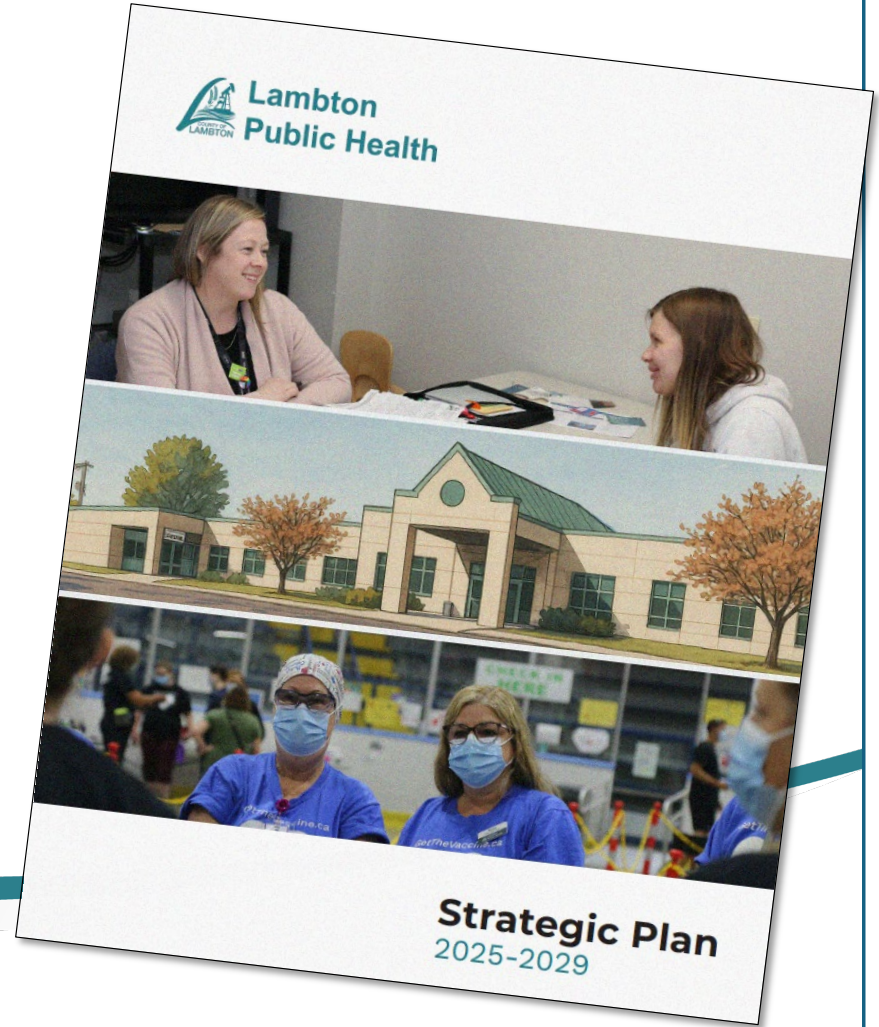


Thank you!



2025-2029 Lambton Public Health Strategic Plan

Presented by Dr. Karalyn Dueck,
Medical Officer of Health and
Kevin Churchill, General Manager



Shaping Lambton Public Health's Path Forward

- Strategic planning:
 - Shapes our path forward to achieve our mandate.
 - Advances LPH's ultimate vision:

All people are supported to strive for safety, health, and well-being.

- Strategic Planning Process:
 - Discovery Report incorporated staff, leaders, members of the public, community partners, and Board of Health insights.
 - Environmental Scan Report of 34 background documents.
 - The Strategic Plan is grounded in needs, strengths, and aspirations of those we serve and work alongside. Thank you!

Strategic Planning Process

- Evidence-informed process facilitated by Platinum Leadership Inc.
- Maximized data, engagement, actionable, local realities, through four (4) phases:

Design



Discover



Decide



Develop



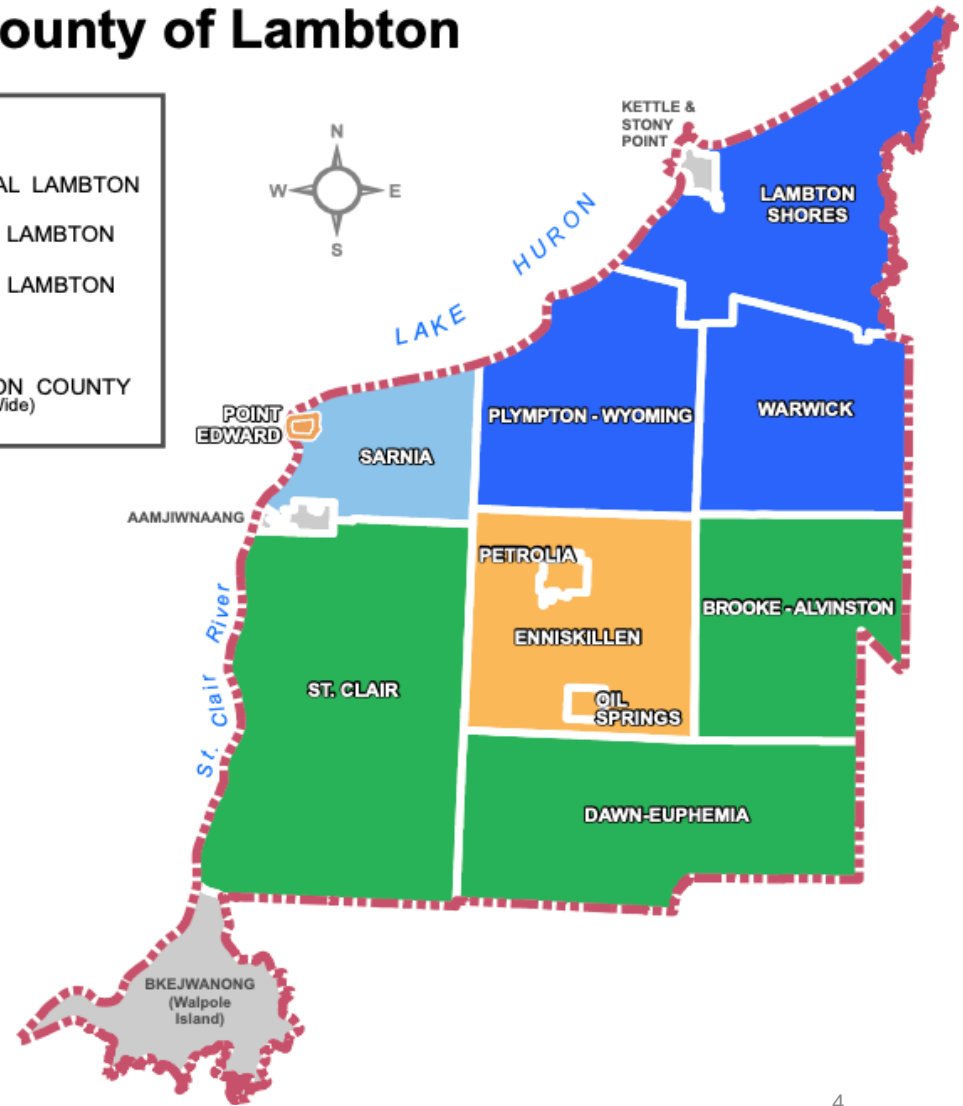
About our work



County of Lambton

Legend

- CENTRAL LAMBTON
- SOUTH LAMBTON
- NORTH LAMBTON
- SARNIA
- LAMBTON COUNTY (County Wide)



Lambton Public Health's Vision and Mission

Vision

Lambton County is a community that supports all people to strive for safety, health, and well-being.

Mission

Lambton Public Health works with the community to assess, promote, and protect health, prevent disease and injury, and advance healthy public policy.

Our Values

C

Collaboration

We work with many partners to deliver programs and services that meet the needs of our community.

L

Leadership

We inspire and empower our community, partners, and staff to influence positive change.

E

Equity

We commit to reduce barriers so all people can achieve their full health potential.

A

Accountability

We provide accurate, transparent, and timely information with a commitment to respecting privacy and confidentiality.

R

Respect

We act and serve with integrity and treat all people with dignity.

2025-2029 Strategic Priorities



Mental and Physical Health in Early Life



Community Confidence and Engagement



Workforce Development and Well-Being



Emergency Management





*Recommendation to adopt the
2025-2029
Lambton Public Health
Strategic Plan*

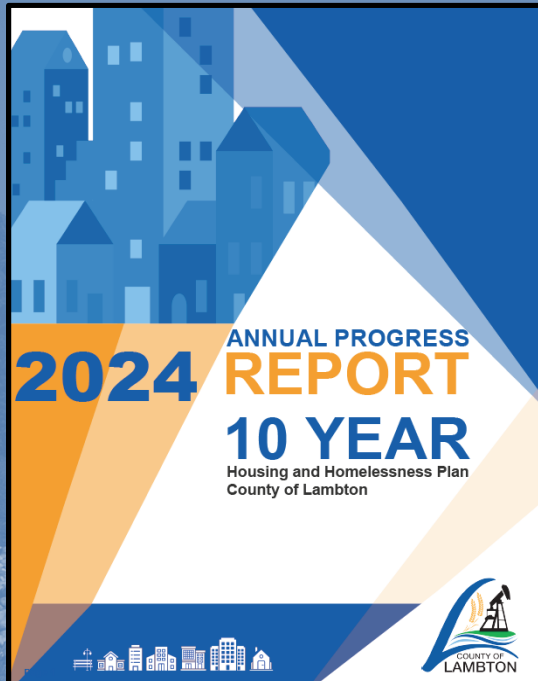


Lambton County Housing and Homelessness Progress Report 2024





Presentation Summary



- Introduction
- 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan
- Progress Goals 1 - 4
- **Looking Ahead**
 - Supportive and Affordable Housing Strategic Plan
 - Lambton HART Hub








VISION

***EVERY PERSON HAS AN AFFORDABLE,
SUITABLE AND ADEQUATE HOME.***

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles will guide the implementation of the Plan:

				
Housing First approach ¹	Support an improved quality of life	Person-centred approach	Cross-sectoral collaboration and integration	Data-driven decision making



GOALS:



GOAL 1:
*INCREASE
AND SUSTAIN
SUPPLY AND
APPROPRIATE
MIX OF
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING*



GOAL 2:
*INCREASE ACCESS
TO AFFORDABLE
HOUSING AND
SUPPORTS THAT
MEET PEOPLE'S
NEEDS TO ACHIEVE
HOUSING STABILITY*



GOAL 3:
*COORDINATED
HOUSING AND
HOMELESSNESS
SERVICE
SYSTEM*



GOAL 4:
*ENDING
HOMELESSNESS*



- Build more affordable, accessible, rental housing
- Partner with private sector to create mixed-income buildings
- Support sustainability of social housing providers



GOAL 1:
 INCREASE
 AND SUSTAIN
 SUPPLY AND
 APPROPRIATE
 MIX OF
 AFFORDABLE
 HOUSING



2

2 new units were completed in 2024 by converting nonresidential spaces in existing buildings to residential space.

50

Council approved a 50-unit affordable housing development on Kathleen Avenue, with construction to start in 2025.



GOAL 2:
 INCREASE ACCESS
 TO AFFORDABLE
 HOUSING AND
 SUPPORTS THAT
 MEET PEOPLE'S
 NEEDS TO ACHIEVE
 HOUSING STABILITY

- Increase affordability assistance
- Help with renovations of low-income ownership housing
- Facilitate support for landlords and tenants

133

Individuals on average were assisted monthly through the **Housing Advocacy Program.**

8

Households received funds under the **Homeownership Down Payment Assistance Program.**

Scatter-site supportive housing programs within the County of Lambton which offer affordability assistance are run through community partners such as: Sarnia Lambton's Children's Aid Society, Canadian Mental Health Association Lambton-Kent, Sarnia-Lambton Rebound and the Inn of the Good Shepherd.





GOAL 3:
*COORDINATED
HOUSING AND
HOMELESSNESS
SERVICE
SYSTEM*

Be Part of the Solution Campaign



Understanding Homelessness

What are the causes and costs of homelessness?

[Learn More](#)



Being Part of the Solution

How can I be part of the solution to homelessness?

[Take Action](#)



Lambton County's Approach

How is Lambton County being part of the solution?

[See Local Solutions](#)

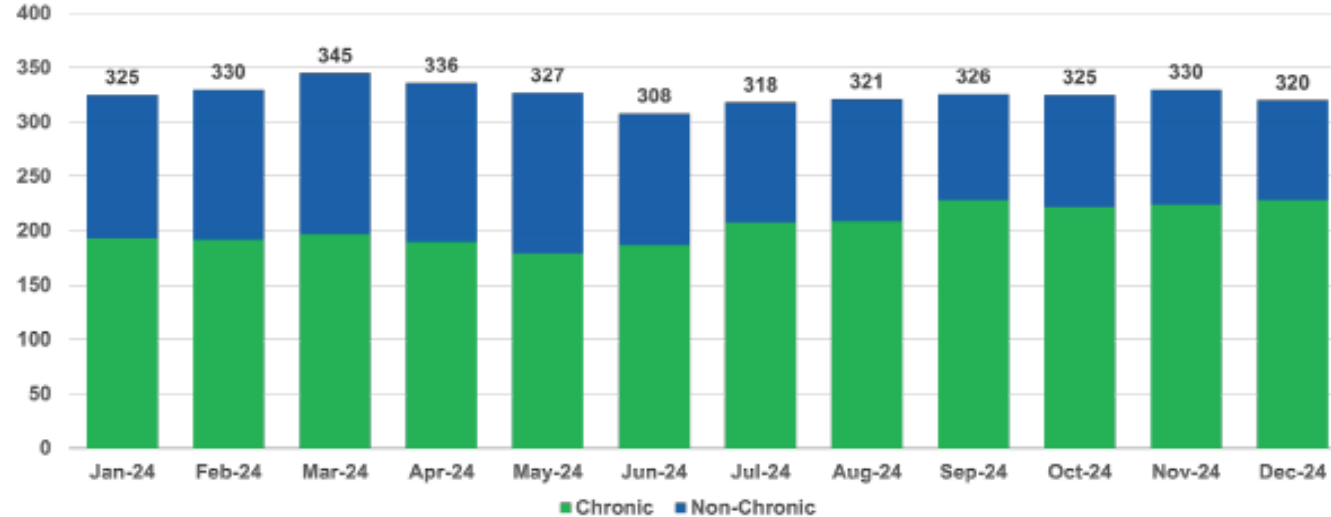


**GOAL 4:
ENDING
HOMELESSNESS**



- Expand prevention approaches
- Shift to housing focused emergency and transitional accommodation
- Using a Housing First approach, increase housing and supports for people who have experienced homelessness

**Total BNL and Total Chronic
2024**





**GOAL 4:
ENDING
HOMELESSNESS**

Supported Homelessness Programs

Income Supports
Food Security
Transportation Supports

Rental/Utility Arrears
Tenancy Assistance Programming
Life Skills Programming
Landlord Mediation
Tenancy Legal Assistance
Mental Health Case Management
Shelter Diversion
Housing and Homelessness Resource Centre

Rapid Rehousing
Intensive Housing Case Management
Rent Supplements
Transitional Housing
Emergency Housing
Homelessness Outreach



Canadian Mental Health Association
Lambton Kent



North Lambton Community Health Centre



Social Services



EMS



Lambton Public Health



SARNIA-LAMBTON CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY



Sarnia-Lambton REBOUND



NEIGHBOURLINK
Sarnia-Lambton



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
Sarnia-Lambton



LEO LAMBTON ELDERLY OUTREACH
For Those Who Prefer To Live At Home



Family Counselling Centre
Sarnia-Lambton



**GOAL 4:
ENDING
HOMELESSNESS**

50%

In 2024, Lambton reduced Youth Homelessness by more than 50%

31

Families progressed into permanent housing from Emergency Housing in 2024

200+

Individuals progressed into more permanent housing from an experience of homelessness





Looking Ahead

2025

- Supportive and Affordable Housing Strategic Plan
- Lambton HART Hub



At Home in the County of Lambton

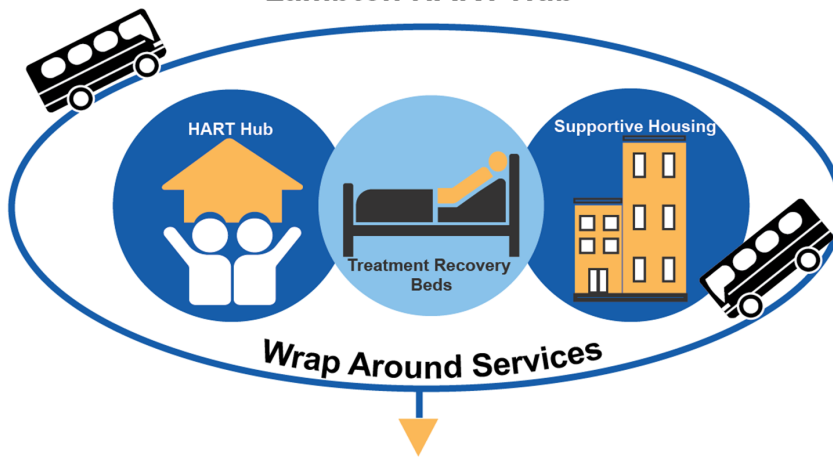
Report Update 2025

Updates to the 2024 action plan to end homelessness and address the housing crisis through supportive and affordable housing development in the County of Lambton



May 12, 2025

Lambton HART Hub



The **Lambton HART Hub** proposed services include:

- Primary care
- Mental health and addictions care
- Supportive housing
- Employment and other social services
- Services to meet basic needs



BLUEWATER
HEALTH





Housing is the solution to Homelessness

County of Lambton

Social Services Division
519-344-2062

Ian Hanney
Manager, Homelessness Prevention & Social
Planning



www.lambtononline.ca



**MINUTES
LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL**

June 4, 2025

Lambton County Council was in session in Council Chambers, Wyoming, Ontario, at 9:01 a.m. on the above date. Warden in the Chair; Roll called; All members present except Councillor B. Dennis. Councillor A. Broad and Councillor M. Bradley attended virtually. Also present was N. McEwen, Alternate Member to G. Atkinson, Town of Plympton-Wyoming.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor B. Loosley declared a pecuniary interest on item 11. B) a) of the June 4, 2025 Lambton County Council agenda regarding the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) report, due to his son being employed with Lambton EMS, and therefore recused himself from discussions on this matter and motion #7 of this day's minutes.

IN-CAMERA SESSION - 9:03 A.M.

#1: Hand/Loosley: 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 May 7, 2025, pursuant to s. 239(2) (b), (c), (e), (f), (h), (i) and (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

b) to receive a report seeking instructions from Council regarding a proposed collective agreement with CUPE Local 1291, pursuant to s. 239(2) (d), (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

c) to review the Committee of the Whole In-Camera minutes dated May 21, 2025 pursuant to s. 239(2) (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Carried.

Time: 9:07 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

The Warden declared that County Council go back into Open Session. Council then reconvened at 9:08 a.m.

RISE AND REPORT MOTIONS OF THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

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

a) to review the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) minutes dated May 7, 2025.

b) to receive a report seeking instructions from Council regarding a proposed collective agreement with CUPE Local 1291.

c) to review the Committee of the Whole In-Camera minutes dated May 21, 2025, including to receive instructions regarding negotiations between the County and a third party relating to a lease agreement in the Township of Enniskillen.

DELEGATIONS

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

Carried.

Graham Cubitt, President, Flourish and Natasha Thuemler, Regional Director, Indwell provided County Council an update on the progress of supportive and affordable housing initiatives.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL (OPEN SESSION)

The Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated May 7, 2025 were presented.

#3: Agar/Sage: That the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated May 7, 2025 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

BOARD OF HEALTH (Lambton Public Health)

Board of Health Correspondence to Receive and File

BOH 06-07-25 A letter from Trudy Sachowski, Chair, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), dated May 15, 2025, providing comment on the proposed changes to the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* that were reintroduced as Schedule 4 of Bill 11, *More Convenient Care Act, 2025*.

#4: Veen/Cook: That correspondence BOH 06-07-25 be received and filed.

Carried.

Board of Health Information Reports

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

- a) Information Report dated June 4, 2025 Regarding Grade Seven School-Based Immunization Program.
- b) Information Report dated June 4, 2025 Regarding Health Protection Q1 2025 Activity Report.
- c) Information Report dated June 4, 2025 Regarding Review of the Canadian Dental Care Plan and Ontario Public Health Dental Programs.

Carried.

Board of Health Other Business

Dr. Karalyn Dueck, Medical Officer of Health, provided an update on Measles cases in Lambton County.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence to Receive and File

CC 06-08-25 A letter from Gary Carr, Halton Regional Chair dated May 21, 2025, regarding a resolution approved January 22, 2025 by the Regional Municipality of Halton regarding provincial and federal collaboration and ensuring municipalities have access to fully funded support for encampments and unsheltered homelessness initiatives.

#6: White/McRoberts: That County Council endorse the resolution in correspondence CC 06-08-25 as follows:

WHEREAS the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow in municipalities across Ontario with 3,432 drug related deaths and over 1,400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities in 2023;

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), in partnership with the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) recently released a ground-breaking report, Municipalities Under Pressure: The Growing Human and Financial Cost of Ontario's Homelessness Crisis which highlights the unprecedented and growing toll of homelessness on individuals, families, communities, and governments;

WHEREAS the report reflects data and insights from all 47 service managers responsible for housing and homelessness across Ontario, including Halton Region;

WHEREAS the report found that more than 80,000 Ontarians were known to be homeless in 2024, a number that has grown by more than 25% since 2022, and municipal spending on housing and homelessness programs has grown to more than \$2.1 billion;

WHEREAS in 2024 Halton Region invested \$69 million dollars into housing and homelessness solutions, 63% of which was funded directly by municipal taxpayers;

WHEREAS the report concludes that an additional investment of \$11 billion over 10 years is needed to end chronic homelessness in Ontario and \$2 billion over 8 years is needed to ensure all encampment residents are appropriately housed;

WHEREAS in its 2024 Budget, the Federal Government announced funding of \$250 million to address the urgent issue of encampments and unsheltered homelessness with the intention of a fifty-fifty cost sharing agreement with provincial governments;

WHEREAS discussions between the Federal and Provincial Governments have not led to meaningful progress on a cost-shared funding agreement to date;

WHEREAS the Federal Government will work directly with municipalities if necessary, but without the involvement of the Provincial Government, Ontario municipalities will receive only half of the potential funding available, while the additional costs to respond to this crisis continue to be borne by municipal taxpayers;

WHEREAS in December 2024, the Provincial Government announced an investment of \$75.5 million in funding for municipalities for programs that provide long-term stable housing and temporary accommodations for those living in encampments which is welcomed but insufficient to address the growing need;

WHEREAS a collaborative approach across all levels of government is urgently required to provide municipalities with long-term sustainable funding to respond to the growing need for housing and homelessness solutions including mental health and addictions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Halton Regional Council supports the findings and recommendations of the AMO / OMSSA / NOSDA homelessness report, and joins these organizations in urging the Provincial and Federal Governments to take significant, long-term action on affordable housing, mental health and addictions services and income supports to address homelessness and improve the economic foundations and quality of life in communities;

THAT Halton Region continue to maximize all provincial and federal housing and homelessness funding opportunities as appropriate;

THAT the Regional Chair write a letter to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing encouraging the Province to re-engage with the Federal Government to ensure that Ontario municipalities have access to fully funded support for encampments and unsheltered homelessness initiatives;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the federal Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Halton's MPs and MPPs, Halton's Local Municipalities, all municipalities across Ontario with a population of 100,000 or more, Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM), Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

Carried.

Correspondence from Member Municipalities

CC 06-09-25 A letter, together with enclosure, from Stephanie Troyer-Boyd, Director of Corporate Services, The Municipality of Lambton Shores, dated May 26, 2025, regarding a resolution as passed at its May 13, 2025 meeting, relating to the disposition of the Thedford Ambulance station. Please see the attached letter for the full motion.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Lambton Shores Council does not agree with the recommendation to close the Thedford ambulance station; and

THAT if additional ambulance services are required in other areas of the County, it should be provided as an additional unit and not by reallocating existing resources; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the County of Lambton along with any public comments that have been received.

#7: Cook/Sage: That staff return to Council for further direction and instructions prior to the closure or relocation of any EMS station contemplated in the Lambton Emergency Medical Services Master Plan 2024-2028.

Carried.

CC 06-10-25 A letter from Mackenzie Baird, Planning Technician, Town of Plympton-Wyoming, dated May 27, 2025, regarding a motion passed by the Planning Council meeting on May 26, 2025, calling for a pause of the enactment of Bill #5 *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025*.

#8: Bradley/White: That County Council endorse the resolution in correspondence CC 06-10-25 as follows:

MOTION TO PAUSE BILL 5 PROTECT ONTARIO BY UNLEASHING OUR ECONOMY ACT 2025

Whereas the province has introduced Bill 5, Protect Ontario by unleashing our Economy 2025 which is intended to speed up housing and economic development in Ontario.

And whereas the proposed legislation will include the repeal of the Endangered Species Act of 2007 and replace it with the Conservation Species Act of 2025.

And whereas the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks primarily manages the Act, The Committee on the Status of Species in Ontario (COSSARO) is responsible for assessing and classifying species.

And whereas COSSARO is comprised of experts with scientific and traditional knowledge and operates independently from the government ensuring impartial assessments of species at risk, the provincial cabinet will now decide what species will remain or be removed from endangered, concerned or at-risk status.

And whereas the current law considers the habitat to be all the areas that the species relies on for living, gathering food, migrating, hibernating and reproducing. The new law however, narrows that definition to "a dwelling place, such as a den, nest or other similar place, that is occupied or habitually occupied by one or more members of a species for the purposes of breeding, rearing, staging, wintering or hibernating"

And whereas the legislation would gut environmental assessment processes, speed mining and infrastructure development and take a "register-first, ask-questions-later" approach that would allow developers to begin projects before their environmental

implications are fully known and allow for economic zones which will eliminate any environmental mitigation measures or protections.

And whereas the legislation would eliminate provincial responsibility for federally listed migratory birds and aquatic species because it says such birds and species are under federal jurisdiction, even though the province has historically administered such duties.

And whereas the government will enhance funding for the Species Conservation Program, which will see contributions more than quadruple to \$20 million each year for on the ground projects that directly support efforts to conserve and protect listed species, the funding will only go to projects in regions that would otherwise not be considered viable for housing priorities, essentially allowing for the extirpation of local ecoregions in Ontario.

And whereas while development is necessary for human progress, Bill 5 will pose significant challenges to mitigating water, soil and air pollution; will overexploit natural resources, and increase invasive species in each uniquely identified ecoregion in Ontario.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of Plympton-Wyoming urges the government to pause the proposed legislation and maintain strong environmental laws that prevent extinction of species and protect local ecoregions.

And furthermore, the Council of Plympton-Wyoming asks that the government recognize and give meaningful consideration to ecoregions in Ontario through their unique perspectives and preserve Ontario's natural heritage systems in the application of any proposed updated provincial legislation for the long-term growth, sustainability and well-being of our communities.

Carried.

INFORMATION REPORTS

Social Services Division

#9: Ferguson/Miller: That the following Information Reports from the Social Services Division be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated June 4, 2025 Regarding Affordable Housing Update.
- b) Information Report dated June 4, 2025 Regarding Supportive and Affordable Housing Strategic Development Plan.
- c) Information Report dated June 4, 2025 Regarding Indwell Community Homes Update.

Carried.

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A MOTION

Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership Board minutes dated March 25, 2025

#10: White/Veen: That the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership Board minutes dated March 25, 2025 be received and filed.

Carried.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Committee of the Whole (Open Session) minutes dated May 21, 2025 were presented.

#11: Loosley/Sageman: That the Committee of the Whole (Open Session) minutes dated May 21, 2025 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

#12: Case/Loosley: That letters of congratulations be sent to Evan Van Gorp of Watford and Mark and Dale Hunter of Petrolia for the London Knights' Memorial Cup Victory.

Carried.

NOTICE OF BY-LAWS

16 of 2025 A By-Law of The Corporation of the County of Lambton to confirm the resolutions and motions of Lambton County Council which were adopted up to and including June 4th, 2025.

First and Second Reading of By-Laws

#13: Agar/McEwen: That By-Law #16 of 2025 as circulated, be taken as read a first and second time.

Carried.

Third and Final Reading of By-Laws

#14: McEwen/Agar: That By-Law #16 of 2025 as circulated, be taken as read a third time and finally passed.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

#15: Veen/Sageman: That the Warden declare the meeting adjourned and that the next regular meeting of County Council be held on Wednesday, July 2, 2025 with the In-Camera Session to commence at 9:00 a.m.

Carried.

Time: 9:42 a.m.

