



\$3,225,355 to expand water infrastructure in north Oshawa

DURHAM REGION — The Hon. Todd McCarthy, MPP for Durham, is pleased to announce that the Ontario government is investing up to \$3,225,355 to expand water infrastructure in north Oshawa. The funding comes from the province's Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program's Health and Safety Water Stream (MHIP-HSWS), which has increased by \$700 million for a total of \$875 million to support access to safe drinking water, housing, job creation and protection for communities in the event of extreme weather events.

The MHIP-HSWS funding will be used in north Oshawa as part of the Conlin Road East – Phase 2 Culvert and Stormwater Infrastructure project for housing access.

"This is welcome news for Oshawa. As our community continues to grow, this investment in stormwater infrastructure is essential to advancing the major reconstruction of Conlin Road East from Ritson to Townline, supporting our neighbourhoods and residential housing in the area" said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter.

"We thank the Ontario government and Durham MPP and Acting Minister of Infrastructure McCarthy for this MHIP-HSWS funding and for investing in the great City of Oshawa."

This funding is part of a historic investment of \$4 billion in the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP), included in Ontario's \$220 billion capital plan, the most ambitious in the province's history, to build transit, highways, hospitals, schools and water infrastructure that enables new housing.

"As we continue to navigate economic uncertainty and unwarranted U.S. tariffs, our government is protecting Ontario by investing in critical infrastructure that drives growth, creates jobs and strengthens communities," said Todd McCarthy, MPP for Durham and Acting Minister of Infrastructure. "Through our historic \$4 billion Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program, we are giving municipalities and First Nations the tools they need to get shovels in the ground and build stronger communities. Our investments will deliver more homes, modernize aging water systems and lay the foundation for long-term prosperity across Ontario."

- In August 2025, Ontario increased the MHIP to \$4 billion to speed up construction of homes and core infrastructure, such as roads and water systems. Since its launch in 2024, the MHIP has made about 800,000 more new homes possible.

- The MHIP is comprised of four funding streams: the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF), the Housing-Enabling Core Servicing (HECS) Stream, the Health and Safety Water Stream (HSWS) and the Agriculture and Irrigation Stream.

- In January 2025, Ontario announced an initial investment of \$175 million to launch the HSWS.

Durham Regional Council approves the 2026 Business Plans and Budget



Durham Region's 2026 Budget balances delivering quality services with maintaining affordability for residents with a property tax increase of 4.8 per cent.

For an average homeowner, Regional property taxes will increase by about \$14 per month where approximately \$10 dollars funds police services and \$4 will be invested in other essential services across the Region including transit, housing, paramedic services and Regional roads and bridges.

The 2026 Budget focuses on keeping costs manageable while still funding the services residents rely on every day – important services that keep our communi-

ty safe, connected, and supported.

To guide future planning, the Region will carry out a Core Services Review that will assess existing service delivery, examine service level requirements, and identify opportunities for sustainable efficiencies.

The review will also quantify areas where Regional funding exceeds senior government mandates, helping to inform the Region's ongoing advocacy for predictable and adequate funding. Residents are reminded that the Municipal Property Tax Assessment Corporation (MPAC) sets the assessed value for each individual property.

"With the approval of the 2026 Business Plans and Budget, they remain focused on providing strong, reliable services while keeping affordability top of mind. Guided by Regional Council's direction, this budget represents a collective effort across departments to create a more affordable budget plan to minimize impacts on resi-

dents, while maintaining strong frontline services under challenging conditions."

— John Henry, Regional Chair and CEO, Region of Durham

"Durham Region's approved 2026 Budget reflects the collaborative efforts of our Regional departments and agencies, all working towards the shared goal of delivering exceptional service to our communities. Thank you for your dedication to supporting our residents, organizations, and businesses."

— Kevin Ashe, Mayor of Pickering and Chair, Finance and Administration Committee

"This budget focuses on fiscally responsible investments in Regional programs and services that matter most to our community, while addressing the demands that growth places on frontline services. This balanced approach positions our residents and businesses for success today and in the future."

— Nicole Pincombe, Commissioner of Finance



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LEGAL CHALLENGE FAILS IN PICKERING

Ontario Court Upholds Sanctions Against Councillor in Legal Win for the City of Pickering. The Superior Court of Justice - Ontario Divisional Court once again ruled in favour of the City of Pickering, confirming the sanctions imposed on Councillor Lisa Robinson. This marks the third judicial review initiated by the Councillor, requiring the City to defend the Integrity Commissioner's findings and its own Council decision(s) on three separate occasions.

In its latest ruling, the Court found no breach of procedural fairness, determined that the Integrity Commissioner's factual findings were reasonable - including the findings that Councillor Robinson made false claims about the City and deliberately misrepresented City policy, and concluded that the City's obligation to protect staff dignity and maintain public trust outweighed any limit on the Councillor's Charter rights.

As a result of Councillor Robinson's decision to pursue yet another judicial review, the Divisional Court has ordered her to reimburse the City of Pickering \$10,000 in legal costs. While the City views this decision as a significant legal victory that fully affirms its actions and approach, the reimbursement covers only a portion of the expenses incurred, and the City remains responsible for well over a hundred thousand dollars in legal costs stemming from the Councillor's repeated legal challenges.

"While I am pleased with this legal victory, which serves as a complete and thorough vindication of the City, Members of Council, and our staff, I sincerely hope we can now move forward with the business of the City," said Kevin Ashe, Mayor of Pickering. "Moving ahead constructively is in everyone's best interest. Our community deserves our full focus on the important work before us, and that is where we intend to direct our collective efforts."



Mayor Kevin Ashe

I've had the privilege of joining many Thai Pongal and Tamil Heritage Month celebrations with friends and colleagues across our communities this month.

Each gathering was a reminder of the strength, culture, and community spirit that continue to enrich our region.

A heartfelt thank-you to the durhamtamilassociation, the Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham, and the tamilcivicaction for hosting such meaningful events and for the warm welcome at every celebration.

Wishing everyone a joyful Thai Pongal and a happy Tamil Heritage Month