

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RYERSON
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA - AS AMENDED

May 13, 2025 AT 6:00 P.M.

THIS WILL BE A HYBRID IN-PERSON/ELECTRONIC MEETING via ZOOM

Members of the Public must register with the Ryerson Township Clerk's Office **prior to the meeting for meeting access and availability of limited in-person seating.**

Members of the Public are not permitted in a Closed meeting.

To Members of the Public: If you have trouble with your connection during the meeting, you may notify the Host by e-mail at: treasurer@ryersontownship.ca

Meeting will be recorded.

The Municipal Council of the Township of Ryerson recognizes that we are on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe Peoples, in the Robinson-Huron and Williams Treaties areas. We wish to acknowledge the long history of First Nations and Métis Peoples in Ontario, and show respect to the neighbouring indigenous communities.

Note: (R) denotes resolution

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- 1.1 Attendance: in person and electronic
- 1.2 Announcement: This meeting is being recorded
- 1.3 Motion to adopt the agenda as presented. **(R)**

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

- 2.1 Adoption of minutes from the public meetings and regular meeting on April 22, 2025 **(R)**

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

4. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

- 4.1 Richard Taylor RE: Trailer By-law

5. REPORTS:

- 5.1 **BY-LAW:** Report and Discussion with Council.

5.2 **CLERK:** Women's Own Resources **(R)**, Proclamation Report, Proclamation Request -Almaguin Pride Network. **(R)**

5.3 **CAO/TREASURER:** Draft Fire Agreement.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

5.4 Councillor Abbott: Hazmat Update, Library Board Report.

6. COMMUNICATION ITEMS:

6.1 Heritage Festival: Dunk a Politician.

General Correspondence:

6.2 Almaguin Community Economic Development (ACED) March meeting minutes.

6.3 Almaguin Community Economic Development (ACED) 2025 Signage Project Summary.

6.4 Director of Economic Development (DoED) April report.

6.5 Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot final report.

6.6 Rural and Northern Immigration Priority Sectors.

6.7 Historical Society April meeting minutes.

6.8 Municipality of Magnetawan Resolution: EMS appointment

6.9 Township of Armour Resolution: EMS appointment

6.10 Joint Building Committee permit summary for April 2025.

6.11 Almaguin Highlands Health Centre May minutes.

6.12 Muskoka Almaguin Ontario Health Team – Name update

6.13 April 16, 2025, Tri-Council informal sub-committee meeting minutes.

6.14 Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare – New MRI machine

6.15 Southeast Parry Sound District Planning Board 2024 financial statements.

6.16 Southeast Parry Sound District Planning Board 2025 proposed planning fees.

6.17 Almaguin Community Transportation (ACT) Committee progress summary.

6.18 Almaguin Community Transportation (ACT) March meeting minutes.

7. CONFIRMING BY-LAW:

7.1 To confirm the meetings of Council. **(R)**

8. IMPORTANT DATES:

May 23, 2025, District of Parry Sound Municipal Meeting.

May 24, 2025, Hazmat Day.

May 26, 2025, Tri-Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

May 27, 2025, Regular Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT:(R)****

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RYERSON

LIST OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

FOR COUNCIL MEETING: May 13, 2025 AT 6:00 P.M.

Item # 1.3 on Agenda Moved by Councillor Abbott, Seconded by Councillor Robertson,

Be it resolved that Ryerson Township Council adopt the May 13, 2025 agenda as circulated.

Item # 2.1 on Agenda Moved by Councillor Miller, Seconded by Councillor Patterson,

Be it resolved that the minutes from the special meetings and regular meeting on April 22, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

Item # 5.2 on Agenda Moved by Councillor Robertson, Seconded by Councillor Patterson,

Be it resolved that Ryerson Township Council donate \$_____ to the Women's Own Resources Center in 2025.

Item # 5.3 on Agenda Moved by Councillor Patterson, Seconded by Councillor Abbott,

Be it resolved that Ryerson Township Council support the proclamation request from the Almaguin Pride Network;

And further that, Ryerson commits to posting the provided proclamation on the Ryerson Township website and Facebook page for the month of June.