Kevin Marriott, Warden

Ryan Beauchamp, Deputy Clerk



alPHa's members are the public health units in Ontario.

alPHa Sections:

Boards of Health Section

Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH)

Affiliate Organizations:

Association of Ontario Public Health Business Administrators

Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario

Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario

Health Promotion Ontario

Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry

Ontario Association of Public Health Nursing Leaders

Ontario Dietitians in Public Health

www.alphaweb.org

BOH 07-05-25

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May 23, 2025

Hon. Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health
College Park 5th Flr,
777 Bay St Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Jones,

Re: 2025 Budget & Support for Public Health

On behalf of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) and its Boards of Health Section, Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health Section, and Affiliate organizations, I am writing in response to the release of the Government of Ontario's 2025 Budget.

We appreciate the need to focus Ontario's fiscal approach over the coming year on the economic circumstances imposed upon the Government of Ontario by the policies being implemented by our largest trading partner. The goal of a more resilient and self-reliant provincial economy is, without a doubt, in our collective best interests given the far-reaching impacts of international trade policy on all sectors, including public health. We also appreciate the continued focus on improving Ontario's health care capacity and are supportive of many of the approaches. It is here that we wish to note the considerable return on investment provided by public health, as evident in the programs and services delivered by our members every day that are mandated by the Province in the Ontario Public Health Standards.

Public health requires sustained and sufficient resources to ensure stability and surge capacity for Ontario's locally based network of public health agencies to deliver on its mandate. This is never more apparent than when we are called upon to respond to unforeseen public health emergencies, such as COVID-19, or preventable ones, such as the measles outbreaks, that are now occupying substantial time and resources in certain areas.

I have attached our most recent [Public Health Matters infographic](#), the fourth in a series that illustrates the value of investing in public health. We hope you will consider this as you distribute the funds in this year's budget allocated to the Ministry of Health.

I would also take this opportunity to express our concerns about the decision in the budget to reduce certain taxes and markups on beverage alcohol products. Research confirms the affordability and availability of alcohol is directly proportional to health and social problems such as street and domestic violence, chronic diseases, road crashes, youth drinking, injury, and suicide. We understand the economic rationale behind this decision, but the unintended consequences must be mitigated. Therefore, we are repeating our call as outlined in the attached [alPHa Resolution A24-01, Comprehensive Provincial Alcohol Strategy: Enhancing Public Health through Prevention, Education, Regulation and Treatment](#).

We look forward to working with you over the coming fiscal year to ensure investments in public health are top of mind, as a healthy economy is not possible without healthy people. We also look forward to providing our advice and expertise and would be pleased to meet with you and your staff to discuss how we can best support you. To schedule a meeting, please have your staff contact Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, alPHa, at loretta@alphaweb.org or 416-595-0006 ext. 222.

Providing Leadership in Public Health Management

Sincerely,



Trudy Sachowski,
Chair, alPHA

Copy: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario
Elizabeth Walker, Executive Lead, Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health

Encl.

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) is a not-for-profit organization that provides leadership to Ontario's boards of health. alPHA represents all of Ontario's boards of health, medical officers and associate medical officers of health, and senior public health managers in each of the public health disciplines – nursing, inspections, nutrition, dentistry, health promotion, epidemiology, and business administration. As public health leaders, alPHA advises and lends expertise to members on the governance, administration, and management of health units. The Association also collaborates with governments and other health organizations, advocating for a strong, effective, and efficient public health system in the province. Through policy analysis, discussion, collaboration, and advocacy, alPHA's members and staff act to promote public health policies that form a strong foundation for the improvement of health promotion and protection, disease prevention and surveillance services in all of Ontario's communities.

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Providing Leadership in Public Health Management

alpha

Association of Local PUBLIC HEALTH Agencies

www.alphaweb.org

KEEPING ONTARIANS HEALTHY AND SAFE

Public health is essential for a healthy, thriving society, enabling individuals to live and work in optimal health. Investment in local public health enables healthy communities, which are foundational to a strong, vibrant, and economically prosperous Ontario. Public health promotes and protects communities and ensures everyone has a safe place to live, learn, work, and play.

OUR ASK

Local public health supports the Ontario government in its goals to be efficient, effective, and provide value for money.

We are asking decision-makers for their support for the goals and objectives of public health, with sustained and sufficient resources to ensure stability for Ontario's locally-based network of public health agencies.



DISEASE PREVENTION

Public health focuses on disease prevention through immunization and case management, to protect the entire community.

- 804,000+ doses of human papillomavirus, meningococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines administered (2023).
- 4,988,000+ doses of influenza vaccines distributed to public health units (PHUs) and pharmacies (2023/24 respiratory season).
- 2,349,500+ doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered (2023/24 respiratory season).
- An estimated 73% of long-term care home residents received an RSV vaccine (2023/24 respiratory season).
- Track diseases of public health significance, such as measles and pertussis, to strategically respond to rises in threats.



HEALTH PROTECTION

Public health helps to ensure the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and the places we gather are safe.

- 39,200+ moderate and high risk food premises inspected (2023).
- 7,000+ pools and spa facilities inspected (2023).
- 2,000+ risk assessments completed for small drinking water systems (2024).
- 44,000+ total tobacco inspections completed, helping to limit youth access to cigarettes while protecting communities from the impacts of second-hand smoke (2023).
- 91% of confirmed syphilis cases where treatment and follow-up were completed (2023).
- 85 active tuberculosis cases investigated by PHUs (2023).



Population Health Assessment



Health Equity



Effective Public Health Practice



Emergency Management



Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being



Food Safety



Healthy Environments

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Public health encourages healthy lifestyles and reduces health inequities by providing health support to the most vulnerable in the community.

- 510,000+ enrolled clients in *Healthy Smiles Ontario* (Apr. 2023-Mar. 2024).
- 115,650+ enrolled clients in the *Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program* (Apr. 2023-Mar. 2024).
- 97,900+ postpartum *Healthy Babies Healthy Children* screens completed (Apr. 2023-Mar. 2024).
- 8,780+ families received at least two home visits as interventions through *Healthy Babies Healthy Children* (Apr. 2023-Mar. 2024).



OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

Track the spread, educate the public, support institutions to manage outbreaks, and coordinate with the healthcare system to minimize institutional and community risk.

- 3,000+ services delivered by Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hubs each month (2023).
- 1,250+ IPAC complaints investigated (2023).
- 5,350+ respiratory outbreaks supported (2024).
- Track diseases of public health significance, such as measles and pertussis, to strategically respond.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Public health ensures continuity and resilience of the healthcare system during disruptions and emergencies that may put the health of Ontarians at risk.

- Continued preparedness for future public health surge responses for infectious disease and environmental health risks, including supporting the healthcare system with preparedness and response for suspect high-risk pathogen cases.
- Support municipalities and First Nations communities with planning, preparedness, response, and recovery for municipal emergencies, such as extreme weather events (e.g. heat or cold, forest fire smoke or air quality incidents, and floods).



Healthy Growth and Development



Immunization



Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control



Oral Health



Safe Water



School Health



Substance Use and Injury Prevention



Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

alPHa RESOLUTION A24-03

TITLE	A Proposal for a Comprehensive Provincial Alcohol Strategy: Enhancing Public Health through Prevention, Education, Regulation and Treatment
SPONSOR	Oxford-Elgin-St. Thomas Board of Health (Operating as Southwestern Public Health (SWPH))
WHEREAS	alcohol caused 6,202 deaths, 60,902 hospitalizations (including day surgery) and 258,676 emergency room visits in Ontario for the year 2020; and ^(1,2)
WHEREAS	the harms due to alcohol are disproportionately carried by individuals with low socio-economic status (SES), compared to those of high SES, even though the exact amounts of alcohol or less are consumed; described as the alcohol harm paradox; and ^(3,4)
WHEREAS	alcohol is classified as a group one carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer and can cause cancer of the breast, colon, rectum, mouth and throat, liver, esophagus, and larynx; and ⁽⁵⁾
WHEREAS	between 2017-2020, 31.1% of adults age 19 and older exceeded the low-risk threshold for alcohol-related harms as per the <i>Canadian Guidance on Alcohol and Health</i> , having reported drinking more than two alcoholic drinks in the past week, with the recognition that self-reported alcohol intake usually is underreported, and the number of those drinking above this level is likely higher. ⁽⁶⁾
WHEREAS	alcohol was the most frequently reported substance of concern among people accessing treatment services in both Ontario and Canada; and ⁽⁷⁾
WHEREAS	research confirms that as alcohol becomes more available and affordable, the following problems increase: street and domestic violence, chronic diseases, sexually transmitted infections, road crashes, youth drinking, injury, ⁽⁸⁾ and suicide; ^(9,10) which is disturbing being the current government plans to increase alcohol availability with up to 8,500 new stores eligible to sell alcohol in Ontario; and ⁽¹¹⁾
WHEREAS	the current government has committed \$10 million, above current funding, over five years to the Ministry of Health to support social responsibility and public health efforts; and ⁽¹¹⁾
WHEREAS	comprehensive and enforced alcohol control policies delay the age of onset and lower alcohol prevalence and frequency among young people; and ⁽¹²⁾
WHEREAS	the World Health Organization recognizes that policies need to address the availability, acceptability, and affordability of alcohol, as these are the factors that create alcogenic environments; and ^(12,13)
WHEREAS	despite alcohol revenue, the substantial societal costs caused by alcohol create a deficit of \$1.947 billion in Ontario and \$6.196 billion each year in Canada. ^(1,14)
WHEREAS	the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) Code For Broadcast Advertising Of Alcoholic Beverages has not been updated since 1996 and includes no provisions for new ways of advertising, such as social media and lacks concrete enforcement of the rules; and ⁽¹⁵⁾

- WHEREAS** the membership previously carried alPHa RESOLUTION A08-2, to Establish Stricter Advertising Standards for Alcohol; and
- WHEREAS** the membership previously carried alPHa RESOLUTION A08-3 requesting advocacy for an Enhanced Provincial Public Education and Promotion Campaign on the Negative Health Impacts of Alcohol Misuse; and
- WHEREAS** the membership previously carried alPHa RESOLUTION A08-4.1 to eliminate The Availability of Alcohol Except in Liquor Control Board Outlets (LCBO) (i.e. Increase Point of Sale Control); and
- WHEREAS** the membership previously carried alPHa RESOLUTION A11-1 to conduct a Formal Review and Impact Analysis of the Health and Economic Effects of Alcohol in Ontario and Thereafter Develop a Provincial Alcohol Strategy; and
- WHEREAS** the membership previously carried alPHa RESOLUTION A12-4 TITLE: Alcohol Pricing and LCBO Revenue Generation; and
- WHEREAS** all of the above resolutions on alcohol were introduced more than a decade ago, with the majority of actions taken before 2019, according to [alPHa's public records](#), with the recognition that alPHa recently sent a letter regarding a call for an alcohol strategy dated December 14, 2023; priority for these resolutions must be re-established.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies write to the Provincial Government recommending that a comprehensive alcohol strategy be developed, in keeping with CMOH's 2023 Annual Report on an all-of society approach, to address substance use and harms, which includes the following actions: promote comprehensive public education campaigns, strengthen regulations on advertising, increase alcohol taxes, adopt a prevention model, and improve access to addiction treatment and support services;

AND FURTHER that the alcohol strategy be formed and written with the support of a multidisciplinary panel of experts, including local public health and people with lived experience; Now therefore be it resolve that alPHa write to the provincial government

AND FURTHER that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies petitions the federal government to either ban alcohol advertising like cannabis and tobacco, or in the absence of such a ban, update the CRTC code to include alcohol restrictions on digital and social media.

AND FURTHER that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies recommend that health equity be foundational to the strategy;

AND FURTHER that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies recommends that in the development of a provincial strategy, the government implement a tax or pricing system that covers the growing deficit alcohol causes each year;

AND FURTHER that the government limits the influence of the Alcohol Industry on the creation of alcohol policies and education campaigns, as they have a conflict of interest being that increased consumption of alcohol provides increased industry sales and profit. ⁽⁸⁾

AND FURTHER that a copy be sent to the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario.

CARRIED AS AMENDED.

BACKGROUND**Effective Interventions**

It is recognized in Canada and internationally that the most cost-effective strategies to reduce the harmful effects of alcohol include increasing price, restrictions on the physical availability of alcohol, restrictions on alcohol advertising and marketing, enforcing drunk driving countermeasures, and implementing screening, brief interventions, referral, and treatment. ^(1,4,8,13,16,17)

It cannot be disputed that tobacco control policies are highly effective in decreasing smoking rates and lung cancer deaths. ^(14,18,19) As tobacco regulations have slowly become stronger, alcohol regulation has eroded over the past few decades. ^(17,11,14) These changes began in 2014 when alcohol retail sales were permitted through farmer's markets in Ontario and continued to become more accessible through grocery stores, bookstores, movie theatres, Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) convenience outlets, extended off premise retail hours of 9 am to 11 pm, home delivery and now further expansion of privatized alcohol retail locations. ^(20,21) To reduce population-level harms due to alcohol, the measures used for tobacco control should be applied to alcohol.

Comprehensive Public Education Campaigns

When individuals become aware of the link between cancer and alcohol, their support of alcohol policy increases. ^(22,23) Education alone is known to be less effective in changing population-level behaviours than policy interventions. However, education has positive impacts when coupled with alcohol policy regulating price, availability, and marketing. ^(1,8,9)

Studies have shown that the public is largely unaware of the harms of alcohol. ^(24,25,5) The Canadian Guidance on Alcohol and Health states that even small amounts of alcohol can be harmful and that decreasing alcohol use has benefits. ⁽⁵⁾ Information on alcohol harms and the Canadian Guidance on Alcohol and Health are not promoted widely. This information must be promoted collectively on government and health organization websites, and at point of sale (by the alcohol industry retail sector) across Ontario and Canada. The lack of restrictions on alcohol marketing promotions, coupled with a population who does not fully understand the implications of their choices regarding alcohol, will likely lead to more harm. To make informed decisions using the most recent recommendations made by the Canadian Guidance on Alcohol and Health, the population needs information readily available. ⁽⁵⁾

It is well-documented that the Alcohol Industry distorts and denies evidence of alcohol harm to the public and during government consultations regarding alcohol policy. ^(22,26,27) They also have a conflict of interest because the more people drink, the more profit they make. ⁽⁸⁾ Therefore, they should not have input regarding public education and alcohol policy.

Stricter regulations on advertising

Alcohol marketing accelerates the onset of drinking, increases consumption by those already drinking, and is associated with problematic alcohol use. ⁽⁸⁾ The World Health Organization recommends that alcohol advertising be banned or that comprehensive restrictions on alcohol advertising, sponsorship, and promotion be legislated and enforced. ⁽¹³⁾

There must be restrictions on advertising and marketing in conjunction with public health campaigns. The playing field is imbalanced between the Ontario Ministry of Health and the Alcohol Industry. The financial power of the Alcohol Industry, compared to Public Health's vastly smaller budget, gives the Alcohol

Industry a clear advantage when competing in mass communication campaigns.^(8,11) Marketing is an important industry strategy. Alcohol companies regularly contribute significant amounts of money towards 'investment in brands'.⁽⁸⁾ In 2019, AB InBev, the largest alcohol corporation in 2021, was the 11th largest advertiser in the world, while another six Transnational Alcohol Companies were among the top 100 advertisers in 2019.⁽⁸⁾

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) Code For Broadcast Advertising Of Alcoholic Beverages has not been updated since 1996, and it includes no provisions for new ways of advertising, such as social media, and lacks concrete enforcement of the rules.⁽¹⁵⁾ At a provincial level, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) regulates alcohol advertising through the Liquor License Control Act, 2019, through a complaints-based system, and within the parameters set out in the regulation and the Registrar's Interim Standards and Requirements for Liquor.^(28,29,30)

It is relevant to look at the experience of banning tobacco marketing when considering the likely impact of a ban on alcohol marketing. Before the global community widely adopted the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), comprehensive but not partial bans were found to reduce tobacco consumption in high-income countries.⁽⁸⁾ Post adoption of the FCTC, and after numerous countries adopted the highest level of tobacco advertising bans on all direct and indirect advertising, it is estimated that approximately 3.7 million fewer smoking-attributable deaths occurred due to these measures.^(8,31) Research from the World Health Organization currently points toward complete and comprehensive advertising and marketing bans as more effective than partial bans and industry-regulated restrictions.^(8,31) The best way forward would be to enact a legislative approach, rather than a code, through a National Alcohol Act, like what exists for cannabis and tobacco.⁽²⁹⁾

Without a complete ban, the following restrictions could be suggested as better than the status quo:

- Regulations should include all forms of media, such as the internet, social media, print, radio, and television.⁽²⁹⁾
- Cap the quantity of alcohol advertising at all retail outlets.⁽²⁹⁾
- Ban marketing activities in connection to young people, people with alcohol use disorders, heavy drinkers, and vulnerable populations.⁽²⁹⁾
- Supervision should be introduced to ensure compliance with provincial and federal regulations, creating an independent organization to monitor and pre-screen alcohol advertisements and alcohol industry activities proactively rather than reactively, beyond a complaints-based system.⁽²⁹⁾

Decrease Affordability, Increase Price

Alcohol was the substance that cost Canada the most in 2020, at \$19.7 billion, due to health care, lost productivity, criminal justice, and other direct costs. In comparison, alcohol costs more than both Tobacco (\$11.2 Billion) and Opioids (\$7.1 Billion) combined in 2020.⁽¹⁴⁾ At the very least, alcohol should cover the costs it contributes to rather than contribute to government debt each year. In contrast, AB InBev, the largest Alcohol corporation in 2021, had an annual revenue of \$45.6 billion (U.S) in 2017. To provide perspective on this amount, half of the world's countries don't reach that amount in terms of their gross domestic product.

Increasing the price of alcohol has been noted as the most effective strategy to decrease harm due to alcohol.^(1,8,13) Strong policies that could be used include indexed minimum unit pricing, alcohol-specific sales taxes, and markups.⁽¹⁾ Despite what many may think, pricing is considered an equitable policy, as it has been shown to decrease harm in those populations found to be most deprived. As recently demonstrated in Scotland, Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) was implemented, and it was associated with a

significant 13.4% reduction in deaths and a 4.1% decrease in hospitalizations from conditions 100% attributable to alcohol consumption.⁽³²⁾ The greatest reductions were found in the four most socioeconomically deprived groups, demonstrating the policy is effective at improving deprivation-based inequalities in harm due to alcohol.⁽³²⁾

Adoption of a Prevention Model

The factors that contribute to youth initiation of substance use, specifically alcohol, are dynamic and complex. Preventing and reducing substance use among youth should include collaborative interventions that decrease risks and harms and increase protective factors and wellness while providing a safe and inclusive environment that does not promote the use of substances.^(12,33,34) Because risk and protective factors exist within every aspect of our society, a substance prevention model should consider interventions with an ecological view. This view would consider factors and interventions at the personal, interpersonal, community and policy levels and how these interact at all levels of society.⁽³³⁾ Participating must have a shared vision, collaboration, and agreement.⁽³³⁾

The Planet Youth approach is a model that demonstrates the above vision and goals, sometimes known as “The Icelandic Model.” This approach improves social environments and decreases substance use through collaborative actions based on local research that includes the whole community and partnerships across sectors.^(33,35,36) While being implemented in Iceland, this model decreased youth substance use dramatically. Their rate for 30-day drunkenness decreased from 29.6% in 1997 to 3.6% in 2014, with dramatic decreases among other substances as well.⁽³⁷⁾ The Planet Youth approach has been introduced to numerous countries since 2006 and has been implemented or used in 16 countries and hundreds of municipalities since 2022.⁽³⁸⁾ Funding an approach such as the Planet Youth Model as part of an Alcohol Strategy would support goals to prevent future substance use.

Improving Access to Treatment and Support Services

Alcohol was the most common problem substance for people accessing treatment services and was reported by more than 67,000 people per year over 2016-2018.⁽⁷⁾ Collaboration with People with Lived Experience and those using treatment services are vital, as they are the experts in this regard and their practical experience should be incorporated into the Alcohol Strategy. An alcohol strategy should consider how to improve access to treatment and support services for alcohol use disorder, such as:


- Incorporation of a Universal Screener for substance use in healthcare settings across Ontario, with compensation for healthcare staff who regularly provide screening, brief interventions, and referral to treatment for their clients.
- Improved wait times for public access to treatment and support services related to mental health care and substance-related treatment, as well as ongoing support while people wait for these services.
- Improved support and capacity for caregivers of those with substance use disorders.

The current alcohol policy environment will impact the need for treatment and support services in the future. Because the proportion of heavy drinkers is strongly associated with the total level of consumption of the general population, it is essential to consider society’s overall alcohol policy within a strategy to reduce consumption in general, not just consumption by heavy drinkers.⁽⁸⁾

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 <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Amy Pavletic, Acting Manager, Health Protection Theresa Warren, Acting Supervisor, Health Protection
REVIEWED BY:	Kevin Churchill, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	July 2, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Air Quality and Extreme Temperature Initiatives - Update

BACKGROUND

Lambton Public Health’s (“LPH”) role in extreme temperature and air quality initiatives is enabled through the Ontario Public Health Standards (“OPHS”), which mandate Boards of Health to monitor, assess, and communicate to the public about health hazards, including climate change and extreme weather. Under the *Health Hazard Response Protocol, 2019*, public health units work to prevent and reduce the burden of illness from health hazards in the physical environment, including extreme weather, extreme temperatures and air quality.

This report summarizes the extreme temperature and air quality initiatives undertaken by LPH in collaboration with community partners. The most recent update on the Extreme Temperature initiative was provided to Lambton’s Board of Health (County Council) on November 6, 2024. The most recent update on the Air Quality initiative was provided to Lambton’s Board of Health (County Council) in June 2023.

DISCUSSION

Air Quality

The purpose of LPH’s Air Quality Response Procedure is to mitigate the health impacts from poor air quality events by monitoring, alerting, and conducting response activities. The procedure sets out the steps on how to inform all County of Lambton residents when a Special Air Quality Statement (“SAQS”) or an Air Quality Advisory (“AQA”) is issued for Sarnia-Lambton by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (“MECP”) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (“ECCC”), to educate the residents on the Air Quality Health Index (“AQHI”) and what precautions that can be taken to reduce health and environmental impacts of poor air quality.

The AQHI is a health risk communication tool designed to provide understanding of what air quality means to health. The AQHI is utilized throughout Ontario, and it provides real-time air quality measurements and forecasts. These measurements are displayed using an index of 1 to 10+, which are linked to a health risk statement. The lower the number, the lower the risk.

A SAQS is issued when the AQHI value is forecast to reach the high-risk category (AQHI 7-10). The purpose of a SAQS is to be precautionary and for individuals to be vigilant of their health. A SAQS is also issued for areas where wildfire smoke is expected to cause deteriorating air quality, which can range from a few hours to a few days.

An AQA is designed to enhance the public's awareness and response to air quality concerns during extreme wildfire smoke events. An AQA will be issued when the AQHI is forecast to reach, or has reached, the very high-risk category (AQHI of 10 or higher) due to wildfire smoke.

Both the SAQs and AQAs are issued jointly by ECCC and MECP.

Each May, LPH sends a memo to all County of Lambton employees to remind staff of the notification procedure. All County of Lambton employees are encouraged to visit the [Summer Hazards Intranet](#) page to keep informed on what precautions should be taken during an SAQS or an AQA.

When the first SAQS or AQA of the season is issued, LPH issues a media release to the public reminding residents of action steps to take during air quality warnings, including reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities. The Air Quality Ontario website provides information on the AQHI, SAQs and AQAs. A link to this website can be found on [LambtonPublicHealth.ca](#).

The SAQS/AQA frequency and duration are summarized in Appendix A.

Air Quality Partnerships

LPH is a member of the Clean Air Sarnia and Area ("**CASA**") advisory panel. The CASA advisory panel is a partnership of industry, First Nations, government, and community members dedicated to improving the air monitoring network in the Sarnia area airshed. CASA was formed in 2015 and works to improve air quality in the Sarnia area by:

- Sharing information about ambient air quality.
- Identifying and researching local air quality issues.
- Providing recommendations and information to the MECP and BASES Environmental Monitoring (formerly the Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association).
- Informing the public of local air quality.

The CASA website provides the public with transparent and timely public access to real-time air monitoring data. Visitors to cleanairsarniaandarea.com can view contaminant levels from air monitoring stations in the Sarnia and the downriver area. Air quality information is refreshed every hour and users can clearly understand if the air quality is good, moderate, or poor compared to provincial standards. The site also includes an educational component about air monitoring stations, technology, and contaminants.

Extreme Heat and Cold Warnings

Extreme heat/cold weather events pose elevated health risks, particularly among vulnerable populations. LPH works in collaboration with community partners to administer extreme temperature initiatives in Lambton County. These initiatives include coordinating or issuing of the ECCC Extreme Heat/Cold Warnings, which trigger response activities among community partners, including the activation of warming/cooling centres. The purpose of amplifying Extreme Heat/Cold Warnings is to provide a framework for implementing and coordinating preparedness and response activities which focus on reducing the negative health impacts of extreme weather conditions. The main objectives of these warnings are to:

- Alert the public, including and especially those most vulnerable, that extreme temperature conditions are either present or expected.
- Inform the public, including those most vulnerable, of the precautions that can be taken to prevent heat-related illness and cold injuries.
- Alert agencies and organizations that work with and provide services for vulnerable populations to prepare for a potential increase in service demand and to take appropriate measures to protect their clients from heat-related illness and cold injuries.

Extreme Heat

LPH adopted the provincial *Harmonized Heat Warning and Information System* (“**HWIS**”) in the summer of 2016. This system aims to provide a consistent approach for processing and issuing heat warnings in Ontario to better protect residents and vulnerable community members during the summer season. The HWIS was developed jointly by ECCC, Health Canada, Ministry of Health (“**MOH**”), and Public Health Ontario (“**PHO**”), in consultation with public health units. The HWIS outlines the thresholds and processes for Heat Warnings and Extended Heat Warnings.

A **Special Weather Statement** is issued by ECCC and LPH when there are episodes of high heat early in the heat season (i.e., May and June) for significant portions of the province. ECCC will use a single day criterion (for max. temperature and/or max. humidex) for the Special Weather Statement as guidance for issuance for the affected forecast region.

A **Heat Warning** for Lambton County is issued when one or both of the following conditions are met:

- Two consecutive days where the temperature is forecasted to be 31°C or higher during the day and 20°C or higher overnight; and/or
- Two consecutive days where the humidex is forecasted to be 40° C or higher.

An **Extended Heat Alert** is issued when the event is forecasted to last longer than two days and continues for three or more days.

Cold Warning

LPH also issues cold warnings with a similar process to the heat warning system. A **Cold Warning** for Lambton County is issued when one or more of the following conditions are met:

- ECCC forecasts daily predicted low temperature of -15° Celsius without wind chill;
- The wind chill reaches the level at which ECCC issues an Extreme Cold Warning; and/or
- Extreme weather conditions, such as a blizzard or ice storm.

The frequency and duration of Heat and Cold Warnings in Lambton County for the period 2012-2024 are summarized in Appendix B.

Warming and Cooling Centers

During Special Weather Statements, Heat Warnings, Extended Heat Warnings, and Cold Warnings, temporary warming/cooling center locations are opened by community partners. These may include recreation centers, health centers, and other publicly accessible buildings. LPH provides information about warming and cooling center locations on the LPH website at LambtonPublicHealth.ca and in media releases issued for Special Weather Statements, Heat Warnings, Extended Heat Warnings and Cold Warnings.

For the 2025 season, there are 38 warming and cooling center locations available throughout the County.

Extreme Temperature Stakeholder Group (ETSG)

LPH chairs the Extreme Temperatures Stakeholders Group (“**ETSG**”), which consists of community agencies and organizations that work with vulnerable populations. The ETSG is encouraged to distribute all warnings to their clients and partners to ensure vulnerable populations are protected.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with the health hazard program, which includes air quality and extreme temperature initiatives, are cost-share funded between the province and municipality, as approved in LPH's 2025 Health Protection budget.

CONSULTATIONS

Staff of LPH's Environmental Health team were consulted during the development of this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

LPH's health hazard program, which includes air quality and extreme temperature initiatives, are consistent with the principles, values, and areas of effort identified in the County's strategic plan, supporting the area of effort toward community development, health, and wellness; service and communications; and partnerships.

CONCLUSION

LPH's Air Quality and Extreme Temperature Initiatives have proactively increased the public's protection and awareness of such health hazards. The partnerships and community engagement opportunities that LPH is involved in have provided effective opportunities to build capacity to address current and future extreme temperature and air quality concerns.

Appendix A

Number of Special Air Quality Statements (SAQS), Smog and Air Health Advisories (SAHA), or Air Quality Advisories (AQA) 2012 - 2024


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Average
Alerts Issued	0	0	3	1	4	0	3	2	3	4	1	2
Total Duration (Days)	0	0	3	1	3.5	0	3	2	3	9	1	4

*In 2024, Smog and Air Health Advisories ceased to exist and were replaced by Air Quality Advisories as per the Ministry of Health's [Wildfire Smoke and Air Quality Health Reference Document | ontario.ca](#).

