DURHAM REGION POLITICAL DYNAMO BECOMES MAYOR AND REGIONAL CHAIR ALL IN THE SAME MONTH MAKING REGIONAL HISTORY



Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, announced the following Heads of Council for Durham, Halton, Niagara, Peel, Waterloo and York regions, Muskoka District and Simcoe County:

Kevin Ashe,
Durham Regional Chair
Ann Mulvale,
Halton Regional Chair
Frank Campion,
Niagara Regional Chair
Nando Iannicca,
Peel Regional Chair
Scott Davey,
Waterloo Regional Chair
Steven Del Duca,
York Regional Chair
Scott Aitchison,
Muskoka District Chair
Don McIsaac,
Simcoe County Chair

"Ontario stands at an important juncture. As we navigate geopolitical challenges and create the conditions for growth, strong leadership at the regional level is more important than ever," said Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

"These appointments reflect our confidence in local leaders who bring a deep understanding of their municipalities and a proven record of performance and public service.

As Heads of Council, they will foster collaboration across municipalities, support responsible growth and ensure services are delivered efficiently, so that these communities remain great places to live, work and raise a family."

Heads of Council are equipped with powers to streamline decision-making, improve efficiency, strengthen alignment with provincial priorities, including housing and infrastructure, and introduce upper-tier budgets.

Heads of Council bring a range of experience and expertise to their new roles, including municipal governance and administration, infrastructure delivery and finance

The province made the announcement Tuesday.

In a news release, the province says Ashe can still keep his job as Mayor of Pickering Mayor.

"Appointees who are also lower-tier mayors will hold one seat (as Chair) on regional council," the release stated. "The lower-tier municipality will appoint someone else to represent it on regional council. The mayor would continue to serve as mayor on the lower-tier council and fulfill the duties of both roles."

The regional chair position was not selected by voters in the October election as the province made the decision to appoint the roles across Ontario.

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Compensation will be determined by municipalities.

In cases where appointees are also a lower-tier mayor or councillor, their total compensation will be capped at the higher of the two salaries.

In addition to serving as the Mayor of Pickering, he will act as head of Durham Regional Council and CEO of the corporation; preside over all meetings of Regional Council; promote and advance the Region's position on a wide variety of municipal matters; represent Durham Region on various boards, committees and organizations; and undertake other significant duties.

"I am honoured by the Province's appointment and grateful for the opportunity to serve as Durham Region's next Regional Chair and CEO," said Chair-Appoint, Kevin Ashe.

"I look forward to working closely with my colleagues on Regional Council, Chief Administrative Officer Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Durham Regional Police Chief Peter Moreira, and the many dedicated staff across the Region who work every day to deliver essential services to our residents.

Together, we will build on Durham's strong foundation, strengthen collaboration, support responsible growth, and advance our shared provincial priorities, including housing and infrastructure. There is tremendous potential before us, and I am committed to delivering meaningful results that strengthen our economy, support our residents, and build a strong and prosperous future for Durham."

Chair Ashe will begin the 2026 to 2030 term as Regional Chair on November 15, 2026.

Kevin Ashe, is making history as Durham's first Mayor to sit as an Province appointed Regional Chair.

Whitby Mayor Elizabeth Roy commented on the appointment.

"I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Pickering Mayor Kevin Ashe on his appointment as Durham's Regional Chair.," she said. "Mayor Ashe brings decades of experience in municipal government, a strong understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing Durham communities and a demonstrated commitment to public service."

Central Lakes Association of REALTORS extended congratulations to Pickering Mayor Kevin Ashe on his appointment as Durham Region's next Regional Chair! CLAR has valued the opportunity to work with Mayor Ashe over the years, and we look forward to continuing this relationship in his new role, working together to support housing, responsible growth, and strong communities across Durham Region.

We wish him continued success as he takes on this new leadership role!

Juanita Nathan, MP Pickering stated in a release, congratulations to Mayor Kevin Ashe on his appointment as Chair of the Region of Durham!

Kevin's deep roots in Pickering and years of public service make him well suited to this new role. Pickering and Durham Region rise together, and I look forward to working with Chair Ashe, Pickering Council, and our municipal partners.

Wishing him every success in the term ahead.

City of Pickering release stated: The City fully supports Mayor Ashe as he takes on this expanded responsibility. This model of dual public service is well established across Canada, where Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament routinely serve their local constituents while also taking on broader leadership responsibilities, including Cabinet portfolios that extend beyond their riding boundaries.

"Durham Region is at an inflection point, and I am deeply honoured to take on this important responsibility while continuing to serve the residents of Pickering as Mayor," said Mayor Kevin



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