Item # 7.1 on Agenda Moved by Councillor Robertson, Seconded by Councillor Miller,

Be it resolved that leave be given to introduce a Bill # ____-25, being a By-law to confirm the meetings of Council and further; That By-Law # ____-25 be read a First, Second, and Third time, Signed and the Seal of the Corporation affixed thereto and finally passed in Council this 13th day of May 2025.

Item # 9 on Agenda Moved by Councillor Miller, Seconded by Councillor Abbott,

Be it resolved that we do now adjourn at _____. The next regular meeting is May 27, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

**CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RYERSON
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT**

MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING

MINOR VARIANCE – Jessica Danielle Baker

PCL 26343 SEC SS; FIRSTLY: PT LT 23 CON 1 RYERSON PARTS 8 & 9, 42R9585; SECONDLY: PT LT 22 CON 1 RYERSON & PT LT 23 CON 1 RYERSON; PT 2, 42R9585; S/T PT 8, 42R9585 AS IN LT30068; RYERSON and PCL 26343 SEC SS; PT LT 22 CON 1 RYERSON PT 3, 42R9585; RYERSON (640 Bartlett Lake Road)

April 22, 2025

Ryerson Township Committee of Adjustment held a public meeting Tuesday April 22, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., at the municipal office, to hear application A2/25 for a Minor Variance made by Jessica Danielle Baker.

Committee members present: George Sterling, Beverly Abbott, Dan Robinson, Glenn Miller and Delynn Patterson.

Staff Present: Nancy Field, Clerk and Brayden Robinson, CAO/Treasurer.

Public in attendance in person or electronically: Roman Kaczynski and Trina Clark.

Declarations of conflict of interest: None declared.

The purpose of the application was To seek exemption from By-law #56-14 to permit:

- a front yard setback of 11.9 m for a dwelling, where 20 m is required (see Section 4, Table 5)
- a rear yard setback of 6.2 m for a dwelling, where 10 m is required (see Section 4, Table 5)
- a front yard setback of 9.5 m for a ground level deck, where 17 m is required (see Section 3.1.11)
- a rear yard setback of 5.9 m for a ground level deck, where 7 m is required (see Section 3.1.11)
- a front yard setback of 11.9 m for an upper level deck, where 20 m is required (see Section 3.1.11)
- a front yard setback of 17.3 m for a garage addition, where 20 m is required (see Section 3.1.2)

Notice of this public meeting was given by prepaid first class mail on April 9, 2025 to every owner of land within 60 meters of the above noted property, the Secretary of the Southeast Parry Sound District Planning Board, the property owner and notice was posted on the property.

No written submissions were received.

The Committee of Adjustment decided to grant the minor variance as per the reasons noted on the Notice of Decision.

MAYOR

CLERK

**CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RYERSON
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT**

MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING

MINOR VARIANCE – David John Newhouse

Concession 13, Lot 26, PCL 9877, 454 Starratt Road.

April 22, 2025

Ryerson Township Committee of Adjustment held a public meeting Tuesday April 22, 2025 at 5:45 p.m., at the municipal office, to hear application A1/25 for a Minor Variance made by David John Newhouse.

Committee members present: George Sterling, Beverly Abbott, Dan Robinson, Glenn Miller and Delynne Patterson.

Staff Present: Nancy Field, Clerk and Brayden Robinson, CAO/Treasurer.

Public in attendance in person or electronically: Roman Kaczynski.

Declarations of conflict of interest: None declared.

The purpose of the application was to seek exemption from By-Law #56-14, Section 3.1.10 to permit an accessory use (storage shed) in the front yard, whereas the Zoning By-law requires accessory buildings or structures to be located in the side or rear yard.

Notice of this public meeting was given by prepaid first class mail on April 4, 2025 to every owner of land within 60 meters of the above noted property, the Secretary of the Southeast Parry Sound District Planning Board, the property owner and notice was posted on the property.

No written submissions were received.

The Committee of Adjustment decided to grant the minor variance as per the reasons noted on the Notice of Decision.

MAYOR

CLERK

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RYERSON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

April 22, 2025 AT 6:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ryerson was held **April 22, 2025** at 6:00 p.m. This was a hybrid meeting combining in person, electronic meeting via Zoom and phone.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor George Sterling called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance was announced, and it was noted that the meeting is being recorded.

Council members attending in person or electronically: Mayor Sterling, Councillors: Abbott, Miller, Patterson and Robertson.