Appendix B

**Number of Heat Warnings (includes Extended Heat Warnings and Special Weather Statements) and Cold Alerts
2012 - 2024**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Average
Heat Warnings Issued	2	5	7	3	6	3	5	5	7	3	4	6
Total Duration (Days)	3	5	23	6	21	8	17	16	19	10	11	13
Cold Warnings Issued	10	8	5	2	4	5	0	2	5	2	1	4
Total Duration (Days)	27	26	6	2	7	9	0	23	7	4	1	10

 <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Kevin Churchill, General Manager Maggie Elliot, Supervisor, Health Promotion
REVIEWED BY:	Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	July 2, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Community Safety and Well-Being Plan – Implementation Update

BACKGROUND

As required under Ontario’s *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, all municipalities must develop and implement a Community Safety and Well-Being (“**CSWB**”) Plan (the “**Plan**”). The Plan is intended to promote collaboration across sectors and focus on upstream strategies that address the root causes of crime, vulnerability, and social inequities.

In response to this provincial mandate, County Council approved the Plan in 2022, opting for a comprehensive, county-wide approach rather than requiring individual plans from each lower-tier municipality. Lambton’s Plan is being implemented through coordinated efforts involving over 20 community organizations and partners.

At its meeting on June 1, 2022, County Council approved Lambton’s Plan and passed a resolution requiring that staff report annually on the status of implementation. The CSWB co-chairs have been supported by the General Managers of Social Services and Public Health Services Divisions.

This report fulfills the reporting requirement, providing Council with a 2025 update on the Plan’s implementation progress, key achievements, and ongoing collaborative efforts across the County’s five priority areas.

DISCUSSION

Since County Council’s adoption of the Plan, CSWB partners have made steady progress transitioning from planning to sustained implementation. Partner organizations across sectors have been actively engaged through regular working sessions to coordinate efforts, align existing initiatives, and identify areas where system-wide collaboration adds value. These coordinated efforts have strengthened cross-sector commitment, enhanced

accountability, and supported collective action across the county. The CSWB partnership continues to focus on reducing duplication by aligning with local coalitions, rather than creating additional community tables.

Lambton's Plan updates are provided under the following sections:

Summary of Progress by Priority Area

Progress has been made on the Plan over the past year. In particular, the following has been achieved to date:

- Enhanced collaboration between police services and mental health response teams, which continues to improve outcomes for individuals in crisis;
- Coordinated efforts to support individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, leading to increased housing stability;
- The endorsement and implementation of the Lambton Drug and Alcohol Strategy, led by a coalition of more than a dozen local organizations; and
- The continued delivery of early intervention and prevention supports for youth through services such as the Sarnia Youth Wellness Hub.

These highlights are not exhaustive but are intended to illustrate the depth of collaborative progress to date. The 2024 CSWB Progress Report, attached as Appendix A, offers a comprehensive summary of progress and outcomes to date across all priority areas.

Identified Emergent Priorities

At its meeting on September 6, 2023, County Council declared Intimate Partner Violence (“IPV”) as an epidemic in Sarnia-Lambton.

In response to County Council's declaration of IPV as an epidemic, the CSWB Systems Leadership Group endorsed the establishment of a dedicated IPV Action Table. With support from the CSWB Steering Committee, this table was launched to provide focused, coordinated efforts under the broader CSWB framework. IPV remains a standing priority, with emerging tasks brought forward to the table as needed.

The Women's Interval Home has presented a proposal for a housing project to support those impacted by IPV. While the CSWB framework is not positioned to provide direct funding, the organization is actively pursuing other avenues to advance the project.

Community safety partners have also taken operational steps to strengthen the response to IPV. An Abuse Issues Investigator has been designated to provide oversight of all IPV occurrences, ensuring appropriate resourcing, consistent follow-up, and investigative excellence through subject-matter expertise.

Next Steps

As leadership and planning tables mature and relationships among partners further

strengthen, activities will evolve to support client-facing services even further, while simultaneously enhancing system level oversight and direction for Plan implementation.

Currently, there is no identified need to establish additional Action Tables. However, Lambton's CSWB framework remains responsive, and emergent issues will be addressed, as identified, through collaborative mechanisms. New opportunities to advance key implementation activities in partnership with community stakeholders will continue to be identified and priority-setting discussions will remain a central function of the System Leadership Group and Steering Committee, informing the direction of work throughout 2025. These conversations will help ensure that collaborative efforts remain aligned with emerging needs, local data, and the strategic goals of the Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Currently, there are no new costs associated with the implementation of the Plan (2022-2025). All staff supports for the CSWB are provided in-kind by County staff and partner agencies.

The CSWB partners have identified a need for a dedicated coordinator function, and a delegation requesting coordination funds was made to the Ministry of the Solicitor General in January 2025. The committee will continue to explore opportunities for provincial funding to support this need.

CONSULTATIONS

Chris Avery, Detachment Commander, Lambton O.P.P. supported the development of this information report. Additionally, the CSWB System Leadership Group, which includes Ontario Provincial Police (Lambton Detachment), Lambton County Councillor Brian White, and staff from the County's Social Services and Public Health Services Divisions were consulted as necessary.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The County's mission statement supports strong collaborative efforts with its municipal and community partners. The County, as an organization, does not stand alone or work in singular fashion. It recognizes the need to work collaboratively with our 11 municipal partners that collectively constitute the County and many organizations and volunteers who contribute to the building, well-being and future of the Lambton Community.

CONCLUSION

Lambton's Plan continues to demonstrate the power of collaboration in addressing root causes of social issues. Meaningful progress has been made across all five pillars, with

new initiatives emerging in response to local priorities. Through continued shared leadership, the County is building safer, healthier, and more resilient communities.

Under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, municipalities are required to review and update their Plan to reflect changes in the community landscape, as well as evolving local data and priorities. To meet this obligation, early planning discussions for the next iteration of Lambton's CSWB Plan, beyond 2025, are underway with an emphasis on comprehensive data analysis, broad community engagement, and the identification of emerging priorities. The System Leadership Group is currently working to ensure broad community involvement, with a focus on securing participation from all municipalities and representation from First Nation communities in CSWB initiatives.

Appendix A

COUNTY OF LAMBTON COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING PLAN 2022-2025 2024 PROGRESS REPORT



INTRODUCTION: LAMBTON COUNTY OVERVIEW

Lambton County's Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan for 2022–2025 serves as a strategic framework to foster a safer, more inclusive, and connected community where all residents can thrive. Developed in compliance with Ontario's Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, the Plan emphasizes collaborative, proactive approaches to address complex social issues through integrated service delivery and community engagement.

The strength of Lambton County's CSWB Plan lies in its collaborative foundation. Over 20 organizations and 1,000+ residents were involved in the plan's development, representing sectors such as health care, policing, housing, education, child and family services, and Indigenous leadership. This multisectoral collaboration ensures that interventions are holistic, coordinated, and responsive to diverse community needs.

Lambton's CSWB Plan focuses its efforts on five interconnected priority areas. These priorities reflect the most pressing challenges identified by residents across Lambton County:

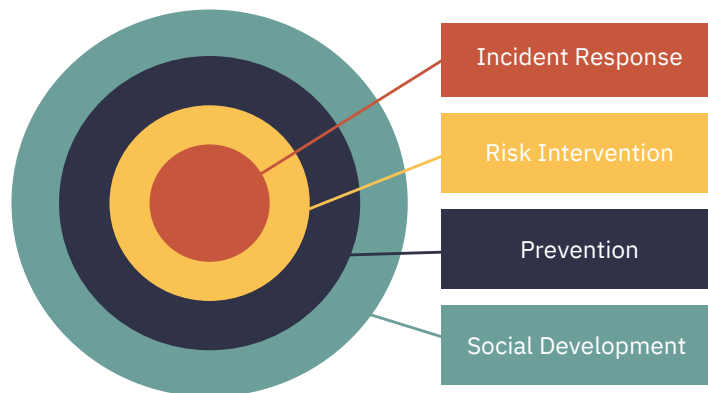
- Community Safety
- Housing and Homelessness
- Mental Health and Addictions
- Poverty
- Systemic Racism

While each area is distinct, they are deeply interconnected and no hierarchy is applied among them. All five priority areas are addressed concurrently to create meaningful and sustainable improvements in community well-being.



LAMBTON'S PLAN IN ACTION

Lambton's Plan is guided by a four-level intervention model that addresses community needs from upstream social development to urgent crisis response. While the Plan includes strategies across all four levels, it places emphasis on social development and prevention, with the ultimate goal of reducing the need for emergency response by addressing risks before they escalate.



Social Development: CSWB partners are working together to improve upstream conditions that address social determinants of health. By expanding access to housing, employment, food security, and inclusive community programming, these collaborative efforts create the conditions for long-term health, safety, and resilience.

Prevention: Early intervention programs across the county target individuals at risk of poor outcomes. Initiatives such as harm reduction programs and community outreach efforts are delivered collaboratively among community partners. These coordinated efforts aim to mitigate risks and strengthen protective factors.

Risk Intervention: Lambton has established coordinated response systems that support individuals facing acute, multiple, and complex risks. These wraparound responses are prompt, person-centred, and often prevent the need for emergency intervention.

Incident Response: While emergency services continue to play a vital role, CSWB partners work together to ensure crisis situations are met with immediate response. Police, EMS, and Bluewater Health collaborate with local agencies to connect residents in crisis with services and support, helping to prevent emergency use.

PILLAR 1: COMMUNITY SAFETY



Pillar Leads:

Sarnia Police Service, Lambton O.P.P., Ministry of the Solicitor General - Community Correctional Service

Desired Outcomes:

- Reduction and prevention of harm and victimization;
- Improve the transition process between police and hospital staff;
- Maximization of Mental Health Engagement and Response Team resources; and
- Enhance the delivery of service to and interaction with the public.

Realized Outputs and Outcomes:

The average hospital wait time for **individuals seeking mental health supports**, when accompanied by MHEART/MCRT officers, decreased from **3–6 hours** to approximately **1.5 hours**. With O.P.P. MCRT officers reporting a reduction to **120 minutes**.

! This reflects a **50% to 75%** reduction in average wait time for individuals seeking mental health supports.

89% of client referrals made by MHEART to local resources were accepted by the individual.



28% of client referrals made by IMPACT to local resources were accepted by the individual.

27% of calls seeking **mental health support** were resolved on-scene by the O.P.P. MCRT Team



611 total MHEART Community Interactions by SPS and **384 mental health occurrences** with O.P.P. MCRT partners

In 2024, the Lambton O.P.P. Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRT):

- ✓ Developed a consistent inventory of **local services and supports** that they refer clients to.
- ✓ Established **contacts** with a focus on **vulnerable and Indigenous populations**.
- ✓ The MCRT and community partners regularly reviewed data to identify **emerging issues, patterns, or risk areas** in the community.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE DECLARED EPIDEMIC

Since the creation of Lambton’s CSWB Plan, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) has been declared an Epidemic in Lambton County.

To address the IPV Epidemic, a dedicated Action Table was created and steps to address the epidemic were determined, including: reviewing recommendations from evidence-based reports, partnering with the Centre for Community Health & Social Impact at Lambton College to create a dashboard, applying for provincial funding to support gender base violence initiatives, and planning for a community consultation workshop.

2024 Data for IPV in Lambton County

- Sarnia Police Service, through the Victim Support Grant Program, provided frontline officers and support staff with Intimate Partner Violence and Gender Based Violence training.
- Lambton O.P.P. have assigned a full time Abuse Issues Investigator to review all Intimate Partner Violence incidents.
- Lambton O.P.P. is coordinating with Lambton-Kent District School Board to provide Intimate Partner Violence training sessions with high school students as part of the physical education curriculum.

Table 1: Lambton O.P.P. and Sarnia Police Service IPV Statistics - 2024

	Lambton O.P.P.	Sarnia Police	Total
Total IPV Incidents	862	1,601	2,463
Criminal Code IPV Incidents	183	423	606
Total Criminal Code charges from IPV investigations	301	1,266	1,567
Victims stemming from Criminal Code IPV Incident	205	399	604

PILLAR 2: HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS



Pillar Leads:

County of Lambton Social Services Division and the Inn of the Good Shepherd

Desired Outcomes:

- Increase and sustain supply and appropriate mix of affordable housing;
- Increase supports that meet people's needs to achieve housing stability; and
- Eradicate homelessness.

Realized Outputs and Outcomes:



127 households that were **previously homeless** are now in **receipt of affordable assistance and housing supports**



114 affordable units were created



320 individuals **identify as homeless**

*December 31, 2024



1,075 households were in receipt of rent geared-to-income units

*December 31, 2024



72% of homeless individuals were chronically homeless (230 individuals)

*December 31, 2024



22,526 total shelter bed uses



7 affordable rental units built with government assistance

PILLAR 3: MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS



Pillar Leads:

The County of Lambton, Lambton Public Health and St. Clair Child and Youth

Desired Outcomes:

- Increase mental well-being through greater social connections and meaningful involvement;
- Enhance community and organizational capacity for mental health promotion and substance use prevention action;
- Reduce the stigma of problematic substance use and addictions;
- Increase access to problematic substance use and addiction services; and
- Coordinate intake and referral pathways and care delivery amongst community agencies, health care and the community policing and enforcement sector.

2023 - 2024 Realized Outputs and Outcomes:

In 2023, there were an estimated **4,139 naloxone kits** distributed in Lambton County by Lambton Public Health and the North Lambton Community Health Centre.



In 2023, 57% of Lambton's population perceived their mental health as **very good or excellent**.

-13%
since 2017

In 2023, there were **334 inpatient admissions** for individuals under 25 years of age to Bluewater Health




In 2023, there were **637 emergency department visits** for mental health conditions and an additional **212 emergency department visits** for substance use conditions.



In 2024, there were **1,572 total visits** to the Sarnia Youth Wellness Hub Ontario



 In 2023, Lambton County Council adopted the Lambton Drug and Alcohol Strategy. More than a dozen local organizations are leading this work to to **prevent and reduce the harms of drug and alcohol misuse.**

PILLAR 4: POVERTY



Pillar Leads:

Organizations are collectively addressing poverty through data and assessments.

Desired Outcomes:

- Reduce the number of individuals and families living in poverty; and
- Increase food security for all those in Lambton County.

Realized Outputs and Outcomes:



904,022 LBS
of food were provided
at local food banks



\$42,000/yr
before tax was the median
income for individuals

\$83,000/yr
before tax was the median
income for households

In 2024, the Ontario Works monthly average caseload was **3,020 recipients**.

↑ 5%
increase
from 2023

8.6%

Lambton County's unemployment rate was 8.6% in 2024

100,000 LBS
of food were distributed
through the **Mobile Market**



The Mobile Market operates at **17 locations** and serves **1,200 people each week**

10.7%
of children, 0-17 years,
live in low income
households
2021 Census Data



PILLAR 5: SYSTEMIC RACISM




Pillar Leads:

The Local Immigration Partnership

Desired Outcomes:

- Increase awareness of and address racial discrimination issues;
- Increase awareness of the historical roots of racism and discrimination; and
- Increased public awareness of the barriers and challenges faced by racialized communities, religious minorities and Indigenous Peoples.

Realized Outputs and Outcomes:



27 victims of a hate motivated crime were supported by The Sarnia Lambton Alliance against Hate



17+ opportunities for newcomer engagement



5 community campaigns aimed to reduce discrimination and racism and encourage cultural competency



13 organizations adopted an **anti-racism campaign** for their services or workplaces

NEXT STEPS


Lambton's integrated CSWB approach is rooted in a shared vision of equity, inclusion, and long-term well-being. By working together across systems, sectors, and municipalities Lambton is not only responding to community challenges but also reshaping how those challenges are understood. Through integrated, collaborative efforts, the CSWB Leadership Table and its partners are committed to creating conditions where every resident can live safely, securely, and with dignity.

Moving forward, through collaborative and organization efforts, community partners will continue to realize the desired outcomes for each identified pillar in Lambton County's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

Lambton County's CSWB Steering Committee Members:

- Aamjiwnaang First Nation
- Anishinabek Police Services
- Bluewater Health
- Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence
- County of Lambton, Lambton Public Health
- County of Lambton, Social Services Division
- Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
- Lambton County Council
- Lambton County Fire Chiefs
- Lambton-Kent District School Board
- Minister of Solicitor General
- O.P.P, Lambton Catchment
- Sarnia Police Service
- Sarnia-Lambton Ontario Health Team
- St. Clair Catholic District School Board
- St. Clair Child and Youth Services
- The Inn of the Good Shepherd
- The Local Immigration Partnership
- Walpole Island First Nation
- Walpole Island Police Department



 <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Jordan Banninga, Manager, Health Promotion Ashlee Brown, Health Promoter Ellie Carson, Mental Health and Addictions Coordinator
REVIEWED BY:	Kevin Churchill, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	July 2, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Lambton Drug and Alcohol Strategy Implementation Progress Report, 2024

BACKGROUND

The Lambton Drug and Alcohol Strategy (“LDAS” or “**the Strategy**”) is a coordinated and collaborative approach across sectors in Lambton County to create a flourishing community that prevents and reduces the harms of drug and alcohol use. The Strategy was [approved](#) by County Council at its meeting on April 5, 2023, and County Council received an [information report](#) on the first year of LDAS implementation on July 3, 2024.

The attached *Lambton Drug and Alcohol Strategy Implementation Progress Report, 2024* (Appendix A) highlights activities made possible in 2024 by the collective efforts of LDAS partners. Lambton Public Health (“LPH”) coordinates implementation of the Strategy, and co-chairs the Steering Committee along with Bluewater Health. LPH proudly submits this information report on behalf of all Strategy partners.

DISCUSSION

Substance Use in Lambton County

Substance use, including alcohol, cannabis, opioids, tobacco, and vaping products, affects people in different ways, with some experiencing serious health and social consequences. A range of factors influence how substances impact individuals, underscoring the need for a comprehensive and coordinated response.

In Lambton County and across Ontario, opioid-related harms surged in 2020 and have since stabilized at high levels ([Lambton Opioid Dashboard](#)), while the unregulated drug supply has become increasingly contaminated. At the same time, declining mental health

and the growing availability of legal substances like alcohol and cannabis raise concerns about rising use and future health impacts.

The Strategy

The Strategy is governed by a Steering Committee, which supports the work of three pillars: Harm Reduction, Demand Reduction, and Supply Reduction. Each pillar has its own set of goals, priorities, and engaged community partners.

Since the launch of the Strategy in 2023, Steering Committee members have reported that LDAS has fostered partnerships and collaboration, reduced service duplication, enabled successful joint funding applications, promoted alignment with broader community strategies, and reduced barriers to accessing services. The attached report highlights a selection of these accomplishments from 2024 (Appendix A).

Next Steps

In 2025, the Steering Committee will continue to harness these strengths and growing partnerships to achieve even greater impact. Next steps include evaluation of the Strategy partnership and activities in order to assess progress towards the vision of a flourishing community. Additionally, partners will work together to embed strategies for reducing structural stigma across all aspects of service delivery, with a particular emphasis on improving data collection and information-sharing processes.

For the most up-to-date information on LDAS, visit <https://lambtonpublichealth.ca/ldas-home/>.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with LPH's role in the implementation of LDAS are cost-share funded between the province and municipality and are included in LPH's approved 2025 budget.

CONSULTATIONS

LDAS was developed in consultation with people with lived experience, their loved ones, community members, and key community stakeholders.

The 2024 LDAS Implementation Progress Report was developed by LPH in consultation with Steering Committee partners: Aamjiwnaang First Nation, BASES, Bluewater Health, Canadian Mental Health Association – Lambton Kent, Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, Emergency Medical Services – County of Lambton, Hogan Pharmacy Downtown, Lambton Kent District School Board, North Lambton Community Health Centre, Ontario Health West, Ontario Provincial Police – Lambton, Rapids Family Health Team, Sarnia Construction Association, Sarnia Lambton OHT, Sarnia-Lambton Rebound,

Lambton Drug and Alcohol Strategy Implementation (page 3)
Progress Report, 2024

July 2, 2025

Social Services - County of Lambton, St. Clair Catholic District School Board, St. Clair Child and Youth Services, Sarnia Police Service, Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society, and Walpole Island First Nation.

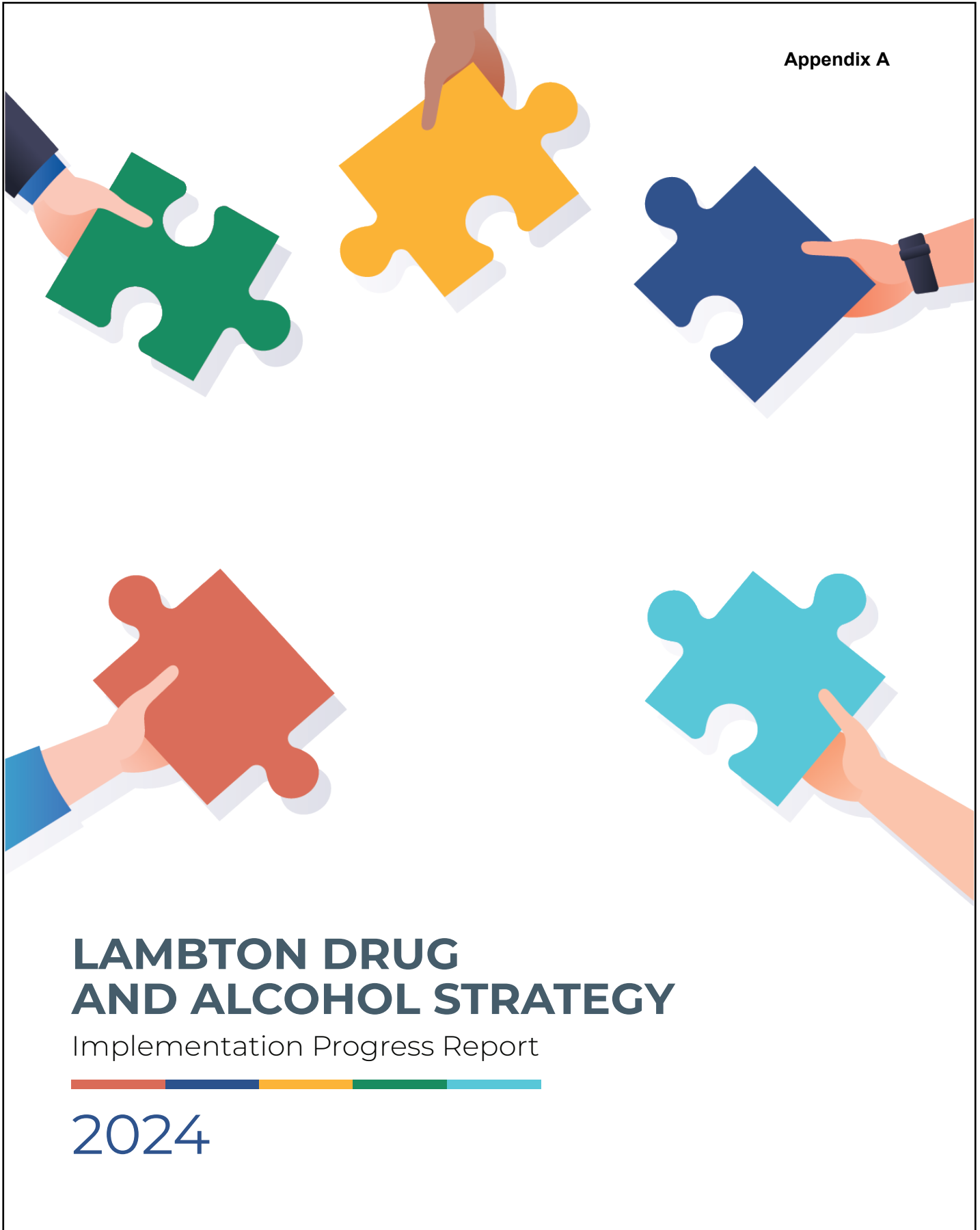
STRATEGIC PLAN

The implementation of LDAS aligns with the guiding principles, vision, mission, and areas of effort identified in the County of Lambton's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, supporting the County's areas of effort toward community development, health and wellness, service and communications, and partnerships.

CONCLUSION

The collective action of the Strategy is just beginning. The value of the Strategy now is in how the community is able to come together to strengthen existing efforts and explore new ones to reduce demand for, harm from, and supply of drugs and alcohol in Lambton. As we move forward with engaging priority populations, challenging stigma, responding to community needs, and building our ability to collaborate using data, we carry hope. Our community is leveraging the resources we have and listening to people in need and each other to ensure they're being used to help Lambton County flourish.

Appendix A



LAMBTON DRUG AND ALCOHOL STRATEGY

Implementation Progress Report



2024



HOW TO CITE THIS REPORT:

Lambton Public Health. Lambton Drug and Alcohol Strategy: Implementation Progress Report [Internet]. Lambton County (ON): County of Lambton; 2025 Jul [cited YYYY Month 2025]. Available from: URL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Lambton Drug and Alcohol Strategy Partners collectively acknowledge that this land on which we work 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.

We acknowledge the pain behind the data that is presented and the people in our communities that have lost their lives – both in the ongoing drug poisoning crisis and long before.

STEERING COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIR MESSAGE



As Co-Chairs of the Lambton Drug and Alcohol Strategy, we are proud to reflect on another year of collaboration, commitment, and measurable progress in addressing substance use in our community. The Strategy continues to serve as a vital framework that unites a diverse network of community partners, service providers, and residents working to improve health and social outcomes across Lambton County.

Substance use is a complex and deeply rooted public health issue, closely linked to many social determinants of health. It demands a comprehensive, coordinated response - and it is through collective action that we find our greatest strength lies. The Strategy demonstrates the power of mobilizing community assets, local knowledge, and professional expertise to drive meaningful and lasting change.

Since 2023, our partners made significant strides toward achieving our goals. These accomplishments reflect the unwavering efforts of our partners and community members who work every day to reduce harm, support recovery, and promote well-being. Some highlights include:

- Securing funding through a successful Health Canada Emergency Treatment Fund grant, supporting initiatives to be implemented in 2025
- Launching a publicly accessible Opioid Dashboard, providing timely data on opioid-related outcomes
- Delivering coordinated communications to de-stigmatize substance use and other social determinants of health, such as housing status

These achievements illustrate what is possible when we align around shared values and a common vision. We are inspired by the commitment and creativity of those involved and encouraged by the momentum we are building together.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to addressing substance use through evidence-informed action, compassion, and collaboration. We recognize that this work is ongoing and that sustained engagement is essential to reaching those most affected and to creating equitable access to support and care.

Thank you to our partners, funders, and the residents of Lambton County who continue to contribute to this important work. Together, we are a flourishing community, working together to prevent and reduce the harms of drug and alcohol use. We are making a difference!

Sincerely,

Donna Morreau

Integrated Director
Bluewater Health and
Canadian Mental Health
Association Lambton-Kent

Jordan Banninga

Manager, Health Promotion
Lambton Public Health
County of Lambton

SUBSTANCE USE

IN LAMBTON COUNTY

People use mood-altering substances like alcohol, cannabis, opioids, tobacco, and vaping products for many different reasons. Some individuals may not observe harm from substance use while others may face serious negative effects to their health and relationships. Biological, psychological, social factors, and others can play a role in how substances impact a person's life. Addressing the harms of substance use calls for a multifaceted approach across the substance use spectrum. To learn more about the substance use spectrum, visit LambtonDAS.ca

Across Ontario, adverse events from both regulated and unregulated substances result in thousands of emergency department visits, hospitalizations and deaths each year.¹ Province-wide and in Lambton County, opioid-related deaths surged in 2020.²

Since then, rates have stabilized but remain high, and the unregulated drug supply has become increasingly contaminated.³ Although data on opioid-related harms is more readily available, the community is also experiencing notable harms related to other substances. The growing availability of alcohol, cannabis, and vapour products in retail settings raises concerns about increased use and related health impacts in the future. A coordinated local response can help address the factors contributing to these harms and better support residents.