Staff in attendance: Brayden Robinson and Nancy Field

Public attending in person or electronically: Nieves Guijarro.

Notice of this meeting was posted on the website.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

R- 62 -25 Moved by Councillor Miller, Seconded by Councillor Robertson,

Be it resolved that Ryerson Township Council adopt the April 22, 2025 agenda as circulated.

(Carried)

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

R- 63 - 25 Moved by Councillor Abbott, Seconded by Councillor Patterson,

Be it resolved that the minutes from the public meeting and the regular meeting on March 25, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

(Carried)

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST: None noted.

4. TENDERS

Council awarded tenders for the Supply and Apply Crushed Granite, Pulverizing, Stockpiling of Winter Sand, Roadside Mowing, and Crushed Granite – Peggs Mountain Road. Council decided not to award a contract for the Roadside Brushing tender. Resolutions noted below.

R- 64 -25 Moved by Councillor Patterson, Seconded by Councillor Miller,

Be it resolved that Ryerson Township Council accept Tender 2025-01 to Supply & Apply Crushed Granite approximately 4800 tonnes of 7/8 inch, applied to approximately 3.8 km. on Hilly and Gully Rd., approximately 4,550 tonnes applied to approximately 3.6 km on South Horn Lake Rd., and 1,500 tonnes delivered to stockpile at the Ryerson Township yard, located at 28 Midlothian Road, from Weeks Construction in the amount of \$ 195,460 plus HST for a total of \$220,869.80.

(Carried)

R- 65 -25 Moved by Councillor Robertson, Seconded by Councillor Abbott,

Be it resolved that Ryerson Township Council accept Tender 2025-02 to pulverize approximately 4.5 km of Peggs Mountain Road from Greenwood Paving Ltd. in the amount of \$15,979.50 plus HST for a total of \$18,056.84.

(Carried)

R- 66 - 25 Moved by Councillor Robertson, Seconded by Councillor Patterson,

Be it resolved that Ryerson Township Council accept tender 2025-03 for winter sand from Greens Haulage in the amount of \$87,300 plus HST for a total of \$98,649.

(Carried)

R- 67 -25 Moved by Councillor Abbott, Seconded by Councillor Miller,

Be it resolved that Ryerson Township Council accept Tender 2025-04 for Roadside Mowing for approximately 116 kms of roads, both sides of the roads as outlined on the map included, from Johnstone Constructure in the amount of \$4,599.98 plus HST for a total of \$5,073.78.

(Carried)

R- 68 -25 Moved by Councillor Robertson, Seconded by Councillor Abbott,

Be it resolved that Ryerson Township Council accept Tender 2025-06 to Supply & Apply Crushed Granite approximately 5,750 tonnes of 7/8 inch, applied to approximately 4.5 km of Peggs Mountain Rd., from Fowlers Construction in the amount of \$107,180 plus HST for a total of \$ 121,113.04.

(Carried)

5. REPORTS:

BY-LAW: Jason Newman and Bryan Austin provided Council with a first quarter by-law report.

FIRE CHIEF: Joe Readman, Fire Chief provided Council with a first quarter report.

PUBLIC WORKS: Fred provided Council with a update on winter operations.

CLERK: Nancy provided Council with a yard sale report, an Integrity Commissioner annual report, a report on the Magnetawan River watershed conditions, and a report on the EMS appointment. Nancy asked Council if anyone would be interested in attending the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association Spring meeting. Resolution noted below.

R- 69 - 25 Moved by Councillor Patterson, Seconded by Councillor Patterson,

Be it resolved that Ryerson Township Council authorize: George Sterling, Glenn Miller, Dan Robertson, and Delynne Patterson to attend the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association (DPSMA) Spring Meeting on Friday, May 23, 2025 at the Callander Community Centre.

(Carried)

6. BUSINESS ARISING/ACTIVITY LOG:

Councillor Robertson provided a cover letter to Council for the Parry Sound District EMS committee vacancy.