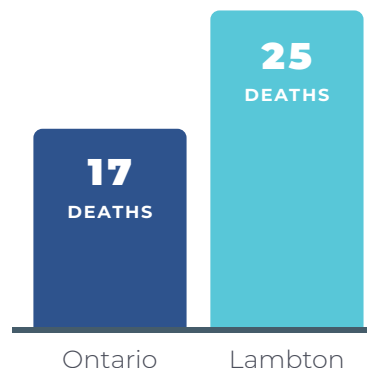


SUBSTANCE USE IN LAMBTON COUNTY



1 in 5 Lambton residents know someone in their immediate circle, either a family member or close friend, who has experienced an opioid poisoning/overdose.⁴

In Lambton County, the rate of opioid-related deaths per year remains higher than the Ontario rate at **25 deaths per 100,000** compared to **17 deaths per 100,000**, respectively, in 2024.²

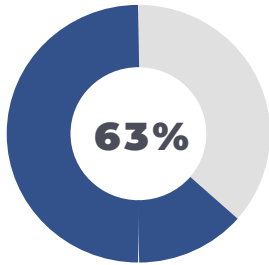


The opioid crisis has had a profound effect on rural and remote communities, where access to services and supports can be more limited. In 2024, the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario reported that Sarnia had one of the ten highest rates of opioid-related deaths across all census subdivisions in the province with populations of at least 30,000.⁵

Across Ontario, fentanyl continues to contribute to the majority (**7 in 10**) of opioid-related deaths. Stimulants and benzodiazepines are involved in nearly **7 in 10 opioid toxicity deaths**.⁵



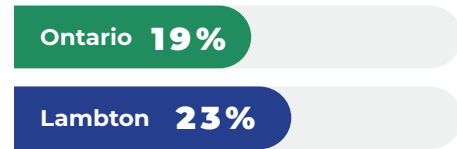
SUBSTANCE USE IN LAMBTON COUNTY



63% of people surveyed during Lambton County's 2024 Homelessness Enumeration self-reported experiencing difficulties related to substance use (e.g., alcohol or opiates). **30%** identified addiction as a top challenge to finding housing.⁶



While the percent of Lambton residents who drink alcohol is similar to the provincial rate, binge drinking was significantly more prevalent in Lambton. An estimated **23%** of Lambton residents aged **15+** reported binge drinking, compared to **19%** of Ontarians.⁷

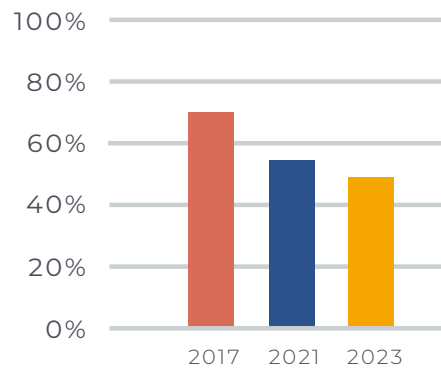


2,247

An estimated **2,247** emergency department visits per year were attributable to alcohol for Lambton residents aged 15+. Most of these were due to unintentional injury.⁸



During the pandemic, Lambton residents rated their own mental health more negatively than in previous years, and this indicator has yet to rebound. In 2023, **57%** of individuals surveyed in LPH's Community Health Survey rated their mental health as "very good" or "excellent", down from **70%** in 2017 and **59%** in 2021.⁴



LAMBTON OPIOID DASHBOARD

In July 2024, Lambton Public Health launched a publicly accessible online Opioid Dashboard, replacing its previous email-based opioid bulletin distributed to service providers. The interactive dashboard provides timely data on opioid-related ambulance calls, emergency department visits, Naloxone kit distribution, and confirmed and probable opioid poisoning (toxicity) deaths in Lambton County. This transition to an open-access digital platform was made to enhance data accessibility for service providers, community agencies, and the general public.

Lambton Public Health
Lambton Opioid Dashboard
Updated Monthly. Last Updated: May 22, 2025

- Background
- ED Visits
- Deaths
- EMS Calls
- Naloxone
- Alerts
- Data Notes

Why is it important to monitor confirmed and probable opioid-related deaths?

Monitoring confirmed and probable deaths related to opioid poisoning (overdose) allows for the evaluation of the effectiveness of interventions aimed at preventing poisoning (overdose) fatalities. By assessing the impact of these interventions and sharing the data with the community, we can work together to refine strategies and allocate resources to effectively reduce mortality rates in Lambton County. Data on this page represent snapshots in time up to the most recent month available. The data source for confirmed and probable deaths related to opioid poisoning (overdose) is the Office of the Chief Coroner (OCC).

Number of confirmed and probable deaths related to opioid poisoning (overdose) in Lambton, 2018-2025

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
14	21	43	38	31	36	35	3

Based on preliminary data

Interpretation

In 2024, Lambton's number of confirmed deaths related to opioid poisoning (overdose) was 35, which was similar for Lambton compared to 2023.

Rate of confirmed and probable deaths related to opioid poisoning (overdose) in Lambton by year (2018-2025)

Year	Lambton	Ontario
2018	14	10
2019	21	10
2020	43	17
2021	38	19
2022	31	17
2023	36	17
2024	35	14
2025	3	1

Based on preliminary data

Data Note:

Office of the Chief Coroner: Confirmed and probable death data is considered preliminary and subject to change from 2023-present.

Data for 2025 represents an incomplete year and is updated when data becomes available.

View the [Opioid Dashboard](#)



LAMBTON DRUG AND ALCOHOL STRATEGY



The Lambton Drug and Alcohol Strategy (LDAS) is a coordinated and collaborative approach across sectors in Lambton County to create a flourishing community that prevents and reduces the harms of drug and alcohol use. The Strategy is uniquely local, informed by data and perspectives from Lambton. To view the Strategy and how it was developed visit, LambtonDAS.ca.

This report highlights several activities made possible by the collective efforts of invested partners.

Governance

To guide the Strategy, a Steering Committee supports the work of three dedicated Pillars, each with their own set of goals, priorities, and engaged community partners. With partners from health care, education, industry, and more, the Steering Committee provides overarching leadership, decision-making and shared resources, fosters collaboration related to the six strategic priorities (Figure 1), and helps to ensure efforts are aligned with broader community strategies.

In addition, the Strategy fosters community engagement through a hub-and-spoke model tied to each organization’s own advisory structure. A research report on best practices for engaging with people with lived experience was completed by the Steering Committee. This integrated structure (Figure 2) enables progress in reducing substance-related harms and promoting healthier communities across Lambton County.

FIGURE 1: STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

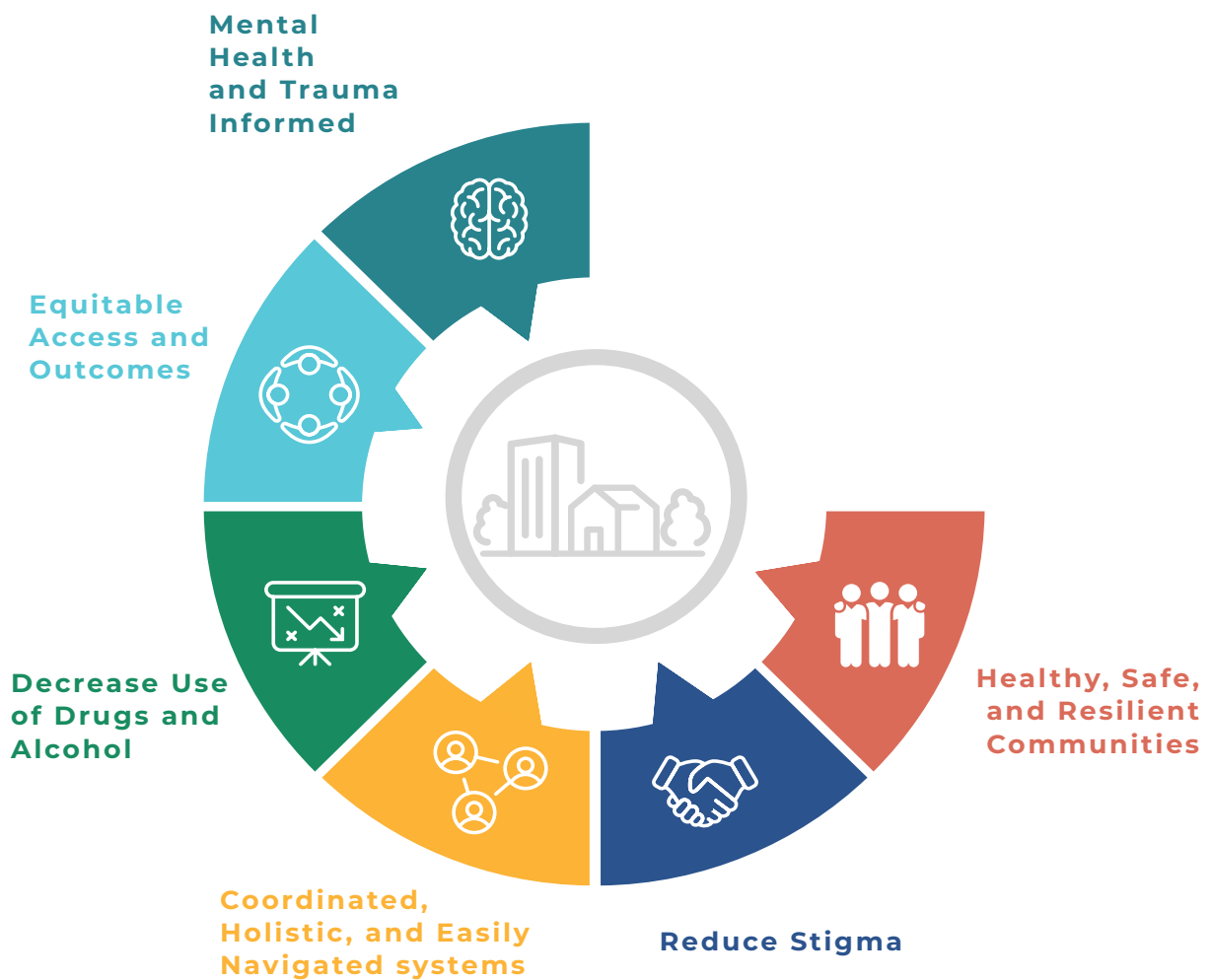


FIGURE 2: LAMBTON DRUG AND ALCOHOL STRATEGY GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE





IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE



“The strategy has been a very good barometer for what is transpiring in the community and how various partners are responding has been very encouraging. Greater visibility to available services is a major advantage to all who attend.”

- Marcel Laporte, Pharmacist and Owner



Since the launch of the Strategy in 2023, the impact of, and policy towards substances has changed and harm continues to remain high. This reality has prompted collective action in Lambton. Demonstrating commitment, capacity, and hope for change, new and familiar partners working in substance use are collaborating on local, provincial and federal grant applications, data sharing, and problem-solving community-wide challenges through adaptive service models.

While Lambton has achieved many successes through community collaboration to date, the Strategy platform has enabled partners to come together in a timely and consistent manner to address substance-related concerns across Lambton. Steering Committee partners have reported that these efforts have been helpful in addressing key issues facing service providers by:

- Fostering partnership, collaboration, information sharing and transparency
- Reducing duplication across services
- Engaging in collaborative problem solving on community-wide challenges
- Applying for collaborative funding
- Reducing barriers to accessing services

In 2025, the Steering Committee will continue to harness these strengths and growing partnerships to achieve even greater impact. Evaluations of these partnerships and collective actions will be implemented to assess progress toward the Strategy’s vision of a flourishing community.



DEMAND REDUCTION

PROGRESS SNAPSHOT



“Ongoing community education and awareness will help to reduce stigma and create a more supportive community environment that will allow us to address the most urgent needs”

- Anita Trusler, County of Lambton Emergency Medical Services



Reducing substance demand in our community requires both a health promotion and prevention-focused approach. This pillar emphasizes preventing or delaying the onset of substance use by strengthening the community conditions that build resilience and promote healthier lifestyle choices. There are many community partners working within this space bringing the expertise of their own core programming such as YWHO (Youth Wellness Hub Ontario), Rebound’s HUB program, Choices Jr., & Sr. Program, Concurrent Disorders programming, after school programs, Healthy Babies Healthy Children, and Ask a Public Health Nurse Drop-In.

In 2024, the Pillar identified 3 priority areas to help guide collaborative projects:

- Leverage, build, and enhance community assets
- Promote resilience and support healthier alternatives to substance use
- Organize and support youth-led community development

Since then, the Pillar has brought community partners together for training opportunities and hosted community information sessions for parents and youth allies. In 2025, the Pillar will continue these efforts through building capacity for youth engagement and education sessions on substance use, all while evolving to meet the current needs of the community that arise.

Talk Early, Talk Often: Youth Substance Use

Preventing substance use is key for positive youth development. In September 2024, Lambton Public Health - with support from partners - hosted Steve Keller, from Drug Free Kids Canada, to lead a county-wide initiative highlighting the importance of informed and engaged allies in preventing substance related harms. Over 350 parents and adult allies attended 6 in-person events across Lambton County, where they gained valuable insights into understanding youth substance use trends, health impacts, and how to have ongoing supportive conversations with youth about substances.

[Resources for Parents – Drug Free Kids Canada](#)



Engage & Inspire: A Youth Engagement Workshop



In October 2024, Sarnia-Lambton Rebound facilitated Youth Engagement Training for those working within the health and social service fields. The objective of this training was to provide insight and clarity surrounding youth engagement, aiming to build a foundational understanding of the topic. The training consisted of tools and models used to break down the effectiveness of youth engagement, identify inauthentic youth engagement, and challenge biases. The training aimed to incite individual, agency, and community reflection regarding the importance of intentionally engaging youth in all realms of social services.

[Sarnia-Lambton Rebound - a caring partner in the successful development of youth.](#)

Intensive Outreach Treatment (IOT) Program

In November 2024, St. Clair Child and Youth Services received funding to launch the Intensive Outreach Treatment (IOT) Program, designed after the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) model to offer flexible and accessible mental health services to children and youth aged 9–17. This initiative comes in response to a 25% increase over the past four years in the number of children and youth experiencing complex mental health needs. The IOT program provides intensive, developmentally appropriate support through in-home and community-based services, with a focus on reducing the severity of mental health challenges, improving functioning in school and relationships, and enhancing family stability to support overall well-being. By adopting a holistic, integrated approach across health, education and child welfare sectors, the program ensures smooth transitions and continuous support, helping families navigate the mental health system more effectively.

[St. Clair Child & Youth Services](#)





HARM REDUCTION

PROGRESS SNAPSHOT



“The work of the Strategy capitalized on the initiatives and priorities that have existing natural traction in Lambton. This work is rarely the sole focus of participating partners – focusing on the wins within existing mandates and agencies’ commitments can maintain momentum.”

- Ian Hanney, County of Lambton Social Services



Harm Reduction is an approach that focuses on reducing the adverse health, social, and economic consequences of an action, like reducing the negative consequences of substance use.

Throughout the County there are many organizations working from a Harm Reduction approach including specialized outreach teams, fixed site harm reduction services, substance use navigators, and the community addictions hub.

In addition to the core programming, the Pillar has taken a broad approach to reducing the harm related to substance use and has included aspects of coordinated access to services, educating and promoting empathy, and engaging in a model of peer support within their collaborative priorities. In 2025 the pillar will continue to adapt to support the changing needs of the community and reduce structural stigma through trauma informed care and stigma education sessions. This will be supported by the actualization of a 2025 Health Canada Emergency Treatment Fund grant.

Community Outreach Connects

Each week, staff who provide street-level services gather for a virtual Community Outreach Huddle, with the goal of fostering stronger collaboration, improving communication, and minimizing service duplication. This coordinated approach enhances efficiency and ensures that each location where individuals are precariously housed or living unsheltered in the community receives well-rounded, integrated support. The huddle represents a key step in building a more unified, responsive network of service providers that extends into the coordination and operation of daily services. Beyond information sharing, partners also have the opportunity to expand their skills and engage in collaborative learning experiences such as partnering with a Sarnia Fire Prevention Officer to receive training on identifying hazards and risks in encampment locations in the fall of 2024.

[Community Outreach - County of Lambton](#)

Participating Partners Include:

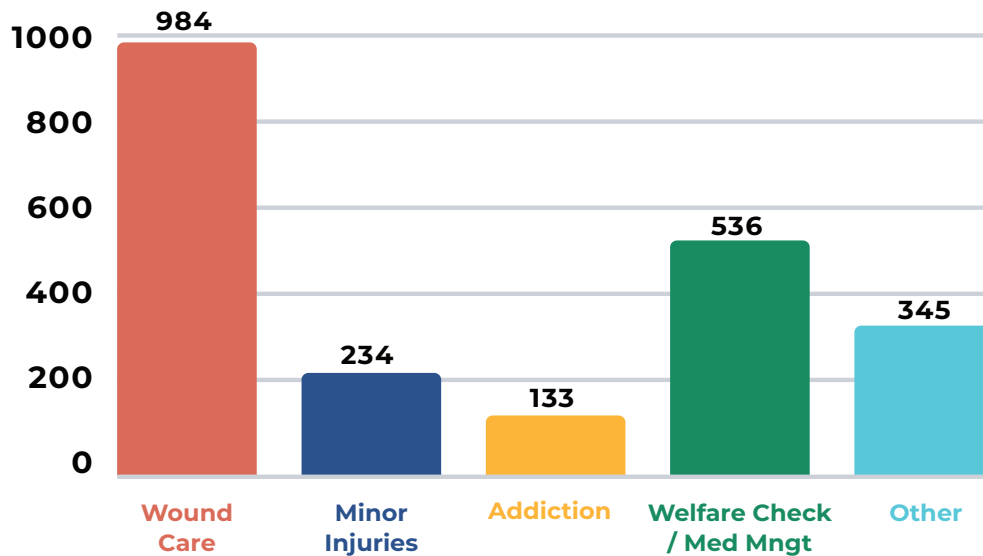
- County of Lambton Homelessness Outreach Team
- Community Health Integrated Care (CHIC) Team
- North Lambton Community Health Centre
- Lambton Public Health Outreach Nurse
- IMPACT Team – Sarnia Police Services



Community Health Integrated Care (CHIC) team

Launched in June 2024, the CHIC team pairs Substance Use Navigators from Bluewater Health, who have experience intervening in acute mental health and substance misuse events, alongside the medical skill sets of Lambton EMS Paramedics. The team is deployed daily from 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. and provides on scene interventions, rapid connections with primary care and withdrawal management, and ongoing community-based supports to divert those with lower acuity and community-manageable episodes away from hospital emergency departments or police detention. Between June 7, 2024, to March 31, 2025, the CHIC team supported 2151 engagements with community members.

Emergency Medical Services - County of Lambton





SUPPLY REDUCTION

PROGRESS SNAPSHOT



“The pillar brings together partners to discuss changes in the supply and distribution pathways to support safer communities.”

- Stephen Turner, County of Lambton Emergency Medical Services



Supply reduction focuses on both the enforcement of substance-related laws as well as increasing access to treatment. The goal of the Supply Reduction Pillar is to create a healthier community by limiting, regulating, and encouraging responsible access to substances.

Partners at the table bring and share expertise from a wide range of core programming including policing, public health, the justice system, as well as the pharmacies, primary care and acute care. This platform creates a unique network for discussing supply related issues.

In 2024, the workgroup identified the areas they see as priorities to continue to move work forward. These include:

- Supporting pain management and prescribing practices
- Expanding and improving existing court diversion programs
- Reducing the availability of substances in the home – including alcohol and pharmaceuticals
- Increasing access to treatment for addictions

Continuing with the momentum, the group will support the launch of Lifeguard [Connect Digital Health App](#) as well as safe storage and disposal of substances in the home and community.

Sarnia Lambton MobileCare Clinic

Launched in 2023 the MobileCare clinic on wheels brings primary care and mental health and addictions care to individuals when and where they need it. As a free walk-in service for all community members, this innovative model of care aims to make access to vital health care easy and reduce Hospital and Emergency Department use by fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment where individuals can build meaningful relationships with care providers.

Other key objectives of the clinic include:

- Provide early intervention care in a culturally competent and safe manner
- Offer Mental Health First Response, Primary Care and Addictions services together under one roof, close to home
- Reduce the need for clients to travel to access healthcare services
- Provide system navigation to foster connections and reduce barriers to care

To find out when it is in your neighbourhood next, check out the [Mobile Care Clinic](#).



Tobacco and Vapour Product Test Shopping

In Ontario, under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA), public health enforcement officers and youth test shoppers conduct youth access inspections of tobacco and vapour product retailers to ensure compliance with age restrictions and ID requirements. In 2024, 94% of locations passed, up from 91% in 2023 and 89% in 2022. Officers also inspect vendors for compliance with display and promotion rules. Common violations include visible products and/or manufacturer signage that constitutes promotion.

In collaboration with school administrators, officers also inspect schools to enforce smoke-and vapour-free laws, ensure proper signage, and provide education to staff and students.

LambtonPublicHealth.ca

Sarnia Police Services

The Sarnia Police Services supports the community to address criminal aspects of substance use through enforcement and connecting to community health and social services. The Major Case Action Team (MCAT) responds to drug and firearm related offences. In 2024, MCAT made tremendous efforts to reduce the supply of dangerous substances in the community seizing \$417,560 worth of drugs, including fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine.

In 2024, the specialized Integrated Mobile Police and Community Team (IMPACT) connected with 316 unique individuals experiencing substance use problems, offering support and connection in over 1200 different engagements. [Sarnia Police Services](#)

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) - Lambton

The OPP works to reduce the local supply of dangerous substances through enforcement and collaboration with community partners. In 2024, the Lambton OPP Community Street Crime Unit carried out extensive enforcement efforts to reduce the local supply of controlled substances. This included 89 investigations, 107 warrants, and participation in 34 warrant entries. As a result, significant quantities of controlled substances and firearms were seized, reflecting ongoing concerns related to fentanyl and methamphetamine in particular. The street value of all substances seized in 2024 amounted to \$933,995.





LOOKING FORWARD

NEXT STEPS FOR LDAS



“The drug and alcohol strategy is the forum where we can bring together ideas, share what’s needed and figure things out”

- Jordan Banninga, Lambton Public Health

The collective action of the Strategy is just beginning. The Strategy’s long-term plan is aspirational acknowledging that while these efforts are important, the priorities may change. The value of the Strategy now is in how the community is able to come together to strengthen existing efforts and explore new ones to reduce demand for, harm from, and supply of drugs and alcohol in Lambton. As we move forward with engaging priority populations, challenging stigma, responding to community needs, and building our ability to collaborate using data, we carry hope. Our community is leveraging the resources we have and listening to people in need and each other to ensure they’re being used to help Lambton County flourish.

To keep updated on the work of the Strategy or to contact us visit LambtonDAS.ca.

STEERING COMMITTEE

- Aamjiwnaang First Nation
- BASES
- Bluewater Health
- Canadian Mental Health Association – Lambton Kent
- Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
- Emergency Medical Services – County of Lambton
- Hogan Pharmacy Downtown
- Lambton Kent District School Board
- Lambton Public Health
- North Lambton Community Health Centre
- Ontario Health West
- Ontario Provincial Police – Lambton
- Rapids Family Health Team
- Sarnia Construction Association
- Sarnia Lambton OHT
- Sarnia-Lambton Rebound
- Social Services, County of Lambton
- St. Clair Catholic District School Board
- St. Clair Child and Youth Services
- Sarnia Police Service
- Sarnia-Lambton Children’s Aid Society
- Walpole Island First Nation

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PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Crystal Palleschi, Manager, Clinical & Family Services Kerry Phillips, Supervisor, Clinical & Family Services
REVIEWED BY:	Kevin Churchill, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	July 2, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Supporting Healthy Growth and Development - Update

BACKGROUND

The Clinical and Family Services team supports the Healthy Growth and Development Standard of the Ontario Public Health Standards in many ways. The standard is very comprehensive and includes the following as topics for consideration: breastfeeding; growth and development; healthy pregnancies; healthy sexuality; mental health promotion; oral health; preconception health; pregnancy counselling; preparation for parenting; positive parenting; and visual health.

Lambton Public Health (“LPH”) works very closely in partnership with others in the health and social services system to facilitate early identification of developmental concerns, and referrals to services that are local, accessible, and culturally safe. The following report will highlight LPH’s Family Health Line, Ask a Public Health Nurse drop-in program, and a new communications campaign supporting Healthy Growth and Development. The most recent update on this program was provided through the report to Council “*Supporting Healthy Growth and Development – Update*” dated July 4, 2024.

DISCUSSION

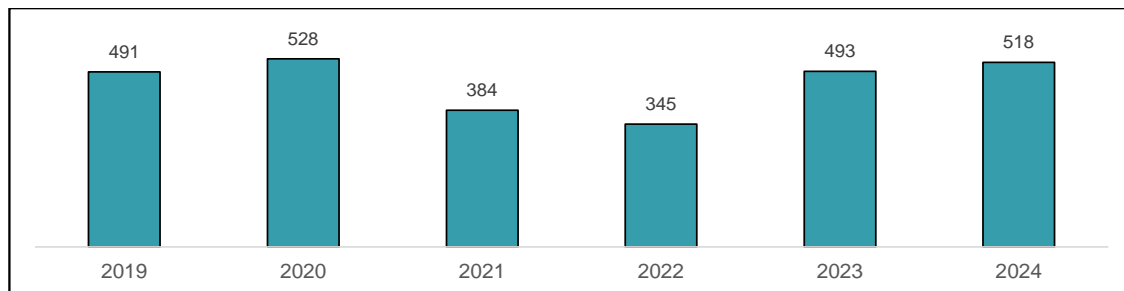
Public Health Nurses (“PHNs”) are a reliable, accessible, and highly knowledgeable source of trustworthy information on supporting healthy growth and development during pregnancy, infancy, and early childhood. Two ways that families can access these resources are through the LPH Family Health Line and the Ask a Public Health Nurse parent drop-in program.

Family Health Line: The Family Health Line connects caregivers to a PHN to answer questions about children’s growth and development. Confidential telephone support and one-to-one information is offered to address concerns or answer questions about: healthy pregnancy; breastfeeding or infant nutrition; parenting and raising healthy children; and

child growth and development – including important developmental milestones. Caregivers may access the service by calling [519-383-3817](tel:519-383-3817). A PHN is available Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Data collected about the Family Health Line shows that the number of inquiries has returned to pre-pandemic levels (**Figure 1**). The most common reasons for contacting LPH are breastfeeding (38%), prenatal support (27%), and general growth and development (21%). Many inquiries result in referrals to local resources, including primary care, relevant public health programs, and other services. About 23% of calls result in a referral to the Ask a Public Health Nurse drop-in program.

Figure 1: Number of inquiries to the Family Health Line by year, 2019 to 2024



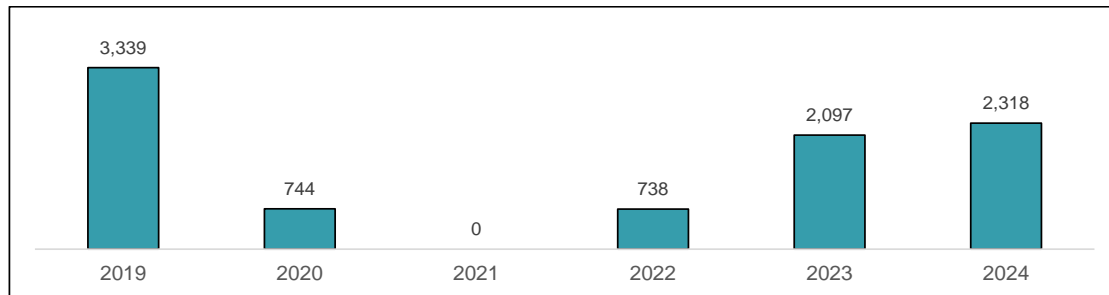
Ask a Public Health Nurse Drop-In Program: Drop-in sessions are offered throughout Lambton County, in partnership with EarlyON Child and Family Centres. Drop-ins are offered weekly in Point Edward, Sarnia, Petrolia, and Corunna. Sessions are offered monthly in several locations, including Sarnia Little Friends Site, Forest, Alvinston, Brigden, and Port Lambton. A full schedule is available on the [Lambton Public Health website](#).

These drop-ins are open to all parents and caregivers with children ranging from birth to school-age. PHNs are available to answer questions regarding breastfeeding supports and infant nutrition, newborn care, parenting, growth and development.

Ask a Public Health Nurse drop-ins give parents and caregivers the chance to ask important questions about their child’s growth and development. They provide a safe environment where the child can be observed and also offer important opportunities for socialization that can have long term benefits for both parents and child.

Data collected about the Ask a Public Health Nurse drop-in program indicate that attendance continues to recover following the COVID-19 pandemic (**Figure 2**). Numbers continue to increase, with 20% more adults attending drop-ins in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the first quarter of 2023. In 2024, Point Edward, Petrolia, Lambton College, Corunna, and Forest locations had the highest attendance. PHNs completed 259 health screens in 2024, and they commonly made referrals to EarlyON Child and Family Centre, primary care, and other public health programs.

Figure 2: Number of adults attending the Ask a Public Health Nurse drop-in program by year, 2019 to 2024



Tomorrow Starts Today – Healthy Growth and Development Campaign: LPH developed a communications campaign to increase awareness of services available to support healthy growth and development. This builds on a broader LPH-wide campaign called "Tomorrow Starts Today" and includes a series of videos that feature LPH staff answering questions about the prenatal and postpartum supports we offer. The rollout started in June, including updated print resources, web content, and social media ads promoting drop-ins, prenatal classes, home visiting, and our Family Health Line.

Health care professionals and other partners can download updated resources from our [Health Care Provider Portal](#). Videos highlighting developmental milestones, nutrition and breastfeeding support, postpartum support, and prenatal classes are now being shared through social media and can be found on [LPH's YouTube channel](#).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with the delivery of Healthy Growth and Development programs are cost-share funded between the province and municipality and are included in LPH's approved 2025 budget.

CONSULTATIONS

In the delivery of Healthy Growth and Development programs, LPH consults with EarlyON Child and Family Centres. LPH's Medical Officer of Health was also consulted in the preparation of this report.


STRATEGIC PLAN

The Healthy Growth and Development programs 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.*

These programs are delivered in partnership with local agencies, fulfilling the Partnerships Area of Effort.

CONCLUSION

Supporting parents and caregivers of children in their earliest years yields important benefits that can improve health over the life course. Through these activities, PHNs can directly facilitate access to supports and referrals regarding infant nutrition and feeding, childhood immunizations, early identification of hearing, speech and language concerns, mental health supports, home safety, early literacy, healthy parent-child relationships, and much more.

 <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Dr. Karalyn Dueck, Medical Officer of Health Kevin Churchill, General Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	July 2, 2025
SUBJECT:	Lambton Public Health's 2025 to 2029 Strategic Plan

BACKGROUND

Under the authority of Section 7 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, the Ministry of Health publishes the Ontario Public Health Standards (“OPHS”), which set the minimum requirements for programs and services for Boards of Health (“BOH”) of public health units across the province. In accordance with the legislative requirements of the OPHS, BOHs are responsible for establishing strategic priorities over a three- to five-year period.

Through the report to County Council, as Lambton Public Health’s (“LPH”) BOH, dated July 5, 2023, titled: *Update on Lambton Public Health’s Current and Future Budget Pressures Report*, staff presented LPH’s 2022 to 2024 strategic priorities to bridge the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and a new Strategic Plan to commence in 2025.

The purpose of this report is to present LPH’s Strategic Plan for the next four (4) years, with the attached Strategic Plan (Appendix A), and recommend its adoption by the BOH.

DISCUSSION

LPH’s 2025 to 2029 strategic planning process began in January 2025, with the guidance of Platinum Leadership Inc. to incorporate perspectives from staff, leadership, members of the public, community partners, and County Council as LPH’s BOH.

The vision, mission, and values from LPH’s inaugural 2014 to 2019 Strategic Plan have been reaffirmed in LPH’s Strategic Plan for the next four (4) years:

- **Vision:** Lambton County is a community that supports all people to strive for safety, health, and well-being.

- **Mission:** Lambton Public Health works with the community to assess, promote, and protect public health, prevent disease and injury, and advance healthy public policy.
- **Values:** With a goal of health for all, Lambton Public Health's values are C.L.E.A.R.:
 - **Collaboration** – We work with many partners to deliver programs and services that meet the needs of our community.
 - **Leadership** – We inspire and empower our community, partners, and staff to influence positive change.
 - **Equity** – We commit to reduce barriers so all people can achieve their full health potential.
 - **Accountability** – We provide accurate, transparent, and timely information with a commitment to protecting privacy and confidentiality.
 - **Respect** – We act and serve with integrity and treat all people with dignity.

As described in the Strategic Plan found in Appendix A, LPH will focus on:

- **Mental and Physical Health in Early Life:** To promote the mental and physical health of children, youth, and families.
- **Community Confidence and Engagement:** To ensure the delivery of high-quality programs and services that meet local needs and leverage community partners.
- **Workforce Development and Well-Being:** To foster a capable, responsive workforce with a positive workplace culture.
- **Emergency Management:** To safeguard public health in emergencies.

LPH's 2025 to 2029 Strategic Plan was developed through an evidence-informed process designed to align organizational efforts with the evolving needs of the communities served. Supported by Platinum Leadership Inc., the strategic planning process was structured to maximize the use of available data, encourage broad engagement, and ensure the resulting plan is actionable and rooted in local realities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Any financial impacts resulting from the adoption of this report can be accommodated within LPH's 2025 budget, as approved by Council.

CONSULTATIONS

In the preparation of LPH's 2025 to 2029 Strategic Plan, the engagement of more than 75 individuals, along with previous community surveys, was incorporated, including feedback from LPH staff, leaders, members of the public, community partners, and the BOH.

STRATEGIC PLAN

LPH's next four-year Strategic Plan aligns with the areas of effort identified in the County's Strategic Plan, particularly within the areas of effort toward community development, health, and wellness; services and communications; progressive organizational culture; and partnerships.

CONCLUSION

Grounded in its mandate and mission defined in the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, LPH's 2025 to 2029 Strategic Plan sets a path to reach the vision of Lambton County as a community that supports all people to strive for safety, health, and well-being.

LPH is well positioned to operationalize these priorities and measure outcomes that support accountability, alignment across programs and services, and the ability to monitor and report on community progress toward these goals.

RECOMMENDATION

That the 2025 to 2029 Lambton Public Health Strategic Plan is hereby approved and adopted.

Appendix A



Strategic Plan
2025-2029

TABLE OF CONTENTS



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	3
INTRODUCTIONS	4
ABOUT LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH	7
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	12

Land Acknowledgment

Lambton Public Health acknowledges that the land on which we gather 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.



Acknowledgments

Strategic planning offers Lambton Public Health a vital opportunity to intentionally shape our path forward, strengthening our ability to deliver on our mandate and advancing our ultimate vision: a community where all people are supported to strive for safety, health, and well-being.

Our planning and our work are a collective effort. We are grateful to all who shared their perspectives – staff, members of the public, community partners, members of the Board of Health, and management. Your insights and ideas, coupled with the information provided by a robust environmental scan, helped to shape the direction of our future work and ensure our strategy is grounded in the needs, strengths, and aspirations of those we serve and work alongside. Thank you.

Introductions



Message from Kevin Marriott

Lambton County Warden

On behalf of Lambton County Council, I am pleased to present the 2025-2029 Lambton Public Health Strategic Plan.

Lambton County Council, which acts as the Board of Health, is committed to the promotion and protection of health within our community, and supporting residents through every stage of life. This Strategic Plan will help Council to effectively advocate for the advancement of public health policy, aid staff in providing responsive, valuable programs and services to meet the growing and changing demands of our community, and prepare community leaders in addressing possible significant health events.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the importance of local public health units in the community and reaffirms the confidence we hold in Lambton Public Health. Lambton Public Health continues to be a source of local, reliable information and support, and we are grateful for the efforts of staff in undertaking this work and providing such important resources to our community.

The County is a caring, growing, and innovative community, committed to creating a better future for all. In the County's 2024-2027 Corporate Strategic Plan, we highlight the importance of Community Development, Health, and Wellness and Services and Communications as two of our key areas of effort. This Plan is an important piece in both areas of effort and will help us to continue to build a community where residents are safe and healthy; feel a sense of belonging, pride, and purpose; and care for one another.

Introductions



Message from Dr. Karalyn Dueck

Medical Officer of Health

We extend our great thanks to valued Lambton Public Health staff and leaders, community partners, and County Council as our Board of Health for your respected insight which has shaped our strategic focus for the next four years. We acknowledge and deeply appreciate your service and support.

Public health achievements throughout history inspire us as a local public health unit to continue to assess, protect, and promote community health. Guided by the Ministry of Health's Ontario Public Health Standards and the Health Protection and Promotion Act, our staff provide programs and services with our partners that embed health protection and promotion throughout many facets and settings of the community.

To achieve these strategic priorities, Lambton Public Health will maintain its presence throughout Lambton County, fostering mental and physical health during critical stages of life. Augmenting engagement and synergies of partnerships will optimize community health, where health is not only influenced by the steadfast service of our health care partners, but also within child care, education, municipal, social, built, and natural environments.

Bolstering community health and safety relies on close, connected community partners who are able to consistently and thoroughly attend to all phases of the emergency management cycle. Equipping our staff and aligning efforts with our partners through all phases of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery to emergencies is integral to protecting public health during these events.

The foundation and impetus for achieving success in these next strategic priorities lies within Lambton Public Health's staff development and wellness; we thank you and recognize your excellence in local public health work!

The 2025-2029 Strategic Plan reflects our commitment to the health and well-being of all Lambton County residents and charts the course for Lambton Public Health to foster a flourishing community.

Introductions



Message from Kevin Churchill

General Manager, Public Health Services Division

Ontario communities are facing many challenges, and Lambton County is not alone in this. The rising cost of living, lack of affordable housing, homelessness, toxic unregulated drugs, and the re-emergence of infectious diseases including measles, have lasting impacts that affect us all. The need for a strong, knowledgeable, and responsive public health system has never been greater.

Here at Lambton Public Health, our professional staff are our greatest asset. Our highly knowledgeable people bring a wealth of experience, training, empathy, and compassion to their work. Our shared values of Collaboration, Leadership, Equity, Accountability, and Respect are evident in our everyday contributions. Every person here wants to make a difference in the well-being of the community. I'm very proud to say that our strategic priorities reflect this commitment – one that is grounded in acknowledging and supporting the development of our workforce.

Public health is centered in the community – our partnerships are critically important. By establishing trust, and earning respectful relationships in our daily work, we can leverage that trust and cooperative spirit during public health emergencies. This was very evident during the COVID-19 pandemic.

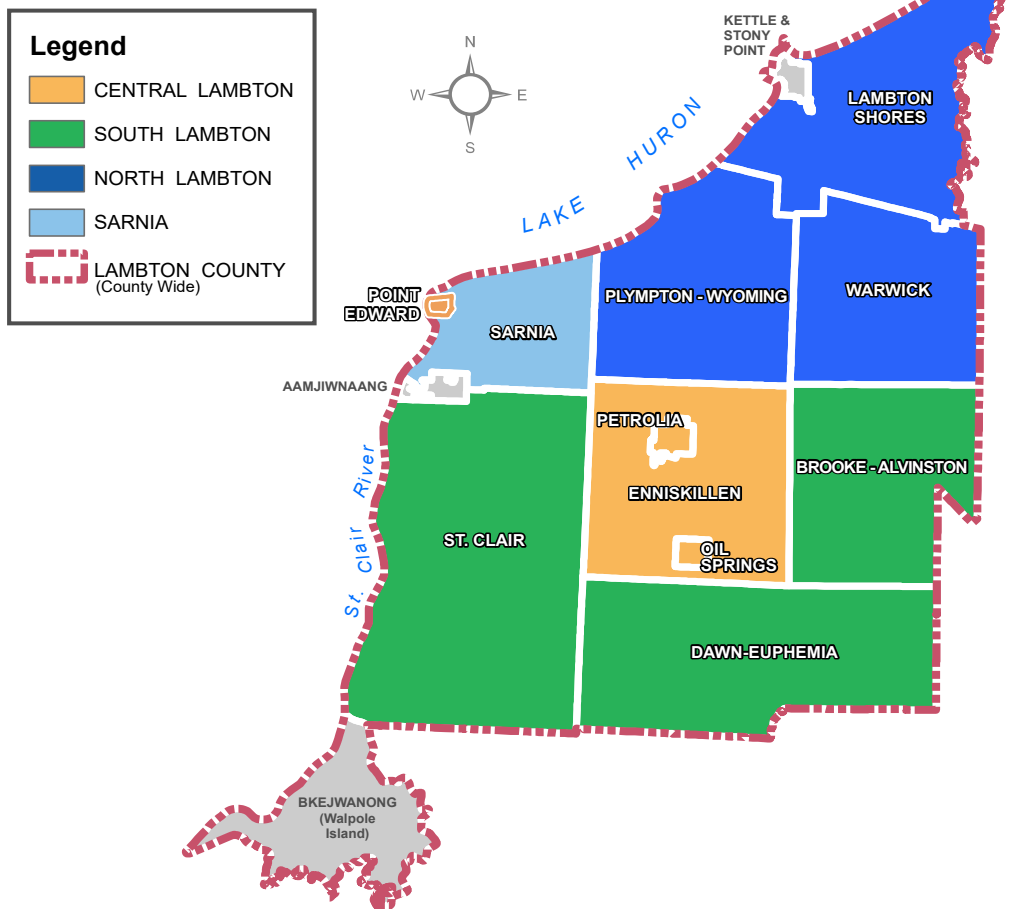
Our relationships with First Nations, local school boards, health care providers, faith communities, municipalities, labour, business, industry, and others enabled us to respond to the most impactful public health emergency of our lifetime with a systematic, data-driven, timely, and effective response. I'm incredibly proud of all of our staff who worked tirelessly together throughout the pandemic.

By focusing our efforts on mental and physical health in early life, community confidence and engagement, workforce development and well-being, and emergency management, Lambton Public Health will be well positioned to meet current demands, and well prepared to manage future public health emergencies.

About Lambton Public Health

Lambton Public Health is one of 29 public health units in Ontario, delivering mandated public health programs and services for eleven (11) municipalities throughout Lambton County. Our work is guided by the Ontario Public Health Standards and overseen by the Board of Health for the County of Lambton, which is made up of municipal representatives serving on County Council. We provide regular updates to the Board of Health at each County Council meeting, with reports made publicly available in County Council's publicly posted agendas and our own Public Health Reports.

County of Lambton



About LPH

Lambton County is home to a projected population of approximately 128,000 residents. The largest population and urban centre is the City of Sarnia, where about 72,000 people reside. The region also includes a significant rural population—accounting for 28% of Lambton’s residents—spread across picturesque towns and farmland rich in agricultural heritage.

Lambton Public Health also works in collaboration with the communities of Aamjiwnaang First Nation, located adjacent to Sarnia; Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, situated northward along the shores of Lake Huron; and Walpole Island First Nation, bordering the municipality of Chatham-Kent.



The work of Lambton Public Health includes diverse areas, such as:

Understanding community health

- Collecting and studying health information to understand what problems people are facing and how to fix them.

Providing public health services

- Delivering public health services directly to people, especially those who need it the most.

Health teaching and education

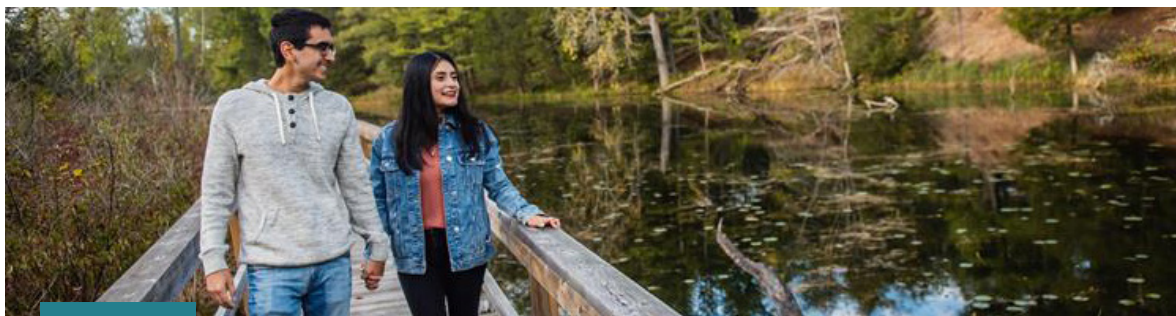
- Teaching people new things, helping them learn new skills, and supporting them to make healthy changes.

Sharing health information

- Sharing helpful information to enable people and communities to support healthy choices.

Managing diseases and outbreaks

- Finding people who are sick with certain diseases, checking who they were around, and helping stop the disease from spreading.
- Monitoring bugs like ticks and mosquitoes so they don't spread diseases.



About LPH



Distributing essential health supplies

- Keeping track of and handing out important supplies like vaccines and harm reduction kits to people and groups who need them.

Engaging community partners

- Empowering community partners to solve health problems.

Advancing healthy policies

- Helping community partners create policies and practices that make it easier for everyone to live a healthy life.

Public health inspections

- Checking places like buildings, or businesses to make sure they follow health and safety rules.

Public health investigations

- Looking into things that could or have harmed people's health and finding ways to stop them.



Vision, Mission, and Values

Vision

Lambton County is a community that supports all people to strive for safety, health, and well-being.

Mission

Lambton Public Health works with the community to assess, promote, and protect health, prevent disease and injury, and advance healthy public policy.

Values

With a goal of health for all, Lambton Public Health's values are C.L.E.A.R.



Collaboration

We work with many partners to deliver programs and services that meet the needs of our community.



Leadership

We inspire and empower our community, partners, and staff to influence positive change.



Equity

We commit to reduce barriers so all people can achieve their full health potential.



Accountability

We provide accurate, transparent, and timely information with a commitment to protecting privacy and confidentiality.



Respect

We act and serve with integrity and treat all people with dignity.

Strategic Priorities

Our Strategic Priorities

Grounded in our mission, informed by interest-holder input, and responsive to emerging needs and opportunities, Lambton Public Health will focus our efforts in these key areas in the next four years:



We are guided in this work by a shared vision of Lambton County as a community that supports all people to strive for safety, health, and well-being.

Priority: Mental and Physical Health in Early Life



Goal: To promote the mental and physical health of children, youth, and families.

Enabling positive mental and physical health requires a community response. Our interest-holders consistently identified mental health and addictions as an urgent priority for our community. The role of public health in these issues is to ‘work upstream’: addressing root causes, promoting protective factors, and collaborating with community partners who provide direct services and supports.

Focusing on mental and physical health in early life is one of the most impactful investments a public health unit can make. By promoting healthy starts for children and supporting families, Lambton Public Health can help prevent future health challenges, reduce health inequities, and strengthen community resilience. Together, we build a strong foundation for healthier futures for individuals and the whole community.

Lambton Public Health will pursue this goal by:

- Conducting and reporting on a community health assessment with youth and families.
- Enhancing services that meet the health needs of children and families from preconception to school entry.
- Supporting and collaborating with educational settings to promote child and youth physical and mental health.

Priority: Community Confidence and Engagement



Goal: To ensure the delivery of high-quality programs and services that meet local needs and leverage community partners.

With disinformation on the rise, it’s more important than ever to keep confidence in public health. When community members feel confident in their local public health unit, they are more likely to engage in programs, follow public health guidelines, and know that Lambton Public Health is a credible, reliable source of information. Lambton Public Health will share clear and consistent information to support health guidance and work together with partners on responsive programs that meet community needs.

Lambton Public Health will pursue this goal by:

- Collecting and reporting on relevant community health information.
- Enhancing Lambton Public Health brand awareness and public confidence.
- Developing a partnership engagement strategy.

Strategic Priorities

Priority: Workforce Development and Well-Being



Goal: To foster a capable, responsive workforce with a positive workplace culture.

Our greatest strength is our people. The public health workforce is a highly skilled, professional group that can respond to evolving community needs. Supporting staff learning and well-being helps ensure they have the tools and supports they need to do their jobs well and adapt to changes in the field and our local community. This, in turn, helps our communities by providing consistent, high quality, compassionate public health practices.

Lambton Public Health will pursue this goal by:

- Promoting continuous learning to enhance delivery of services.
- Promoting a unified workplace with communications that reflect Lambton Public Health's values.
- Prioritizing employee well-being and recognition.

Priority: Emergency Management



Goal: To safeguard public health in emergencies.

Emergency management is essential for public health, enabling quick, coordinated responses to crises, particularly diseases of public health significance. It ensures vital services such as vaccines and public messaging continue during emergencies. Strong planning and partnerships where the public health unit is prepared to respond in their role increases confidence and credibility and strengthens community resilience year-round.

Lambton Public Health will pursue this goal by:

- Maintaining emergency response plans including risk assessments and internal business continuity planning to be prepared for all phases of the emergency management cycle.
- Establishing scalable tools and practices for emergency management.
- Identifying and maintaining critical partnership leads for a range of emergency responses.

How we developed our new Strategic Plan

Lambton Public Health's new four-year Strategic Plan relied on an evidence-informed process designed to align our organizational efforts with the evolving needs of the communities we serve. The process was structured to maximize the use of available data, encourage broad engagement, and ensure the resulting plan is actionable and rooted in local realities.

The planning process unfolded in four phases:



1. Design

Beginning in January 2025, we developed a strategic planning framework that prioritized the integration of data, research, and interest-holder perspectives. An environmental scan was conducted to examine external trends, opportunities, and risks affecting public health. This work helped us better understand our operational context and laid the foundation for informed decision-making.



2. Discover

We engaged internal and external interest-holders through surveys and interviews, including members of the public, community partners, staff, management, and the Board of Health. These conversations identified key local health priorities, system gaps, and opportunities for collaboration and innovation, ensuring our plan reflects the voices of those we serve and work alongside.



3. Decide

Senior leadership came together to dig into the data, identifying themes and potential areas of focus, discerning strategic priorities, goals, and objectives for the next four years.



4. Develop

This final stage drives strategy into action. With a clear roadmap in hand, we are well positioned to operationalize these priorities and measure outcomes that support accountability, alignment across teams, and the ability to monitor and communicate progress toward our goals. the next four years.



160 Exmouth Street, Point Edward,
ON N7T 7Z6
LambtonPublicHealth.ca



Facilitated by platinumleadership.com



HUNTER LEGAL

L L P

CC 07-06-25

June 25, 2025

Via Email to: ryan.beauchamp@county-lambton.on.ca

For distribution to the Council of The Corporation of the County of Lambton

ATTN: Ryan Beauchamp, County Solicitor/Clerk (Acting)
The Corporation of the County of Lambton
789 Broadway Street, Box 3000
Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0
Canada

Dear Lambton County Council:

**RE: INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER CORRESPONDENCE
CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT 2025-01 RE: COUNCILLOR BILL DENNIS**

We are writing to you in our capacity as Delegate Integrity Commissioner for The Corporation of the County of Lambton. The purpose of this correspondence is to provide you with an update regarding Lambton County Code of Conduct Complaint 2025-01.

We provided you with an interim report dated June 10, 2025 regarding the status of our inquiry into the Complaint and an unexpected issue of delay we encountered in respect of same. We stated that we anticipated we would file our final report with the County Clerk in advance of County Council's meeting on July 2, 2025, such that Council could consider and deal with the report at that meeting.

Please be advised that our timeline has changed.

We anticipate that we will file our final report with the Clerk in advance of the next regular meeting of Council, which is scheduled for September 3, 2025.


Yours truly,

Hunter Legal LLP

Rebecca Hines

REBECCA HINES, SENIOR ASSOCIATE

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 <p style="text-align: center;">SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND SOCIAL PLANNING
PREPARED BY:	Ian Hanney, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Valerie Colasanti, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	July 2, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Housing and Homelessness Plan Progress Report

BACKGROUND

Under the *Housing Services Act, 2011*, Service System Managers must provide an annual report to the public on the progress towards their housing and homelessness plans. The attached Progress Report highlights the work completed over the past year on the implementation of the County of Lambton's Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020 - 2024.

DISCUSSION

The County of Lambton's Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020 - 2024 frames the planning and delivery of housing and homelessness supports within the community. Each year, the County works towards the four strategic goals outlined by the plan to achieve the vision "Every person has an affordable, suitable and adequate home".

As a reminder, the following are the four strategic goals under the Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020 - 2024:

1. Increase and sustain supply and appropriate mix of affordable housing;
2. Increase access to affordable housing and supports that meet people's needs to achieve housing;
3. Coordinated housing and homelessness service systems; and,
4. Ending homelessness.

In 2024, the local social services system continued to face overwhelming demand, particularly in homelessness prevention and housing stability services, as the national housing and opioid crises worsened. Through 2024, the number of individuals and families accessing homelessness services was consistently extremely high. Across several months, the inflow onto the local By-Name List ("**BNL**") was greater than 60 individuals, thereby placing tremendous pressure on already overwhelmed housing supports. Despite

these challenges, through strong partnerships and strategic investments, the County continues to make significant advances towards the goals of the Housing and Homelessness Plan while serving an extraordinary number of households who experience housing insecurity.

Some key accomplishments during the 2024 year include the following:

- Coordinated, intensive, multi-agency local efforts reduced youth homelessness by more than 50%.
- Over 200 unique individuals progressed into more permanent housing from an experience of homelessness.
- Council contributed \$3M to the affordable housing reserve. Supported through these funds, The Affordable Housing Seed Fund program was leveraged to complete pre-development work for new affordable housing developments for 3 non-profits.
- Council approved a 50-unit affordable housing development on Kathleen Avenue, with construction to start in 2025.
- Lambton launched the “Be Part of the Solution” community-driven campaign aimed at transforming the local dialogue on homelessness into one centered on actionable solutions.
- Submitted through the lead agency of the Canadian Mental Health Association of Lambton Kent, The County of Lambton, The North Lambton Community Health Centre, the Sarnia-Lambton Ontario Health Team, and Bluewater Health submitted the successful Lambton HART Hub application, that will be operationalized in 2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no financial impact on the County Budget arising from this report.

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations have taken place with members of the County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee, the Coordinated Access Community Collaborative Table, the A Better Tomorrow Committee, the internal Social Services Division team, and numerous social service agencies in the community.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Delivering housing and homelessness services 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

The County of Lambton's Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020 - 2024 frames the planning and delivery of housing and homelessness supports within our community. The development and distribution of an annual report via the County website fulfills the legislative requirement under the *Housing Services Act, 2011* to report annually on the progress of implementation efforts.

Direction regarding a refreshed Housing and Homelessness Plan is pending from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.



2024

**ANNUAL PROGRESS
REPORT**

10 YEAR

**Housing and Homelessness Plan
County of Lambton**



**The County of Lambton
would like to thank the
following community
partners for their
participation on the
Lambton County Housing
and Homelessness
Advisory Committee:**



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Bluewater Health
Canadian Mental Health Association
Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society
Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
Community Legal Assistance Sarnia
Community Living Sarnia-Lambton
John Howard Society
Lambton County Developmental Services
Lambton Elderly Outreach
Lambton Public Health
Social Services Division
North Lambton Community Health Centre

Sarnia-Lambton Ontario Health Team
Ontario Provincial Police
Red Cross Sarnia-Lambton Branch
Ministry of the Solicitor General-Sarnia Jail
Sarnia Police Services
Sarnia-Lambton Native Friendship Centre
Sarnia-Lambton Rebound
The Inn of the Good Shepherd
The Salvation Army
United Way Sarnia-Lambton
Women's Interval Home of Sarnia-Lambton

FOREWARD

In 2024, our community continued to experience sustained and elevated demand for housing and homelessness supports. As in all communities across Ontario and Canada, housing precarity remained a pressing issue, compounded by persistent poverty and the ongoing opioid crisis. Despite these challenges, meaningful progress was made towards the goals established in our local Housing and Homelessness Plan, including expanding the supply of affordable housing and preserving the existing housing stock. In addition, our community further strengthened critical partnerships and enhanced the coordination of programs to deliver homelessness prevention services as effectively and equitably as possible, making the most of our strained local resources.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

VISION.....	5
Strategic Goals	5
GOAL #1	6
Appropriate mix of affordable housing	6
GOAL #2	9
Increase Access to Affordable Housing and Supports that Meet People’s Needs to Achieve Housing Stability	9
Homemakers Program	10
Domiciliary Hostels	10
Discretionary Benefits – Keeping Individuals Housed	13
GOAL #3	15
Coordinated Housing and Homelessness Service System	15
Coordinated Access Community	16
Collaborative Table (CCT)	16
Current State as per the By-Name List (BNL)	18
Why have a BNL?	19
Be Part of the Solution Campaign	20
2024 Homelessness Enumeration	21
A Better Tomorrow (ABT).....	22
Housing and Homelessness Resource Centre (HHRC).....	24
Emergency Shelter	27
GOAL #4	30
Homelessness Prevention Resources	30
Ending homelessness	30
Mental Health and Social Services Team (MHASST).....	31
Community Legal Assistance Sarnia (CLAS)	32
Outreach Team	33
Outreach Huddle	34
Community Outreach Outcomes	35
SPOTLIGHT - Youth Homelessness.....	36
Housing to End Homelessness	37
Supportive Housing	38
HART Hub	39
CONCLUSION.....	40
10 year housing and homelessness plan, 2024 annual progress report	40
APPENDIX.....	41



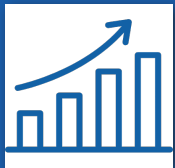
VISION

The County of Lambton’s 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan frames the planning and delivery of housing and homelessness supports within our community.

Each year Lambton collaboratively works towards the four strategic goals outlined by the plan to achieve the vision that;

“Every person has an affordable, suitable and adequate home”.

STRATEGIC GOALS



#1

Increase and sustain supply and appropriate mix of affordable housing.



#2

Increase access to affordable housing and supports that meet people’s needs to achieve housing stability.



#3

Establish a coordinated housing and homelessness service system.



#4

Ending homelessness.



GOAL #1



APPROPRIATE MIX OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In 2024, the need for affordable housing continued to grow. A plan was developed to help meet the increased demand. The ‘At Home in the County of Lambton’ report will guide the creation of new affordable and supportive housing. This multi-year, portfolio scale, strategic affordable and supportive housing development plan, if fully implemented, could see the creation of 490 new units including 300 units of supportive housing. Efforts also continued on the preservation and maintenance of existing community housing units through investment of funds from all levels of government.

- ✓ Build more affordable, accessible, rental housing
- ✓ Partner with private sector to create mixed-income buildings
- ✓ Support sustainability of social housing providers



Maxwell Park Place - **24 Affordable units** were approved prior to 2023. Construction is expected to be completed in 2025.