(Carried)

7. COMMUNICATION ITEMS

General Correspondence:

- 7.1 Council received the minutes from the library's January meeting.
- 7.2 Council received the minutes from the library's February meeting.
- 7.3 Council received the Joint Building Committee March permit summary.
- 7.4 Council received the District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Bored: Homeless Encampment Response Plan.
- 7.5 Council received the Almaguin Community Economic Development email.
- 7.6 Council received the Almaguin Community Economic Development 2025 budget projection.
- 7.7 Council received the Almaguin Community Economic Development draft economic development service agreement.
- 7.8 Council received the Township of Perry resolution for the Parry Sound District EMS committee nomination.
- 7.9 Council received the Township of Armour resolution for the Shared Service Subcommittee appointment.
- 7.10 Council received the Township of McMurrich Monteith resolution for the Perry Sound District EMS committee nomination.
- 7.11 Council received the Township of Armour's Young Canada Works Grant.
- 7.12 Council received the Historical Society's March meeting minutes.

8. CLOSED:

R- 70 -25 Moved by Councillor Abbott, Seconded by Councillor Patterson,

That we move to a closed meeting at 7:03 p.m., pursuant to the Municipal Act 2001, c. 25, Section 239 (2) (d) as the subject matter being considered is regarding labour relations or employee negotiations; The general nature of the closed meeting is to discuss HR matters.

And; pursuant to the Municipal Act 2001, c. 25, Section 239 (2) (k) as the subject matter being considered is regarding a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to negotiations; The general nature of the closed meeting is for contract negotiations.

9. CONFIRMING BY-LAW

R-71 -25 Moved by Councillor Miller, Seconded by Councillor Robertson,

Be it resolved that leave be given to introduce a Bill # 16-25, being a By-law to confirm the meetings of Council and further; That By-Law # 16-25 be read a First, Second, and Third time, Signed and the Seal of the Corporation affixed thereto and finally passed in Council this 22th day of April 2025.

(Carried)

10. ADJOURNMENT:

R- 72 -25 Moved by Councillor Abbott, Seconded by Councillor Robertson,

Be it resolved that we do now adjourn at 7:29 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

(Carried)

MAYOR

CLERK

TOWNSHIP OF RYERSON

28 MIDLOTHIAN ROAD

R. R. # 1

BURKS FALLS, ONTARIO P0A 1C0

Phone 705 382-3232 Fax 705 382-3286

email: clerk@ryersontownship.ca

DELEGATION REQUEST FORM

NAME: RICHARD TAYLOR

MAILING ADDRESS: 2431 Midlothian Road

PHONE NUMBER: 705-380-7683

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: May 13th

PRESENTATION TO BE PROVIDED TO THE CLERK? YES ☐ NO ☐

POWERPOINT REQUIRED? YES ☐ NO ☒

GENERAL NATURE OF DELEGATION:

WISH TO SPEAK ABOUT
LIVING IN A TRAILER and
Leaving myself and family
homeless in a housing crisis.
The resolution that Kearney passed about
People Living in trailers. TALK ABOUT
ALLOWING MOBIL HOMES

If more space is required please attach another page.

Communications addressed to Council and its Advisory Committees will become part of the public record and will be placed on a public agenda. Anonymous communications sent to Council or to its Committees will NOT be accepted.

I acknowledge that personal information contained within my communication(s) may become part of the public record and may be made available to the public through the Council/Committee process.

SIGNATURE: [Signature]

DATE: April 22, 2025

If you have a digital signature or wish to create one, click on the signature box and follow the instructions.
If you do NOT have a digital signature, please print and sign the form.

Good Afternoon Nancy

I am hoping this is helpful. With the short notice, and our pending training tomorrow I apologise as my answers may be more generalized in some cases if the information isn't easily accessible.

What are the most common calls for service / complaints?

In regards to most common calls for service Ryerson 2024 statistics are as follows.

Year to Date January , 2025

Animal – 7

Noise – 3

Other – 15

Parking – 1

Snow – 14

Property Standards – 20

Trailer – 8

Total 68 Calls for Service

To also help clarify "Other" can be a wide range of calls from zoning to a neighbour dispute.

As you can see year one was notably higher with Property Standards, which is likely situational due to the Councils direction and desire to address these concerns in the Township. The creation of the Property Standards By-Law assisted in modernizing your previous Clean and Clear Legislation and has been very beneficial. As likely noticed in the Township there has been significant progress in some properties and efforts being remedied.

How are orders monitored?