Capital Asset Management and Funding Plan

2024 marked the 9th year of the County of Lambton’s 10-Year Capital Asset Management and Funding Plan. **\$4M dollars annually assists in addressing identified capital needs of the 830 County owned social housing units.** Work is required for each of the major building components including substructure, shell, common area interiors, services (mechanical, electrical, plumbing, HVAC), site work and unit interiors.

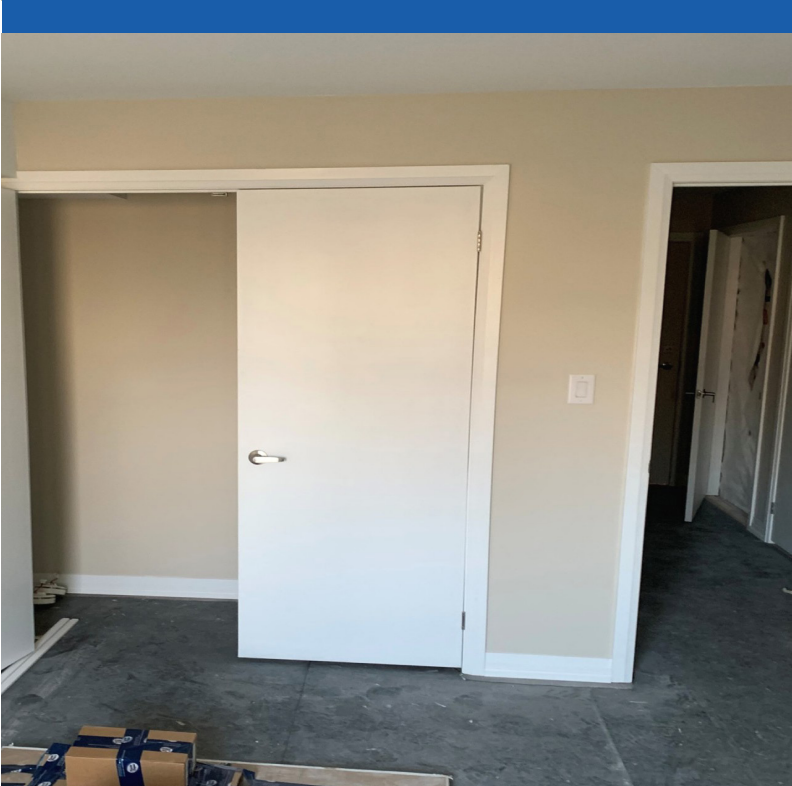


GOAL #1



Affordable Housing Reserve

In 2024, Council contributed \$3M to the affordable housing reserve. The Affordable Housing Seed Fund program was launched to complete pre-development work for new affordable housing developments for 3 non-profits.



Adequate, Affordable Housing

In 2023, Council approved the creation of 2 new units by converting non-residential spaces in existing buildings to residential space. Construction was completed in 2024.



GOAL #1



of affordable rental units completed with federal, provincial and/or county funding

By 2024, an additional 75 affordable rental units will be built with the assistance of government funding. All of these new units will be barrier free or 10% will be fully accessible and common areas will be barrier free.

As of 2024 there were **7 completed units** and **114 In progress units**.

Additional units in existing stock - in 2023 Council approved the creation of **2 new units** by converting non-residential spaces in existing buildings to residential space. Construction was completed in 2024.



Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services Corporation (OAHSSC) - **40 affordable units** were approved prior and construction started in 2024.



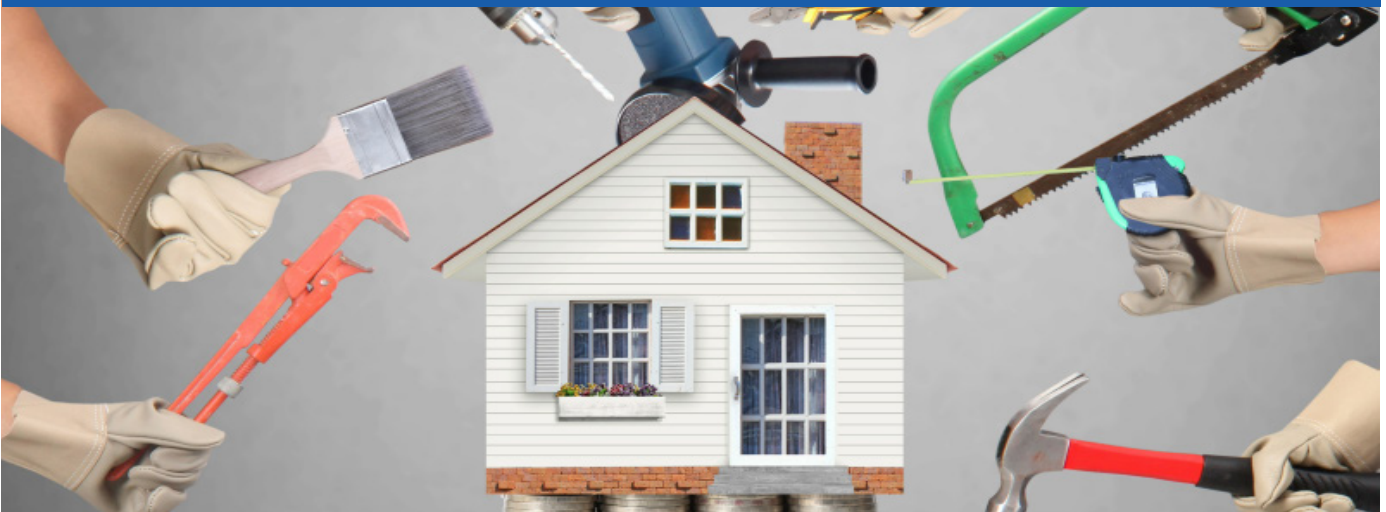
GOAL #2



INCREASE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SUPPORTS THAT MEET PEOPLE'S NEEDS TO ACHIEVE HOUSING STABILITY

In 2024, our community continued to face increased demand for housing with supports. Although many agencies were providing supports to housed individuals, it was clear that Lambton was missing the supportive housing component of the housing continuum. To fill this void, a partnership was formed with Indwell Community Homes with the goal to plan, construct and eventually operate between 150 and 300 supportive housing units in Lambton. While the creation of new supportive housing is underway, all community partners will continue to support residents to achieve housing stability.

- ✔ Increase affordability assistance
- ✔ Support culturally appropriate housing and supports for Indigenous peoples
- ✔ Increase housing appropriate to youth
- ✔ Promote housing options for seniors
- ✔ Encourage housing with supports for people with disabilities
- ✔ Help with renovations of low-income ownership housing
- ✔ Help low-income individuals purchase affordable homes
- ✔ Facilitate support for landlords and tenants



GOAL #2

Homemakers Program

The Homemakers and Nursing Services program is offered by the Ontario Works Department and Housing Services Department through a purchase of service agreement for individuals who are in need of assistance with tasks of daily living.

In 2024, **29** individuals were served through this program. Visits are typically 2 hours long and can range from 1- 4 visits per month depending on the individual needs of each client.



Domiciliary Hostels

The Domiciliary Hostels program provides a form of supportive housing with 24/7 care to adults with physical and/or mental disabilities who require assisted living. In 2024, **34** individuals were supportively housed through Lambton's two domiciliary hostels.

SPOTLIGHT

Tenant engagement activities have been a focus of the Housing Services Department, with the goal of increasing social wellbeing of residents across housing properties. Through early engagement, food security was identified as a concern for many community housing tenants. In 2024, a partnership was formed with the Salvation Army Food Truck. Housing Services and the Salvation Army hosted events at three community housing properties to provide tenants with meals, outreach services, and promote tenant engagement. These events were an overwhelming success, as per feedback provided by tenants.



GOAL #2



of households in receipt of affordability assistance using new funding

By 2024, 350 more households were in receipt of affordability assistance.

Canada Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) - **31 additional households** received COHB in 2024. At December 31, 2024 there were 205 households in receipt of COHB.

Households were referred from the Centralized Waiting List, Integrated Homelessness Team and Sarnia-Lambton CAS. The 2024/25 COHB allocation was **\$444,800**. At December 31, 2024 there were 205 households in receipt of COHB with a total monthly entitlement of **\$111,000**.

In 2024, **71** households received County administered Portable Housing Benefit (PHB).



of long-term housing placements as a result of facilitated connections between landlords and tenants

Facilitated connections between landlords and tenants will result in 150 housing placements by 2024.

The Landlord Engagement Support Worker is a member of the integrated homelessness team. The role identifies new connections with landlords and assists in facilitating placements. The worker also supports newly housed or precariously housed individuals and families to maintain their tenancies, through ongoing mediation. The Integrated Homelessness Team has progressed **467** individuals into permanent housing since 2020.



GOAL #2



of households that received down payment assistance

By 2024, an additional 30 households will be supported to purchase affordable housing.

In 2024, **8 households** received funds under the Homeownership Down Payment Assistance Program. Since 2020, **28 households** have received funding from the Homeownership Program.



133

individuals in 2024 on average were assisted monthly through the Housing Advocacy Program by the Community Support Workers (CSW's). CSW's have caseloads that consist of high needs individuals with complex cases. Services offered consist of regular check-ins with tenants; mediation of tenant conflicts and complaints; and assistance with budgeting and eviction prevention.



GOAL #2

Discretionary Benefits – Keeping Individuals Housed

Discretionary funding is used to provide individuals with supports needed to remain independent in their homes. By assisting with the purchase of items such as medical hospital beds, lift chairs, grab bars, and monitoring subscriptions, people are supported to not only remain independent in their home, but to return home upon release from hospital.



2,900+ families supported



5,300+ individuals supported

This funding has also been utilized to secure psychological assessments, which are often the final determining factor in the ODSP application. Facilitating these assessments and making sure people are accessing the correct program greatly increases life stabilization, monthly income, and ability to maintain safe and secure housing. In 2024, over **25 psychological assessments** were completed leading to **94% of associated ODSP applications being granted**.



GOAL #2

34

households were supported in 2024, through the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Lambton Poverty Reduction Program which is funded with Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing Social Infrastructure Funding (SIF) dollars.

8

households in 2024 received funds under the Homeownership Down Payment Assistance program. The program offers financial assistance to eligible households living in rental accommodations with one-time assistance in the form of a 20-year forgivable loan, for a 10% down payment to be used towards the purchase of a home with a maximum purchase price of \$325,000 (up from \$300K).

Kathleen Ave. Renderings



50

Kathleen Avenue **50** units approved in 2024, construction to start in 2025, completion expected in 2026.

13

households in 2024 received funds under Lambton Renovates. The program offers financial assistance to eligible households requiring major repairs and rehabilitation to make the home safe while improving energy efficiency. Eligible renovations include but are not limited to modifications to increase accessibility, heating systems, foundations, and electrical systems.

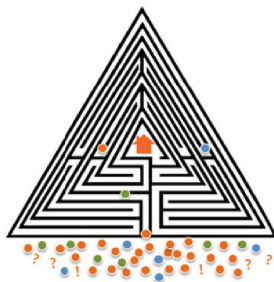
GOAL #3



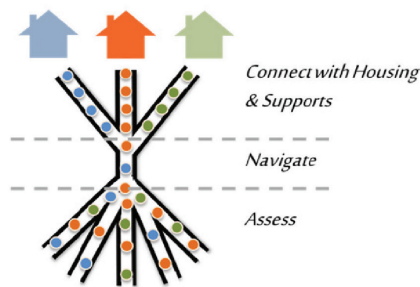
COORDINATED HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS SERVICE SYSTEM

In 2024, service agencies across the health and human services sectors continued to strengthen the local Coordinated Access System of Care by consistently applying best practices, enhancing integrated service delivery, and expanding referral pathways to local programs. Guided by the collective leadership of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee and informed by the lived and living experience experts of the “A Better Tomorrow” advisory committee, the local housing and homelessness service system has undergone significant and rapid transformation to adapt to local needs. These efforts have advanced equity, improved the use of real-time, high-quality data, and optimized the allocation of limited local resources.

- ✓ Expand collaboration and partnerships
- ✓ Implement Coordinated Access to housing and supports
- ✓ Strengthen homelessness system management and governance
- ✓ Expand training of service providers



Without
Coordinated Access



With
Coordinated Access

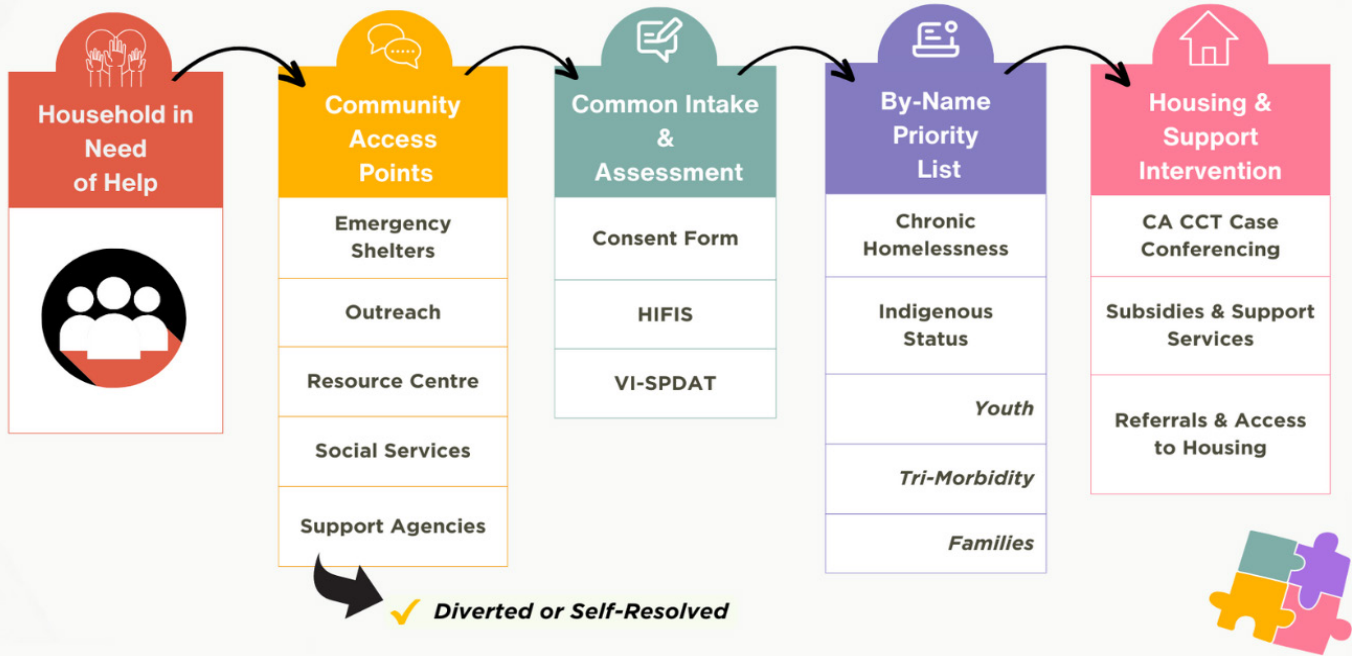


For more information scan the QR code to visit the By-Name List and Coordinated Access website page.



GOAL #3

Lambton County's Coordinated Access System - Overview



Coordinated Access Community Collaborative Table (CCT)

- Canadian Mental Health Association
- County of Lambton
- North Lambton Community Health Centre
- Sarnia-Lambton Rebound
- The Inn of the Good Shepherd



GOAL #3



The Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS)

The Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) was introduced to Lambton County in the Fall of 2021. HIFIS is a tool used across Canada to help communities manage and track homelessness services.

It helps:

- Keep track of who needs what help, so services aren't duplicated or missed.
- Follow someone's journey from being homeless to getting back into stable housing.
- Understand big-picture trends, like how many people are homeless, what their needs are, and what services work best.



D's Story

OUTCOMES SUPPORTS BACKGROUND

D is grateful to finally have a place she can call her own after experiencing three years of chronic homelessness. During that time, she faced significant challenges, including struggles with addiction, periods of sleeping outdoors, and time spent in jail. Despite these difficulties, D remained focused on her goals: finding stable housing, rebuilding her life, and reconnecting with her children.

Her journey began to change when she was matched with a County of Lambton Community Support Worker (CSW). D was encouraged by the range of support offered, and together, they built a strong working relationship. Through ongoing engagement and trust, the CSW helped D create a plan focused on achieving stability.

Two major milestones have marked D's progress so far: securing ODSP benefits, which increased her monthly income, and moving into a new home. The CSW continues to support her by helping her develop communication skills with her landlord and accompanying her to important appointments that support her stability.

Having a home and feeling genuinely supported have given D renewed hope and confidence that her remaining goals are within reach.



GOAL #3

Current State as per the By-Name List (BNL)

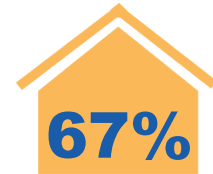
ABNL is a comprehensive, real-time list of every known and consenting individual experiencing homelessness. This total number of more than 300 individuals includes everyone that is couch-surfing, accommodated in a shelter bed, transitional housing, and sleeping outside. It is not a static list. This is not the number of individuals living unsheltered. This is a real-time list that changes by more than 50 names every month as individuals newly experience homelessness or are progressed out of homelessness with local supports.

In 2024, the County of Lambton maintained a consistent By-Name List, averaging 326 individuals per month. Social services providers achieved strong housing outcomes to maintain a stable BNL across the year, despite tremendous demand.

The below data is a snapshot as of December 31, 2024



of individuals were experiencing chronic homelessness



of households were male

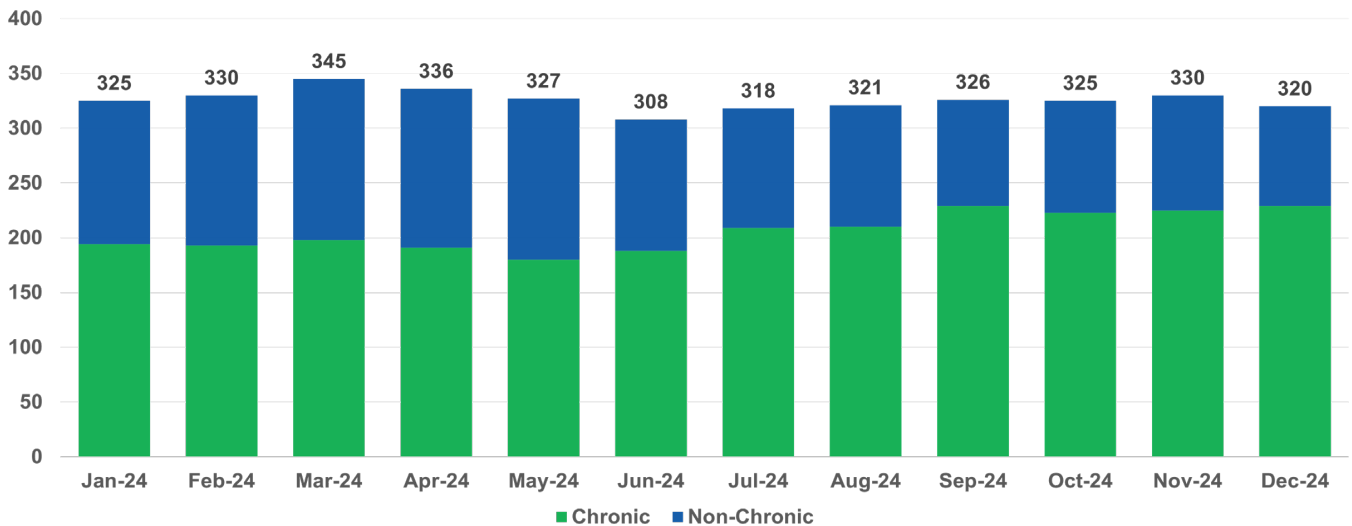


of households had Indigenous ancestry



of households were aged 16-24 years

Total BNL and Total Chronic 2024



GOAL #3

Why have a BNL?

Through the By-Name List, our community can more accurately assess who is entering our homeless system on an ongoing basis, equitably serve households based on community developed prioritization, and maximize limited local resources available to serve the most vulnerable.



By-Name List (BNL)



In collaboration with Built for Zero Canada and our Coordinated Access Service providers, Lambton progressed and collected fulsome data for the By-Name List (BNL) throughout 2024.



The BNL is a real-time list of individuals experiencing homelessness in Lambton. This tool assists with prioritization of clients to housing resources and provides community-level data for identifying needs and advocating for individuals.



In October of 2021, Lambton launched the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) across local shelters in order to centralize data collection. This shared system between agencies allows clients to receive multiple services under one common consent. Lambton County has met a long list of federal standards to attain a 'Quality By-Name List', offering a high degree of confidence and accuracy in this information system.



For more information scan the QR code to visit the Data Dashboard website page.



GOAL #3



Be Part of the Solution Campaign

“Be Part of the Solution” is a community-driven campaign aimed at transforming the local dialogue on homelessness into one centered on accurate information and actionable solutions. By promoting education, fostering understanding, and encouraging active participation, the initiative empowers individuals to contribute meaningfully towards addressing homelessness.



Understanding Homelessness

What are the causes and costs of homelessness?

[Learn More](#)



Being Part of the Solution

How can I be part of the solution to homelessness?

[Take Action](#)



Lambton County's Approach

How is Lambton County being part of the solution?

[See Local Solutions](#)



For more information scan the QR code to visit the Be Part of the Solution website page.



GOAL #3

2024 Homelessness Enumeration

In Fall 2024, the County of Lambton conducted its third Homelessness Enumeration Survey, aligning with national Point-in-Time (PiT) Count requirements from the federal government, and collecting local data on individuals experiencing homelessness. The PiT Count took place on October 9, 2024, offering a 24-hour snapshot of homelessness. While valuable, this method tends to undercount hidden and episodic homelessness, which are more accurately reflected in the community's real-time By-Name Data.

Social services staff partnered with local agencies and rural food bank operators to survey individuals in shelters, encampments, transitional housing, treatment centres, and a correctional facility. This initiative builds on previous counts conducted in 2018 and 2021 and complements the ongoing use of By-Name Data to support local planning and service delivery.



For more information scan the QR code to visit the 2024 Homelessness Enumeration on the Reports website page.



GOAL #3



A Better Tomorrow (ABT)

A Better Tomorrow (ABT) is a local advisory committee, comprised of individuals with lived experience of homelessness. The committee meets monthly with the purpose of providing a first-person perspective on local homelessness policy, programming, and initiatives. In 2024 the committee helped to shape the “Be Part of The Solution” campaign, a media campaign aimed at educating the public and dispelling myths associated with homelessness. The committee was also able to provide valuable feedback on an equitable service restriction process to be implemented in local shelters. Co-chairs from the Homelessness Prevention team facilitate committee meetings and recruit members. Other related community agencies that offer services are invited to present, and create a platform for those with lived expertise to offer feedback.

J's Story

BACKGROUND

J experienced homelessness for approximately two years, during which she primarily slept outdoors. Throughout this time, her Community Support Worker (CSW) supported her by providing referrals to mental and physical health services. The CSW also connected J with a local advisory group made up of individuals with lived experience, who work to improve service navigation for others facing homelessness.

Together, J and her CSW applied for subsidized housing. After being placed on the waitlist, J was recently offered a unit—and now, she finally has a place to call home.

SUPPORTS

Since moving in, J has been focused on stabilizing her life. She is working toward earning her Ontario Secondary School Diploma and has received information from her CSW about Contact North, an online program that supports adult education. J is also working toward reunification with her children and has already been able to increase her access to them now that she has stable housing.

OUTCOMES

Currently, J and her CSW are preparing to apply for ODSP to help support her ongoing goals.



GOAL #3



The County’s Homelessness Prevention Team and Housing Services Department implemented a local homelessness priority policy in 2022 that ensures **1 in every 10** vacancies in County owned community housing units will be offered to households experiencing homelessness. Seven households were successfully supported into community housing directly from an experience of homelessness through this initiative in 2024. All individuals receive ongoing intensive case management and have been supported to retain their housing.

M’s Story

BACKGROUND

M became involved with social services in 2022 when she was living in extremely unsafe and toxic conditions with a family member. Although M was hesitant to leave her situation, it eventually became critical enough that she agreed to move forward with the help of a Rapid Rehousing Worker. Together, they completed her housing application and applied for ODSP.

SUPPORTS

With ongoing encouragement and support, she sought shelter at The Lodge in 2024 after spending time couch surfing in several unsafe environments. During her stay there, she was helped with an application for the ‘1 in 10’ program. It was clear that her health challenges and difficulty understanding some of the questions were not fully reflected in her assessment. Based on these concerns, she was granted a unit in a quiet and supportive community.

OUTCOMES

Since moving in, M has made incredible progress. She has resumed painting, a passion she had put aside, and re-established contact with her children. She has built friendships, developed her life skills, and found a sense of safety and belonging. M shared with a CSW:

“It feels so good to call this home.”
“I am truly safe and happy for the first time in years.”
“Thank you.”



GOAL #3



Housing and Homelessness Resource Centre (HHRC)

Since opening in June 2023, the Housing and Homelessness Resource Centre (HHRC) has played a central role in supporting housing placements and outcomes across the County of Lambton. Designed as a low-barrier, safe space for individuals experiencing homelessness, the centre is staffed by community support workers who provide direct support with social housing applications, rental processes, identification services, social assistance applications, and connections to broader community resources.

The HHRC's collaborative model brings key partners on-site, including the Mobile Care Bus, North Lambton Community Health Centre teams, Lambton Public Health, Community Support Workers, and the Canadian Mental Health Association. Together, these services work to remove barriers and support individuals in achieving stable, sustainable housing. Beyond service access, the HHRC fosters a sense of community and belonging for clients. This drop-in program operates from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday.



140

Individuals have been progressed into more permanent housing by the County of Lambton's Integrated Homelessness Team in 2024.



GOAL #3



Q's Story

BACKGROUND

Q began working with Ontario Works in 2018. At the time, he was experiencing homelessness often sleeping rough and couch surfing when possible. He secured the necessary identification documents and established a consistent bi-weekly check-in routine with his worker to maintain communication and support. These efforts encouraged Q to access supports and stay connected to services at the HHRC.

SUPPORTS

In December 2024, after years without accessing emergency shelter, the client agreed to accept a shelter bed. He was placed in overflow accommodations, which allowed him to connect daily with social services. A viewing for an apartment was arranged, and the client was approved and successfully moved into his new home.

OUTCOMES

Since then, regular check-ins have continued. Q has been consistently attending court and probation appointments. During these visits, accompanying workers often remark on how healthy and happy he appears now that he has safe, stable housing.



GOAL #3



Housing and Homelessness Resource Centre (HHRC)

Unique Clients

313

Client Visits

7,211

Drop-in Days

249

From January 2024 to December 2024



For more information scan the QR code to visit the HHRC website page.



GOAL #3



Emergency Shelter

Emergency shelters are facilities that provide immediate accommodation and basic services to individuals or families who are experiencing homelessness. These shelters are designed to offer a safe and secure place to stay, especially during times of crisis or extreme weather conditions. They typically offer beds, meals, hygiene facilities, and sometimes additional support services such as counselling, job training, or referrals to other social services. The goal of emergency shelters is to provide a temporary solution while individuals work towards securing more stable housing options.



22,526

of instances an individual was supported in a shelter bed in 2024



GOAL #3



Coordinated access process for housing and supports implemented

By 2021, a coordinated access process for housing and supports will be implemented.

In 2022, all system mapping for coordinated access was completed. In early 2023 the Coordinated Access Community Collaborative Table (CCT) met for its inaugural meeting. This table meets once a month throughout the year.



of homelessness programs funded by the County revised to align with best practices and outcomes and actions of the Plan

By 2022, 100% of homelessness programs funded by the County will be revised to align with best practices and outcomes and actions of the Plan.

By the end of 2024 100% of all homelessness programs funded by the County align with best practices, outcomes and actions of the Plan.



T's Story

OUTCOMES SUPPORTS BACKGROUND

T experienced homelessness for the past 5 years. Throughout this time, he relied on his strong interpersonal skills to build relationships that allowed him to couch-surf, though there were periods when he had no choice but to sleep outdoors.

When T was connected with a Community Support Worker (CSW), he was already nearing the top of the waitlist for subsidized housing. While hopeful, he also followed the CSW's advice to explore market-rent housing options as a parallel plan. A key factor in this success was the support and coaching provided by the CSW, who helped T build confidence in presenting himself to potential landlords. This guidance also empowered him to independently contact his new landlord to request essential repairs in his unit.

Now settled in his own apartment, T feels more stable and supported as he works toward achieving his personal goals.



GOAL #3



By-Name List and joint prioritization, matching and referral process established

By the end of 2020, a By-Name List and joint prioritization, matching and referral process will be established.

Our community established a prioritization framework utilizing a Coordinated Access system of care. The matching and referral process consists of the By-Name List matching resources as they become available, prioritized to meet a household's needs.

R's Story

BACKGROUND

R's journey: R first met her CAS Housing Worker in June 2023, when she was 19 years old. An Indigenous young woman, R was pregnant with her first child, due in November. At the time, she was temporarily living with her partner in an unhealthy and unsafe environment where substance use, and violence were present. She had moved in with him after being forced to leave her previous apartment due to a violent incident.

SUPPORTS

Through working with R, the worker was able to secure financial support to help her pay off overdue bills that had accumulated during her time in the previous apartment and relationship. Together, they applied for and secured a one-bedroom apartment. They also completed a County Housing application and submitted a Special Priority Status request following another domestic incident in her new unit. In addition, R was supported with a referral and intake for a local job support program. When her building was damaged by severe weather, her worker successfully advocated for her to be moved to another unit within the same complex. She was assisted with further housing searches and applications, completed her taxes, and applied for the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB).

OUTCOMES

Today, R is preparing to move into a two-bedroom apartment as she awaits the arrival of her second child. She has been approved for COHB, which has helped ease her financial burden. For nearly a year, she has been working part-time and has established healthier relationships and boundaries with both her family and partner.



GOAL #4



ENDING HOMELESSNESS

In 2024, our community continued to face a significantly elevated demand for housing and homelessness supports. Hundreds of households newly experienced homelessness, while many more faced severe housing insecurity. Through strategic investments in prevention-based services, affordability assistance, and targeted programming for vulnerable populations, Lambton successfully supported over 200 unique individuals in transitioning from homelessness to more permanent housing. Despite unprecedented demand for supports, the community maintained a relatively stable By-Name List and achieved a substantial reduction in youth homelessness cutting it by more than 50%.

- ✔ Expand prevention approaches
- ✔ Shift to housing focused emergency and transitional accommodation
- ✔ Using a Housing First approach, increase housing and supports for people who have experienced homelessness

Homelessness Prevention Resources

The Rental Assistance Program (RAP) is administered through Ontario Works at the County of Lambton. Households approved for RAP receive a temporary rental supplement to support the difference between their income and the rent of their unit.

RAP is a short-term homelessness prevention solution, to secure or maintain affordable housing while households are waiting for other rent solutions to begin. It prevents those who are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness from missing housing opportunities because they've just begun a new job or have just begun receiving appropriate supports.

RAP 2024

- **212 RAP** applications approved
- **127 single** applications approved
- **85 family** applications approved
- **102** to **secure** housing
- **110** to **maintain** housing



GOAL #4

Mental Health and Social Services Team (MHASST)

The Mental Health and Social Services Team (MHASST) is comprised of staff from Ontario Works and the Canadian Mental Health Association, Lambton-Kent branch. Working collaboratively, MHASST provides brief services to adults (16 and over) in receipt of Ontario Works funding or in receipt of rent-geared-to-income assisted housing. Through outreach, relationship building, assessment and liaising with other key community resources, MHASST links vulnerable individuals directly to the appropriate services and supports to address complex needs.



97 individuals accepted into MHASST since 2019.

A's Story

BACKGROUND

"A" was referred to the MHASST program due to severe anxiety and the risk of eviction. This was her second referral, as she had not engaged during the first. Initially hesitant due to past negative experiences with healthcare professionals A gradually built trust with the MHASST team, leading to meaningful participation.

SUPPORTS

She struggled with anxiety and depression and previously overcame an addiction to prescription opioids following a back injury. Recent losses, including her father and former partner, compounded her mental health challenges. Most significantly, her daughter's substance use led to the temporary removal of her granddaughter by CAS. Although the child has since returned, the client continues to experience intense anxiety, flashbacks, and nightmares. Ongoing stressors include A's daughter's addiction, concern for her granddaughter's separation anxiety, and harassment from her landlord.

OUTCOMES

MHASST worked with both A and the landlord to stabilize her housing and provided contact information for Community Legal Assistance Sarnia (CLAS) for future legal support. The team also helped her reconnect with her primary care provider to begin medication for anxiety and PTSD and supported her successful ODSP application.

Additional supports included connecting A to:

- A family support group through Bluewater Health for help with her daughter's addiction.
- St. Clair Child and Youth Services for her granddaughter.
- Life Seasons for trauma counselling related to family loss and child apprehension.

These interventions have helped improve the client's stability and overall well-being.



GOAL #4

Community Legal Assistance Sarnia (CLAS)

Community Legal Assistance Sarnia (CLAS) employs a Community Legal Worker who will work with the County of Lambton and other agencies serving those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Legal services offered (but not limited to):

- Legal support for tenants
- Referral source for all Homelessness Service Providers
- Advocate through the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB)
- Landlord Mediation
- Assistance with Residential Tenancies Act (RTA) interpretation
- Community capacity building, including information sessions



Overall, CLAS has made a positive and lasting impact in the Sarnia-Lambton community by providing essential legal assistance, advocacy, and education to tenants and organizations. Its commitment to tenant duty counsel, eviction prevention, and public legal education has helped individuals navigate complex housing issues and work toward fair and just outcomes. By focusing on preventing evictions and promoting housing stability, CLAS has played a critical role in protecting tenant rights and reducing the risk of homelessness. Looking ahead, CLAS remains dedicated to this vital work and will continue its efforts in the coming year to ensure tenants have the support and resources they need to secure and maintain stable housing.



GOAL #4

Outreach Team

One of the many homelessness services directly offered by the County of Lambton is community outreach. Lambton County continued to offer mobile case management to unsheltered households in 2024, through two Community Outreach Workers. This team works closely with individuals who are sleeping rough. This team seeks to house individuals directly from the street and connect them to other essential services. They offer assertive community outreach and progress individuals into more permanent housing. There are multi-disciplinary efforts coordinated with partner agencies such as Lambton Public Health, the North Lambton



Community Health Centre, and Sarnia Police Services IMPACT and Community Health Integrated Care (CHIC) to ensure households are better connected to primary care services and can receive supports wherever they are living.

The barriers to accessing permanent housing for an individual living unsheltered are immense. Finances, communication, transportation, stigma, health, credit and rental history, and document readiness all pose significant challenges to this population.

22

individuals were successfully transitioned by the community outreach team directly into more permanent housing in 2024, despite the challenges of unsheltered homelessness.



GOAL #4



Outreach Huddle

Staff who work directly with individuals living outside come together weekly for a virtual Community Outreach Huddle. These meetings help local outreach services stay connected, share important information, and avoid duplicating work with community members. By working alongside each other, they ensure every area where people are staying outside receives direct service and support. This coordinated group approach has been a key step in building a responsive, unified service network for people experiencing homelessness. The huddles also help participating service providers learn new skills. For example, in the Fall of 2024, a Sarnia Fire Prevention Officer taught the group how to spot fire hazards and other risks in encampments.

Participating Partners Include:

- County of Lambton Community Outreach Team
- Community Health Integrated Care (CHIC) Team
- North Lambton Community Health Centre
- Lambton Public Health Outreach Nurse
- IMPACT Team – Sarnia Police Services



GOAL #4



Community Outreach Outcomes

While many individuals briefly experienced unsheltered homelessness in 2024, a smaller, consistent group of 60–70 unique individuals were engaged each month while sleeping outside. This cohort remained relatively stable, with new individuals entering the group at a similar rate, as others transitioned into housing. Most only occasionally slept rough, while about one-quarter did so nightly.

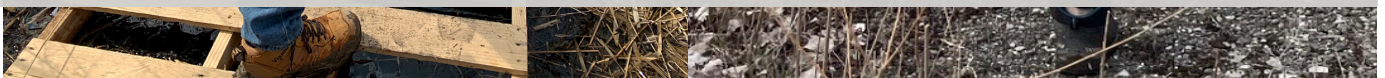
Some households choose not to access emergency housing in Lambton County due to complex needs rooted in trauma. Common barriers include curfews, substance use, mental health challenges, safety restrictions, and personal relationships.

Large encampments including Sarnia’s Rainbow Park were engaged daily by the Community Outreach Team, CHIC Team, IMPACT Team and Lambton Public Health. The Outreach Team works with all member municipalities to support responses aligned to their individual encampment protocols. The Community Outreach Team’s intensive case-management and housing-focused engagement resulted in these individuals moving further along the housing continuum.



Data is from January 1st to December 31st 2024

321	# of Unique individuals served	1,143	# of engagements
21%	Proportion of Indigenous households	97	# of coordinated trips with partner agency staff



GOAL #4

SPOTLIGHT - Youth Homelessness

In 2024, targeted efforts were made to support youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The County funds a Housing Case Manager position with the Children’s Aid Society - focused on ensuring youth aging out of care do not exit the system into homelessness. Additional investments fund a Supportive Housing Worker at Ohana Landing (transitional housing facility) to provide intensive case management to youth navigating the housing continuum from homelessness to independent living.

50% ↓ In 2024, Lambton reduced youth homelessness by more than 50%.

This included youth who identified as Indigenous, experienced chronic homelessness, or were disproportionately female. This work reflects the County’s commitment to addressing youth homelessness through early intervention and prevention.

E’s Story

BACKGROUND

E’s Journey to Independence: Sarnia-Lambton CAS’s first contact with E was when she was 16 years old. She had recently relocated to Sarnia from another jurisdiction due to conflict and safety concerns in her family home and was temporarily residing with relatives.

SUPPORTS

Shortly after the initial meeting, they were able to secure a one-bedroom apartment for her in Sarnia. E qualified for a housing supplement through the County of Lambton, which assisted with her monthly rent. Additionally, the worker obtained an Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) subsidy to help with her utility costs. During this time, E was attending school full-time, working part-time at a restaurant, and independently managing her basic needs. She budgeted carefully, covering rent, utilities, and personal expenses using her part-time income, an allowance from SL CAS, and the housing supplement.

OUTCOMES

Due to ongoing mental health challenges, E chose to relocate from her Sarnia apartment to another jurisdiction closer to her family. While living with family was not an option, proximity to them remained important to her. After the move, she secured part-time employment and transferred to a new high school in the area. She now continues to attend school full-time and work part-time while living independently in her new apartment.

Following her move, her worker advocated for E with the local housing department, encouraging her to apply for the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) in her new jurisdiction, as she was no longer eligible for support through Sarnia-Lambton. E was successfully approved for COHB, which has provided essential financial support. She continues to live independently, work part-time, and is on track to graduate from high school this year.



LOOKING AHEAD - AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing to End Homelessness

Like many Canadian communities, Lambton County is facing significant pressure on its housing system. Demand for both affordable market rentals and non-market housing options continues to exceed supply. The County and Flourish’s housing plan, *At Home in the County of Lambton*, outlines a comprehensive, long-term strategy to address these pressures, with a strong focus on creating new affordable and supportive housing options. These investments are critical to ensure that all residents—regardless of income, age, or ability—have access to safe, affordable, and appropriate housing.



For more information scan the QR code for the *At Home in the County of Lambton Report Update 2025*.



At Home in the County of Lambton

Report Update 2025

Updates to the 2024 action plan to end homelessness and address the housing crisis through supportive and affordable housing development in the County of Lambton

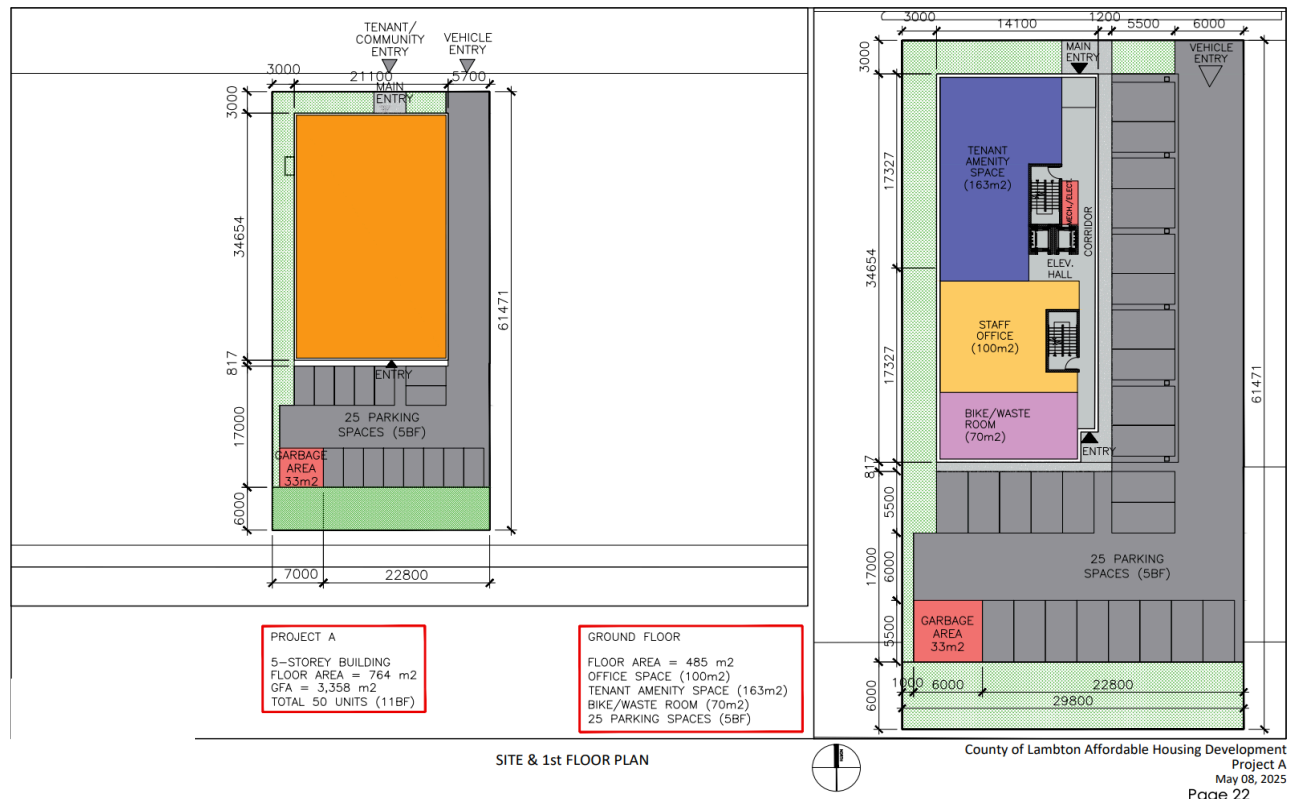


LOOKING AHEAD - SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Supportive Housing

Supportive housing - housing paired with on-site health and social supports - is a top priority in Lambton. The County is partnering with Indwell, a non-profit housing provider, to lead the development of new supportive housing locally. Up to 225 units are planned, inclusive of 157 supportive units. These units will be geared towards individuals with high needs, including those with medical needs, those who are exiting homelessness, and those who require stable housing alongside wraparound supports to maintain a sustainable level of independence.

Affordable and supportive housing are essential tools in reducing homelessness. In 2024, an average of 326 individuals experienced homelessness per month, with the majority of these individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. Without access to housing that meets individuals needs, many remain stuck in shelter or unsheltered settings. By building more affordable and supportive units, the County can reduce inflow into homelessness and support successful, long-term exits from the homelessness-serving system. These investments reduce pressure on emergency services, healthcare, shelter systems, and the community.



LOOKING AHEAD - HART HUB

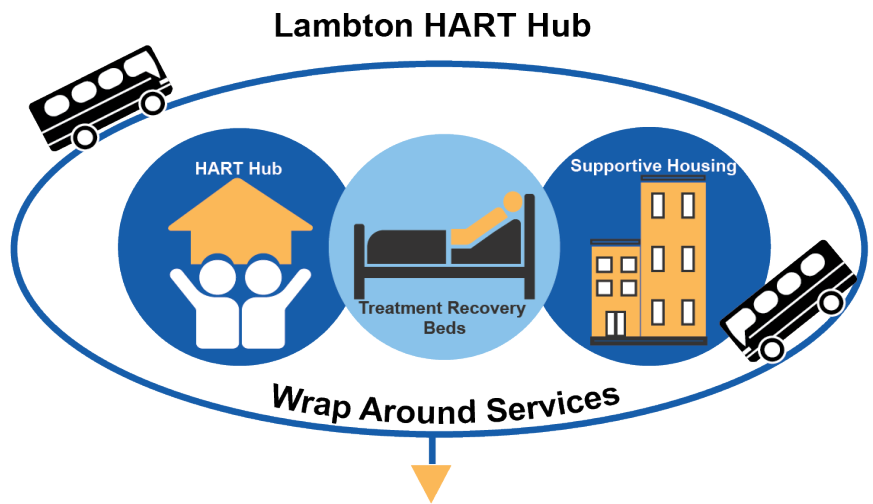
HART Hub

The Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub is a provincially-funded initiative led by the Canadian Mental Health Association of Lambton-Kent, in partnership with the County of Lambton, North Lambton Community Health Centre, Sarnia-Lambton Ontario Health Team, and Bluewater Health.

Launching in 2025, the HART Hub will serve as a centralized, multidisciplinary program that integrates health, housing, and social services. Building on the success of the County's Housing and Homelessness Resource Centre (HHRC), the Hub will

provide coordinated access to primary care, employment supports, and housing services for individuals experiencing homelessness and addiction. Key components of the HART Hub suite of services include 30 Transitional Recovery Beds to support individuals in early recovery, 14 scatter-site supportive housing units operated by CMHA, and 12 fixed-site supportive housing units delivered by Indwell in partnership with the County of Lambton's Housing Services Department. These supportive housing options will offer sustainable, long-term housing with on-site health supports.

The initiative will also fund expanded capacity for the Mobile Care Bus, providing clinical services such as primary care, mental health supports, and substance use navigation.



The **Lambton HART Hub** proposed services include:

- Primary care
- Mental health and addictions care
- Supportive housing
- Employment and other social services
- Services to meet basic needs



CONCLUSION

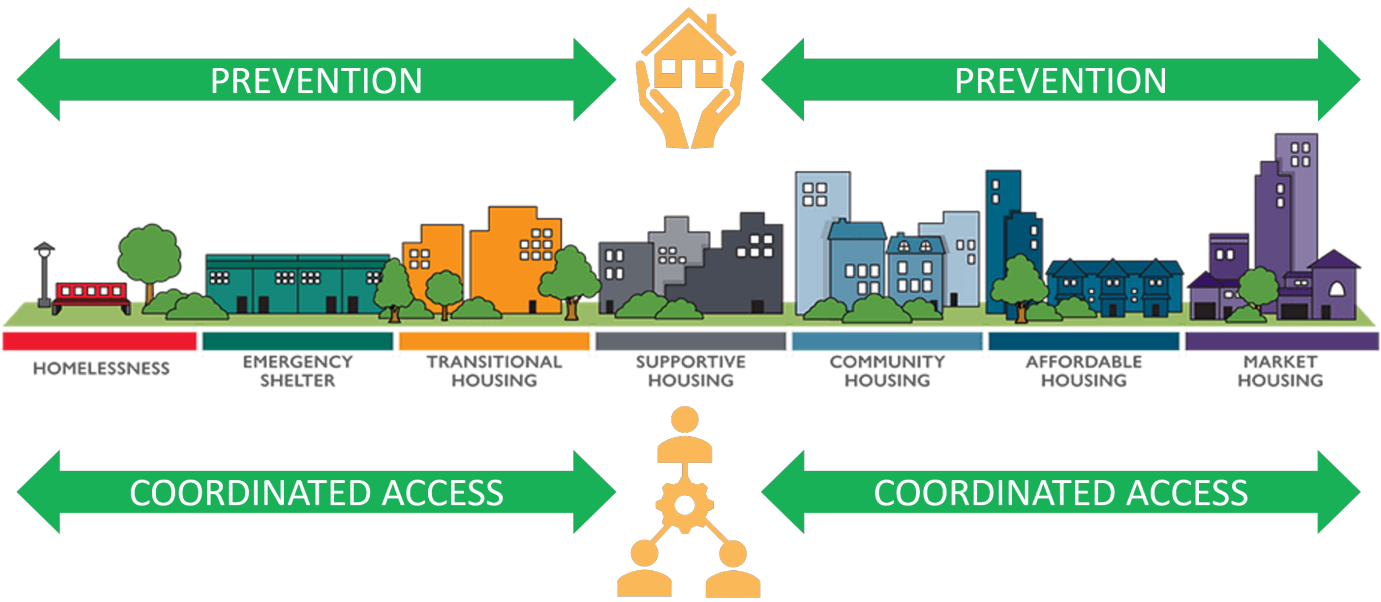


10 YEAR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS PLAN, 2024 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

In 2024, our community continued to face sustained pressures related to housing instability, poverty, and the concurrent opioid crisis. Despite these challenges, coordinated efforts led to measurable progress in preserving and expanding affordable housing and enhancing homelessness prevention systems, including the reduction of youth homelessness by more than 50%.

Looking ahead, the updated Affordable and Supportive Housing Strategic Plan provides a clear framework to guide collective action. The launch of the Lambton HART Hub a multidisciplinary initiative addressing critical gaps in addictions services also represents a major advancement in integrated local care.

As we look ahead to 2025, a strong cohort of local professional service providers remain committed to deepening local collaboration while actively seeking augmented partnerships and sustained investments from provincial and federal governments. These supports will be essential to meeting the scale of need and ensuring lasting impact for residents across Lambton County.



APPENDIX

The following table outlines the Housing and Homelessness work-plan, with key targets, performance indicators, and an update of actions progressed to date.



Key Target or Performance Measure



Indicator



Progress-to-Date

GOAL #1 Performance and Outcome Measurement Progress

By 2024, an additional 75 affordable rental units will be built with the assistance of government funding. All of these new units will be barrier free or 10% will be fully accessible and common areas will be barrier free.	# of affordable rental units completed with federal, provincial and/or county funding	As of 2024, there were seven (7) completed units and 114 in-progress units.
Between 2020 and 2024, there will be an increase in the number of affordable units created as a percent of total units created.	# of affordable rental and ownership units completed that meet the definition of affordable housing as a percent of the total units completed (compared to 2020 as a baseline).	Seven (7) Affordable Housing units were created between 2020 and 2024.
Social housing providers will continue/ enter into partnerships with the County to continue to provide RGI units at the end of their agreement/mortgage	# of partnerships between social housing providers and the County of Lambton to provide RGI units (post mortgage/agreement)	Four (4) providers will continue their partnership as a community housing provider post end of mortgage/operating agreement. One (1) provider has exited the system but there was no loss of RGI units.
Supportive planning and financial policies will be adopted by County and local municipal councils	# of supportive planning and financial policies approved by County and local municipal Councils	The County held several meetings with local municipalities to discuss supportive planning policies and discuss applications under the Housing Accelerator Fund 2.0 (HAF 2.0). In addition, a presentation was made at the June 21, 2024 Clerk's and Treasurer's meeting on how the Lower Tier's can support the creation of Affordable Housing.





GOAL #1 Performance and Outcome Measurement Progress

<p>Vacant or government owned surplus properties secured for use for affordable housing</p>	<p># of vacant or government owned surplus properties secured for affordable housing</p>	<p>In 2024, the open space parcel on Kathleen Ave was rezoned to allow multi-residential development. Also, an examination of current County owned land that would be suitable for future builds was completed with 3 parcels identified.</p>
<p>Promotion materials developed for second units</p>	<p>Promotional materials for second units completed</p>	<p>2024 - Additional Dwelling Unit program launched (approved in 2023)</p>
<p>Local municipalities will have adopted supportive planning policies for shared and supportive accommodation</p>	<p># of local municipalities that approve supportive planning policies for shared and supportive accommodation</p>	<p>2021 - presentation to local municipalities to provide information that will support municipalities in their efforts to reduce barriers to the development of affordable and supportive housing. 2023 - several meetings with local municipalities to discuss planning including support for HAF applications. 2024 - several meetings with local municipalities to discuss planning including support for HAF2.0 applications. Presentation to Lambton's Clerks & Treasurer's regarding how our lower tier partner municipalities can support the creation of affordable housing.</p>
<p>Educational materials prepared about affordable housing funding and incentive programs</p>	<p>Affordable housing funding and incentive program educational materials completed</p>	<p>An Affordable Housing Toolkit will be developed and include educational material on funding and incentives.</p>
<p>At least 2 meetings annually with non-profit organizations to explore opportunities to partner in the development of affordable housing</p>	<p># of meetings between the County and non-profit organizations to explore opportunities to partner in the development of affordable housing</p>	<p>Regular communication occurs with Non Profit Community Housing providers. \$800K in funds under the National Housing Strategy was provided in 2023 for required capital repairs.</p>



Key Target or Performance Measure



Indicator



Progress-to-Date

GOAL #1 Performance and Outcome Measurement Progress

Increased partnerships between non-profits or municipalities with for profit organizations in the creation of affordable housing	# of partnerships between non-profits or municipalities with for-profit organizations in the creation of affordable housing (compared to baseline of 2020)	Partnership with private sector have been developed that resulted in the creation of affordable housing units.
A least one mixed-income building will be created by 2024	# of rental housing buildings completed with below average market rents and average market rent or higher	Given the increase in housing need since the creation of this goal, fully affordable buildings have been prioritized over mixed-income buildings.
All social housing buildings will be maintained in a fair state of repair	% of social housing buildings deemed in a "fair" state of repair as per building condition assessment	98% of housing buildings in a 'fair' or better state. Ongoing investment in social housing of \$4M per year through the Asset Management Plan plus \$2.3M in additional National Housing Strategy funds in 2023.
By 2022, tools and/or training will be provided to social housing providers related to each of the following areas: governance, succession planning, capital planning, and tenant management	Tools and/or training provided to social housing providers on governance, succession planning, capital planning, and tenant management	Training provided at the in person meeting in 2023. In addition, recommendations and collaborations were made with Non Profits and sector organizations for additional resources.
By 2022, a rationalization analysis and regeneration plan will be developed for the social housing portfolio	Rationalization analysis and regeneration plan for the social housing portfolio completed	Regeneration work is underway for community housing, implemented through the 10-year Asset Management Plan.





Key Target or Performance Measure



Indicator



Progress-to-Date

GOAL #2 Performance and Outcome Measurement Progress

By 2024, 350 more households will be in receipt of affordability assistance	# of households in receipt of affordability assistance (RGI, rent supplement, housing allowance, portable housing benefit, Canada Housing Benefit, etc.) using new funding	COHB - 247; County Administered PHB - 67; RAP - 212 Total = 526 in receipt of affordability assistance.
By 2024, a minimum of 20 affordable rental housing units owned and/or operated by Indigenous organizations will be created and supports will be expanded	# of affordable rental housing units owned and/or operated by Indigenous communities and organizations completed and # of support services added	OAHSSC - 40 units approved in 2019, construction start in 2024 anticipated completion 2025
Meetings with Indigenous communities and organizations will take place at least annually	# of meetings between County and Indigenous communities and organizations	This has been achieved through the various social services divisions.
By 2024, 80 more youth will be in receipt of affordable housing appropriate to their needs	# of youth receiving transitional housing, affordability assistance, Housing First for Youth	53 youth have received COHB since 2020.
Between 2020 and 2024, more people will be receiving supports and their tenancy will be retained	# of people receiving supports and have maintained their housing with new initiatives since 2020	In 2024, the CSWs assisted an average of 133 individuals monthly through the Housing Advocacy Program. The four Community Support Workers (CSWs) have caseloads that consist of many hard to serve individuals with complex needs. The Homemaker's Program supports at risk members of the community to maintain their housing and independence. 29 households received support through the program.
The County will engage in promotional activities related to seniors housing options at least annually	Promotional activities related to seniors housing options completed during the year	No formal promotional activities.



Key Target or Performance Measure



Indicator



Progress-to-Date

GOAL #2 Performance and Outcome Measurement Progress

By 2024, 130 more households will be in receipt of affordability assistance and housing-related supports (ie. Supportive housing)	# of households in receipt of affordability assistance and housing-related supports (ie. supportive housing) compared to 2019	731 households have been in receipt of affordability assistance and housing-related supports since 2020.
Conversations with Ontario Health Teams and MCCSS funded agencies will take place at least annually	Conversations between the County and Ontario Health Teams and MCCSS funded agencies completed during the year	Many local Health and Human Services agencies are active in governing tables such as: HHAC and CCT.
By 2024, an additional 100 low income homeownership units will be renovated/ repaired	# of low income homeowners that received funding for renovation/ repairs	56 homeowners have received funding through Lambton Renovates.
By 2024, an additional 30 households will be supported to purchase affordable ownership housing	# of households that received down payment assistance	28 households have received down payment assistance through the County's Homeownership program.
Facilitated connections between landlords and tenants will result in 150 housing placements by 2024	# of long-term housing placements as a result of facilitated connections between landlords and tenants	797 individuals have been placed in permanent housing from an experience of homelessness since 2020.
An average of 50 tenants and 10 landlords will receive landlord and tenant education each year	# of tenants and # of landlords that received landlord and tenant education	On average, more than 300 tenants are supported every month with tenant education and/or tenancy support. In 2024, more than 40 landlords were supported with landlord education.





Key Target or Performance Measure



Indicator



Progress-to-Date

GOAL #3 Performance and Outcome Measurement Progress

By 2021, a coordinated access process for housing and supports will be implemented	Coordinated access process for housing and supports implemented	In 2022, all system mapping for coordinated access was completed. In early 2023 the Coordinated Access Community Collaborative Table (CCT) met for its inaugural meeting. This table connects households experiencing homelessness with the appropriate resources.
By 2022, 100% of homelessness programs funded by the County will be revised to align with best practices and outcomes and actions of the Plan	# of homelessness programs funded by the County revised to align with best practices and outcomes and actions of the Plan	By the end of 2024 100% of all homelessness programs funded by the County align with best practices, outcomes and actions of the Plan.
By 2023, a coordinated approach will be made by all system funders to align housing and homelessness investments with the Plan	% of housing and homelessness investments from all system funders that align with the Plan	100% of all investments associated with the County of Lambton align with the Plan. All system funders are members of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee (HHAC).
A review of programs receiving funding for homelessness will be conducted by the end of 2020	Review of programs receiving funding for homelessness completed	All programs receiving funding have reviews completed on a regular basis as per their annual Purchase of Service Agreements.
By the end of 2020, a standardized assessment tool will be implemented among 100% of County funded homelessness service providers	% of County funded homelessness service providers consistently using standardized assessment tool	Service providers within the County utilized the VI-SPDAT tool to understand individual vulnerabilities to be better connected to appropriate resources. The VI-SPDAT is a survey administered both to individuals and families to determine risk and prioritization when providing assistance to homeless and at-risk of homelessness persons.
By the end of 2020, a By-Name List and joint prioritization, matching and referral process will be established	By-Name List and joint prioritization, matching and referral process established	Our community established a prioritization framework utilizing a Coordinated Access system of care. The matching and referral process consists of the By-Name List matching resources as they become available, prioritized to meet a households needs.





Key Target or Performance Measure



Indicator



Progress-to-Date

GOAL #3 Performance and Outcome Measurement Progress

<p>By 2022, HIFIS will be implemented in 100% of service providers participating in coordinated access</p>	<p>% of service providers participating in coordinated access that use HIFIS</p>	<p>Those agencies in system of care (coordinated access) are utilizing the HIFIS system. Work is underway to expand all agencies into the HIFIS system.</p>
<p>A cross-sectoral data collection and reporting protocol will be established by 2021</p>	<p>Cross-sectoral data collection and reporting protocol established</p>	<p>The County introduced HIFIS in 2021 and part of the ongoing continuous improvement plan is to expand participating agencies.</p>
<p>At least 4 training activities will take place for service providers annually</p>	<p># of training activities for service providers during the year</p>	<p>Since the inception of HIFIS in the Fall of 2021 there have been 28 HIFIS training activities - an average of 9 sessions per year.</p>





Key Target or Performance Measure



Indicator



Progress-to-Date

GOAL #4 Performance and Outcome Measurement Progress

By 2021, a diversion approach will be implemented within all emergency accommodations	Diversion approach implemented in all emergency accommodation	Diversion was introduced system-wide in 2020. This process was significantly enhanced in 2021. The consistent application of diversion and its underlying best practices were further enhanced in 2022. In 2023, a new diversion tool was administered to better capture all individuals seeking assistance.
By 2023, a cross-sectoral protocol to coordinate discharge planning will be implemented	Cross-sectoral protocol to coordinate discharge planning implemented	The County's Integrated Homelessness Team works closely with individuals in shelter to coordinate housing options upon discharge.
By 2024, 80% of people experiencing homelessness leaving institutions will be discharged into appropriate housing	% of people experiencing homelessness leaving institutions not discharged to homelessness	Through initiatives such as the Community Reintegration Table (Ministry of the Solicitor General) and the HART Hub (integrated healthcare services) individuals discharged from institutions can be triaged to the appropriate level of support.
By 2022, 100% of households staying in emergency and transitional accommodations will have an assessment completed, an individualized housing plan developed, and an application/referral to housing services completed by 21 days from the time they presented for emergency services	% of households who have completed an assessment, individualized housing plan, and application/referral to housing services by 21 days from the time they first presented for emergency services	The VI-SPDAT -a common assessment tool for homelessness prevention teams- is completed for all individuals in the HIFIS system. This tool, along with prioritization criteria, is used to match individuals to an appropriate worker, who will immediately begin delivering housing case management.
By 2024, Lambton will have reduced chronic and episodic homelessness by 50%	# of people experiencing chronic and episodic homelessness compared to baseline # of people experiencing chronic and episodic homelessness on By-Name List (once established and community wide referrals to the list are established)	The severity of the housing crisis and complexity of client vulnerabilities has significantly increased since the publication of this plan. Factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, opioid crisis and cost of living crisis have made ambitious goals in reducing and ending homelessness unattainable.





Key Target or Performance Measure



Indicator



Progress-to-Date

GOAL #4 Performance and Outcome Measurement Progress

By 2025, Lambton will achieve functional zero chronic homelessness	Number of people experiencing chronic homelessness (compared to three or fewer in a month, sustained over a six-month period)	Without significant investment in the housing continuum and supportive housing from all levels of government, such reductions will continue to be extremely difficult to achieve.
By 2024, an additional 160 households that were previously homeless will be in receipt of affordability assistance and housing-related supports. The targeted break-down is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 permanent supportive housing spaces for people with very high needs • 5 Assertive Community Treatment spaces for people with very high needs • 60 permanent and 60 time-limited Intensive Case Management spaces for people with high needs • 30 rapid re-housing spaces for people with moderate needs 	# of households that were previously homeless that are in receipt of permanent supportive housing, Assertive Community Treatment, Intensive Case Management or rapid re-housing (with affordability assistance)	There has been a significant increase in local housing case management capacity, including rapid re-housing and intensive case management by community support workers, in addition to the introduction of community outreach workers that offer affordability assistance and housing-related supports. There are 559 individuals on the Co-ordinated Access Community Collaborative table caseload.
By 2024, an additional 45 youth will be in receipt of affordability assistance and housing-related supports (subset of above target)	# of youth that were previously homeless that are in receipt of permanent supportive housing, Assertive Community Treatment, Intensive Case Management, transitional housing or rapid re-housing (with affordability assistance)	67 youth have been in receipt of affordability assistance for the 2024 annual year.
Between 2020 and 2024, the wait time from application to receipt of housing and/or services for people who have experienced homelessness will decrease	Average number of days from being added to the By-Name List to being housed (compared to baseline of when By-Name List is first established)	Private market housing conditions have worsened since the creation of the Plan. On average, an individual can expect to wait more than four (4) years for subsidized community housing.
85% of households that were previously homeless will not have experienced a loss of housing or an involuntary move	% of households housed through Housing First programs / off the By-Name List (once established) that maintained their housing	Our higher acuity Housing First program had a recidivism rate of less than 20%.







2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 27 June 2024

**Location: Sunbridge Hotel & Conference Centre (New Point Edward Four Points
Marriott)**

MINUTES

Attendance:

Cayea, David	Marriott, Kevin
Lee, Adrienne	Plain, Jeff
Thiffeault, Stephane	McEachran, Carrie
Kabbes, Don	Edlington, Angela
Knapp, Tim	Noble, Peter
Germain, Darryl	Kingston, Tracy

Slotwinski, Matthew (CEO)
Moore, Brittany (Executive Assistant)

Regrets:

Dochstader, Nick	Kardas, Rob
Reaume-Zimmer, Paula	Bradley, Mike
Perdeaux, Rick	

1. Call to Order

Acting Chair A. Lee called the meeting to order. Read land acknowledgment and explained voting process.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: That the agenda be approved as submitted.

Moved by A. Lee, Seconded by B. Loosely. Carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the AGM Meeting held June 27, 2023, be approved as submitted.

Moved by A. Lee, Seconded by D. Kabbes. Carried.

4. Chair Update – Year in Review

5. CEO and Team Presentation



6. Finance

Silvana Slavik, from BDO Canada, provided an overview of the 2023 financial position of the Corporation. Reported a clean audit opinion.

There were no questions from the attendees.

Motion: That the 2023 financial statements be accepted.

Moved by D. Kabbes, Seconded by K. Marriott . Carried.

Motion: That BDO Canada be appointed as auditors for 2024.

Moved by D. Kabbes, Seconded by J. Plain. Carried.

7. Governance

Election of Directors:

Motion: That Paula Reaume-Zimmer be elected for a second term as Director.

Moved by A. Lee, Seconded by B. Loosely. Carried.

Motion: That Darryl Germain be elected for the position of Director.

Moved by A. Lee, Seconded by D. Cayea. Carried.

A. Lee provided the update to aid the Board of Directors in its succession planning and in its efforts to further engage the community in its undertakings, we've added a non-voting community membership to each of our finance and governance committees.

Motion: That Peter Noble be elected for the position of non-voting community member on the governance committee and Tracy Kingston be elected for the position of non-voting community member on the finance committee.

Moved by A. Lee, Seconded by D. Kabbes. Carried.

Amendment to By-Laws- Governance Chair, A. Lee provided an overview of revisions made to include and clarify some language to by-law 31- (CEO expense approvals), by-law 21 (electronic participation) and by-law 22 (abstentions). Copies were available on the tables and by scanning QR code for AGM resources.

Motion: That the revised by-laws be approved as submitted.

Moved by A. Lee, Seconded by S. Thiffeault. Carried.

A. Lee introduced the 2024/2025 Board of Directors:

- Adrienne Lee, Director, Site & Loyalty Marketing at Gateway Casinos and Entertainment Limited – Chair
- Stephane Thiffeault, CAO, County of Lambton – Secretary/Treasurer
- Carrie McEachran, CEO, Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce, Director
- Don Kabbes, General Manager, Great Lakes Grain – Director



- Nick Dochstader, President, Sarnia & District Labour Council – Director
- Paula Reaume-Zimmer, President and CEO, Bluewater Health– Director
- Kevin Marriott, Warden, County of Lambton – Director
- Mike Bradley, Mayor, City of Sarnia – Director
- Rob Kardas, President, Lambton College – Director
- David Cayea, CEO PlantForm Corporation- Director
- Angela Edlington, COO, Sarnia Concrete Products Limited- Director
- Tim Knapp, Manager, Head of Integrated Management Systems, Arlanxeo- Director
- Jeff Plain, Indigenous Justice Coordinator, Community Legal Assistance Sarnia- Director
- Darryl Germain, Senior Relationship Manager, Commercial Financial Services, Royal Bank of Canada- Director
- Peter Noble, Retired Petrochemicals Manager, Imperial Oil- Non-Voting Community Member
- Tracy Kingston, Freelance Floral Designer and Retired Business Owner, KAYs Petals & Plants- Non-Voting Community Member

A. Lee thanked R. Perdeaux (absent) for serving two terms (six years) of service on the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership Board. A. Lee also recognized P. Reaume-Zimmer (absent) for serving two years as Board Chair, she will be continuing her next term as a Director.


8. Business Meeting Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved by A. Lee, Seconded by T. Knapp. Carried.

9. Guest Speaker

Keith Currie, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture presented a keynote speaking presentation on Fueling Canada's Prosperity: An Integrated Approach to Energy and Agriculture.


Chair
Adrienne Lee


Secretary-Treasurer
Stephane Thiffeault



MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
(Infrastructure & Development Services/Public Health Services –
Emergency Medical Services/Cultural Services/Long-Term Care/Corporate
Services/Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions/Social Services)
June 18, 2025

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

Present

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

Absent

I. Veen

Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor B. Loosley declared a pecuniary interest on item 4. A) a) of the June 18, 2025 Committee of the Whole (Open Session) agenda regarding the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) report, and 2. A) b) of the June 18, 2025 Committee of the Whole (Closed Session) agenda regarding the SEIU Local 1 Canada Labour negotiations report due to his son being employed with Lambton EMS, and therefore recused himself from discussion on this matter, as well as on motion #5 and #18 of this day's minutes.

Councillor T. Case declared a pecuniary interest on item 9. C) a) of the June 18, 2025 Committee of the Whole (Open Session) agenda regarding the Integrated Employment Services (IES) Team Staffing report due to his family member being employed with the IES Team, as well as on motion #15 of this day's minutes.

Councillor B. Dennis declared a pecuniary interest regarding item 7. A) b) of the Committee of the Whole (Open Session) agenda dated June 18, 2025, regarding correspondence CORP 07-03-25, a letter from Delegate Integrity Commissioner, Rebecca Hines, Senior Associate with Hunter Legal LLP, as he is identified in the letter, and therefore recused himself from discussion on this matter, as well as on motion #11 of this day's minutes.

INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

Information Reports

#1: Sageman/Dennis: That the following Information Reports from Infrastructure & Development Services Division be received and filed:

a) Information Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding Emergency Management Coordinator Activities.

b) Information Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding County Road 79 (Nauvoo Road) Rehabilitation Project.

Carried.

Reports Requiring a Motion

Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding Update Appointment By-Law for Building Inspectors

#2: Ferguson/Loosley: That Mr. Duane (Adam) Read be appointed as Building Inspector, effective immediately, and that By-Law No. 8 of 2025 be updated to reflect such change.

Carried.

Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding Hydrometric Station Encroachment Agreements

#3: Miller/White: That the draft encroachment agreements between Environment & Climate Change Canada and The Corporation of the County of Lambton be authorized, and that the Warden and Deputy Clerk be authorized to execute same and sign any document to give effect thereto.

Carried.

Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding Water Quality Monitoring Station Encroachment Agreement

#4: Sageman/Cook: That the encroachment agreement between St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and The Corporation of the County of Lambton be authorized, and that the Warden and Deputy Clerk be authorized to execute same and sign any document to give effect thereto.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION - Emergency Medical Services Department

Information Reports

#5: Case/Agar: That the following Information Reports from Public Health Services Division - Emergency Medical Services Department be received and filed:

a) Information Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding Emergency Medical Services Rebranding.

b) Information Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding Community Health Integrated Care Pilot Program Update.

Carried.

Other Business

Congratulations to Anita Trusler on her Retirement

Kevin Churchill congratulated Anita Trusler, Manager, EMS Crisis System Navigation Program, Public Health Services Division, on her well-earned retirement.

#6: Loosley/Case: That Anita Trusler be formally thanked for her years of service to the County of Lambton and be congratulated on her retirement.

Carried.

CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

Reports Requiring a Motion

Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding County Council Chambers Accessibility and Maintenance Improvements

#7: Miller/White: That Staff be authorized to execute the renovations to County Council chambers and its associated space described herein and its attachment.

Carried.

Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding Museums, Gallery and Archives Collection Management April, 2025

#8: Ferguson/White: That the Museums, Gallery and Archives Collections Management April, 2025 Report be accepted, and items recommended for acceptance be approved for inclusion in the respective permanent collections and items recommended for deaccession be removed from the respective permanent collections.

Carried.

Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding Proposal for the Consolidation of Sombra and Port Lambton Libraries

#9: Cook/White:

a) That if the Township of St. Clair consents to the closure of the Port Lambton Library and proceeds with improvements to the Sombra Library facility that fall within its areas of responsibility as outlined in this report, staff be authorized to close the Port Lambton Library by such date and time as mutually agreed upon with the Township of St. Clair.

b) That if the Township of St. Clair consents to the action authorized in paragraph a) above, County staff proceed with improvements to the Sombra Library facility that fall within its areas of responsibility as outlined in this report, and work collaboratively with the Township of St. Clair on all reasonably necessary actions required to move the Port Lambton Library operations to the Sombra Library to enhance service delivery at Sombra Library for the benefit of the community and to communicate the closure thereof to all affected stakeholders.

c) That subject to recommendations a) and b) above being realized, County staff be authorized to increase the public hours of operation at Sombra Library from 12 hours per week to 25 hours per week, consisting of a range of morning, afternoon, weekend and evening service.

d) That County staff report back to County Council on recommendations a) and b) above once direction from the Township of St. Clair has been received and an action plan has been established, as applicable, including any requests from the Township of St. Clair related to service continuation in Port Lambton.

Carried.

LONG-TERM CARE DIVISION

Information Reports

Information Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding interRAI LTCF Transition - Long-Term Care

#10: Atkinson/Boushy: That Information Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding interRAI LTCF Transition - Long-Term Care be received and filed.

Carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

Correspondence to Receive and File

CORP 07-02-25 A letter from Karlee Britton, Secretary-Treasurer, District of Parry Sound Municipal Association regarding a resolution carried at the May 23, 2025 meeting requesting that the Province provide municipalities, particularly small and rural communities, with improved access to free and timely information, training, and transparency related to Codes of Conduct and Integrity Commissioner investigations.

CORP 07-03-25 A letter from Delegate Integrity Commissioner, Rebecca Hines, Senior Associate with Hunter Legal LLP dated June 10, 2025, regarding the Integrity Commissioner Interim Report, Code of Conduct Complaint 2025-01.

CORP 07-04-25 A letter from Davneet Sandhu, Council/Committee Coordinator, Town of Stouffville dated May 30, 2025, advising of a resolution passed endorsing correspondence from York Region, regarding provincial funding shortfall of human and health programs and services.

#11: Boushy/Cook: That correspondence CORP 07-02-25, CORP 07-03-25, and CORP 07-04-25 be received and filed.

Carried.

FINANCE, FACILITIES AND ACQUISITIONS DIVISION

Information Reports

Information Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding 2025 - 1st Quarter Financial Update

#12: White/Hand: That Information Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding 2025 - 1st Quarter Financial Update be received and filed.

Carried.

SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

Correspondence to Receive and File

SSD 07-01-25 A letter from Susan Cassel, City Clerk, City of Pickering dated June 4, 2025, addressed to The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, regarding Raising the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program.

#13: Bradley/White: That County Council endorse the resolution in correspondence SSD 07-01-25 as follows:

WHEREAS individuals and families receiving income support through Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) are facing increasing challenges in meeting basic needs due to rising costs of living;

And Whereas Statistics Canada notes that people with disabilities have a higher poverty rate and a lower rate of employment than the overall population;

And Whereas the annual income support for Ontario Works is currently \$8,796.00 and \$16,416.00 for Ontario Disability Support Program. These supports have not increased sufficiently to keep up with inflation and the cost of living. Such costs are anticipated to continue increasing;

And Whereas the low income measure for a single person in Greater Toronto Area is estimated to be approximately \$27,343 annually, and the deep income poverty threshold is determined to be \$20,508;

And Whereas Food Banks, including our local Food Banks, provide a necessary service with increasing demands in our communities;

And Whereas the Pickering Food Bank served 1,722 adults, and 1,054 children in February 2025;

And Whereas food banks are already reducing their distribution capacity; and it is anticipated that due to developing economic circumstances, such as the current tariff war, there will be increased unemployment, increased food prices, and a heightened demand for food distribution, while donations continue to decline;

And Whereas these economic trends will continue to erode the purchasing power of OW and ODSP recipients, increasing reliance on food banks and placing additional pressure on municipalities and community organizations;

Now therefore it be resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering directs through the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer:

1. That staff send a letter to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Finance, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, and the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility, to strongly urge that the Ontario Provincial Government significantly raise the payments of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program and the increases be reflected in the upcoming Provincial Budget and that the increased amount aligns with inflationary costs and thereby decrease the pressure on food banks and the reliance on municipalities and taxpayers to supplement the gap in financial need; and,

2. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), the Regional Municipality of Durham, all Municipalities in the Province of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

Carried.

Information Reports

#14: Sageman/Miller: That the following Information Reports from Social Services Division be received and filed:

a) Information Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding Ontario Works First Quarter Update.

b) Information Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding Service Manager Annual Information Return.

c) Information Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding Children's Services Department System Update.

Carried.

Reports Requiring a Motion

Report dated June 18, 2025 Regarding Integrated Employment Services Team Staffing

#15: White/Cook: That the County be authorized to hire for the following temporary positions on a permanent basis: one (1) full-time Integrated Employment Services Supervisor and seven (7) full-time Integrated Employment Services workers.

Carried.

Other Business

Councillor B. Dennis gave Notice of Motion for discussion at the July 2, 2025 County Council meeting requesting reconsideration of Motion #4 of the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) minutes dated May 7, 2025 regarding the County's donation

of lands on George Street in Sarnia to Indwell Community Homes for the development of supportive housing.

Councillor C. McRoberts gave Notice of Motion for discussion at the July 2, 2025 County Council meeting regarding community consultations for affordable and supportive housing projects.

Time: 9:30 a.m.

IN-CAMERA

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

a) to receive a report and provide instructions regarding an agreement between the County and a third party relating to funding information explicitly supplied in confidence pursuant to s.239(2)(h) and (i) 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 property in the City of Sarnia, pursuant to s. 239(2)(k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

c) to receive a report on labour negotiations between the County and SEIU Local 1 Canada, pursuant to s. 239(2)(d) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Carried.

#17: (Motion to be dealt with at the Lambton County Council (CLOSED SESSION) meeting dated July 2, 2025.)

Carried.

#18: (Motion to be dealt with at the Lambton County Council (CLOSED SESSION) meeting dated July 2, 2025.)

Carried.

#19: Ferguson/Hand: That the Chair declare the Committee go back into Open Session.

Carried.

Time: 9:35 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

#20: Ferguson/Loosley: That the Chair declare the meeting adjourned with the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the County Building, Wyoming, Ontario.

Carried.

Time: 9:39 a.m.

Kevin Marriott, Chair

Ryan Beauchamp, Deputy Clerk

MINUTES
AUDIT COMMITTEE

June 18, 2025

A meeting was held at the County Building at 10:00 a.m. on the above date.

Present

Chair D. Cook, Warden, K. Marriott. Members: D. Ferguson, B. Loosley, S. Miller, and Deputy Warden J. Agar attended in person. Also present were Mr. L. Palarchio, General Manager, Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions, Mr. S. Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer, Ms. L. Titus, Manager, Financial Administrative Services, Ms. K. Bettridge Manager, Divisional Support Services and Mr. R. Beauchamp, County Solicitor/Deputy Clerk.

Mr. Ferruccio Da Sacco and Ms. Gale Koehler of BDO Canada LLP attended the meeting virtually.

Absent

None.

DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

Appointment of Committee Chair

#1: Loosley/Marriott: That Councillor Doug Cook be appointed as Chair of the Audit Committee for 2025.

Carried.

Auditor's Presentation

Mr. Ferruccio Da Sacco, CPA, CA, Partner, A&A and Ms. Gale Koehler, CPA, CA, Senior Manager, A&A, BDO Canada LLP, provided an overview of the draft audited Financial Statements of The Corporation of the County of Lambton.

Items for Discussion

Audit Committee - 18 Jun 2025

2024 Consolidated Financial Statements

The Auditors of BDO Canada LLP presented The Corporation of the County of Lambton's 2024 Consolidated Financial Statements and Trust Funds Statements.

The Committee reviewed the Auditor's correspondence titled "The Corporation of the County of Lambton Audit Final Report to the Audit Committee for Year Ended December 31, 2024".

The Auditors presented BDO's Management Letter. The Committee reviewed the Management Letter with the Auditors.

Auditors Correspondence and Draft Response Letter

The Committee received and reviewed the BDO-County of Lambton Fraud Letter dated June 9, 2025, from Mr. Ferruccio Da Sacco, CPA, CA, Partner, A&A, BDO Canada LLP, advising that generally accepted auditing standards require auditors to communicate to Council with regards to fraud and error and the impact it may have on the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024. The Auditors requested responses to the questions presented within the letter and staff responded with the County of Lambton Response Letter dated June 18, 2025, as presented in the agenda.

Further Discussion

Mr. Thiffeault, and Mr. Palarchio, Ms. Titus and Ms. Bettridge left the meeting at 10:20 a.m. Upon their departure, the Committee members and Auditors continued the meeting. Mr. Beauchamp, Deputy Clerk, remained in the meeting for recording-keeping purposes.

A general discussion ensued between the auditors and members of the Audit Committee.

Mr. Thiffeault and Mr. Palarchio rejoined the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

RECOMMENDATIONS

#2: Miller/Loosley: That the Audit Committee endorse the following resolutions:

a) That the County of Lambton's Consolidated Financial Statements and Trust Funds Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2024, be accepted and authorized for release and distribution.

b) That the Auditor's Management Letter be accepted as presented.

Audit Committee - 18 Jun 2025

c) That the BDO - County of Lambton Fraud Letter dated June 9, 2025 be received and that the draft County of Lambton Response Letter dated June 18, 2025 be approved and the Warden be authorized to execute and deliver the same to the auditors.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

#3: Ferguson/Marriott: That the Chair declare the Audit Committee meeting adjourned.

Carried.

Time: 10:26 a.m.

Doug Cook, Chair

Ryan Beauchamp, Deputy Clerk

June 18, 2025

Notice of Motion

For consideration at the July 2, 2025 Lambton County Council meeting:

That the County Council resolution adopted on May 7, 2025 in Closed Session, resulting in the donation of the George Street Lands to Indwell, be reconsidered.

Bill Dennis
Councillor, City of Sarnia
County of Lambton

June 18, 2025

Notice of Motion

For consideration at the July 2, 2025 Lambton County Council meeting:

Staff shall first consult the neighbouring community on the following projects:

- a) supportive housing builds that the County intends to undertake and develop on its own; and
- b) third-party supportive housing builds where the County intends on donating its lands to and/or intends to fund at least 50% of the capital costs thereof,

by providing the community with a description of the project contemplated and of the services to be delivered, and present the feedback received to County Council.

The County's consultation shall include neighbouring commercial entities and residents located within a 250-metre radius of the property identified for supportive housing.

Chrissy McRoberts
Councillor, City of Sarnia
County of Lambton

THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON

BY-LAW NO. 17 OF 2025

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

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

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

AND WHEREAS this Council previously enacted By-Law No. 8 of 2025 to appoint a Chief Building Official, acting Chief Building Official(s) and inspectors for purposes of the Code, but wishes to update and restate such appointment on account of personnel changes;

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

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

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

3. THAT By-Law No. 8 of 2025 is hereby repealed.
4. THIS BY-LAW comes into force and effect upon finally being passed.

THIS BY-LAW read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 2nd day of July 2025.

Kevin Marriott
Warden

Ryan Beauchamp
Deputy Clerk

DRAFT

SCHEDULE A TO BY-LAW NO. 17 OF 2025

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

<u>Position</u>	<u>Appointed Individuals (Name)</u>
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Chief Building Official:	NAUTA, Corrine
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Inspector(s):	ANIC, Michael BEDARD, Kelly COLES, Nicole KOLA, Simon MCDUGALL, Richard MCEACHEN, Connor MCKAY, Duane NAPIER, Paul READ, Duane (Adam) SOETEMANS, Jesse VAN DEN BERGE, Jessica VANOVERBEKE, Rob VERMEIREN, Samantha
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Acting Chief Building Official:	Any one of the Inspectors appointed above (as nominated by the Chief Building Official) shall have the authority to serve as the acting Chief Building Official for the purposes of the Code during the absence of the Chief Building Official.
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THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON

BY-LAW NO. 18 OF 2025

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

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

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

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

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the County of Lambton passed By-Law No. 9 of 2025 to amend By-Law No. 28 of 2011 (and consequently By-Law No. 67 of 1996) to replace the position title of "Manager of Planning & Development Services" with "Manager of Development Services";

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the County of Lambton seeks to amend By-Law No. 28 of 2011 (and consequently By-Law No. 67 of 1996), as amended by By-Law No. 9 of 2025, to add the "Senior Planning Official" as an alternate delegated authority to approve plans of subdivision and condominium descriptions;

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

1. By-Law No. 28 of 2011 is hereby amended as follows:
 - a) Paragraph 3(b) is hereby amended by adding the words "or, alternately, the Senior Planning Official" after the words "Manager of Development Services" in the fourth line.
2. THIS BY-LAW comes into force and takes effect upon the passing thereof.

THIS BY-LAW read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 2nd day of July, 2025.

Kevin Marriott
Warden

Ryan Beauchamp
Deputy Clerk

DRAFT

THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON

BY-LAW NO. 19 OF 2025

"A By-Law of The Corporation of the County of Lambton to confirm the resolutions and motions of Lambton County Council which were adopted up to and including July 2, 2025"

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

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

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

- 1) That all actions of Council which have been authorized by a resolution or motion of Council and adopted in open Council and that were recorded in the minutes of Council or the minutes of a Committee of Council and accepted by Council up to and including July 2, 2025, be hereby confirmed.

THIS BY-LAW read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 2nd day of July, 2025.

Kevin Marriott
Warden

Ryan Beauchamp
Deputy Clerk

The annual County Councillor's BBQ will be held at the Township of St....

ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP
INVITES YOU TO

The Annual County Council Luncheon

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

SOCIAL { 11:30 AM }

LUNCH { 12:30 PM }

ST. CLAIR PARKWAY GOLF CLUB
132 MOORE LINE, MOORETOWN, ON

Cost \$25 per plate

RSVP and to advise of any dietary restrictions to:

TWeeke@stclairtownship.ca

by 4:00PM, Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Partners and Spouses Welcome

AGENDA ITEM #a)