This is a good opportunity to explain these clean ups are tracked and monitored on CGIS. Typically the entry into the system should explain the status of the property, the date of order, and any information or progress. These properties are identified and colored and can be searched at any time. I believe all office staff have access to these layers.

This enables communication with the staff and ourselves as often the folks we are working with may reach out directly to the staff at the office and they will then have access to know what we have done.

What is the initial steps to a By-Law Referral?

Complaints are received in many ways and vary in response depending on situation. Responses can also vary based on priority and need.

Depending on where we need to go with them determines our response. If we are building a case and require evidence etc. we are obviously going to proceed in a more formalized method, then if we are going to deal with a neighbour dispute over boundary which will be redirected to civil proceedings.

The following is legislation we consider and evaluate with every call and determine our response.

Municipal Act S.O. 2001
Highway Traffic Act R.S.O. 1990
Planning Act R.S.O. 1990
Ontario Building Code S.O. 1990
Provincial Offences Act R.S.O. 1990
Dog Owners Liability Act R.S.O. 1990
Residential Tenancies Act S.O. 2006
Fire Protection and Prevention Act S.O. (In Ryerson Prevention and Chief Readman)

The following are Ministries and Services we work with and may involve dependant on response, or nature of referral.

Ministry of Environment
Ministry of Solicitor General
Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
OMAFRA
District of Nipissing Parry Sound Social Service Administration Board
North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit
Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Animal Welfare
Children's Aid Society
Ontario Provincial Police
Canadian Mental Health and Addiction
Joint Building Committee

Often our initial response or investigation determines whom we may need to activate and what direction we are going to take to remediate or address the concerns.

We are fortunate to have built relationships with many of these services and can navigate more quickly. Unfortunately, our government services have become less available to the general public by way of modernization (telephone automation) and confusing or conflicting mandates and redirects.

Municipal Government is the most accessible level of government and with this accessibility it is inevitable we have to be adaptable and accountable to the rate payers, residents.

When are most referrals received?

Our records do track times in which referrals are received, unfortunately I would have to go through all 60 reports to develop concrete specifics.

I can say we do have some residents in the community with specialized needs and have worked ongoing daily and nightly at times by way of correspondence from e-mails to text message.

There is noted increase or at least perceived increased that Mondays in the summertime often have the issues from the weekend are reported.

Definitely the increase is also noted when our seasonal residents and visitors attend the area as the population grows significantly.

What kind of administration supports do we expect from the Township?

At present we **do not** have any formalized expectations and try to communicate needs of all to get the job done. In Ryerson you have some exception staff, whom have been paramount in the upgrades to your legislation.

They have helped us significantly in our day-to-day operations.

We are anticipating the hiring of an additional administrative support at the Armour Office to assist us with administrative and legal tasks, filings, letters etc.

Some of our municipalities are interested in this support and some would prefer to remain independent in these tasks. We have no preference and are prepared to work through these challenges.

There is also a cost obviously to this and this can be a factor for some municipalities as well.

We have no expectation and feel that our current arrangement is satisfactory, however should Ryerson be interested we would most definitely explore with you.

Conclusion

There are so many variables to each situation, I look forward to better explaining in person any questions you might have. Thank you for the questions and investment in By-Law Services.

I do apologise for the format and lack of precision with some of the questions, however hopefully we can clarify on May 13th, 2025.

See everyone soon.

Regards

Jason Newman

Women's Own Resource Centre

The Township of Ryerson

April 28th, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council,

2024 DONATION

(2021 CENSUS) $745 \times .50 = \$372.50$

I am writing to you on behalf of the Women's Own Resource Centre (WORC), which is a non-profit, registered charitable organization. We provide information, referral and support to women, girls and families of the Almaguin Highlands to assist them in working toward their economic goals. Our Rural Outreach Program Endeavour (ROPE) provides workshops in self-employment, networking, mentoring and life skills.

The Women's Own Resource Centre was established in 2000, is centrally located in the Almaguin Highlands district and has been successfully helping women and their families for over twenty years. We serve a rural population of approximately 30,000 permanent residents that include many working poor families that are unable to qualify for current forms of government assistance and services. WORC serves northern, low-income, rural women who may have experienced violence or abuse in their lives. Many of these women have poor self esteem, few assets and limited family support. These women face numerous barriers which are worsened by their isolation and increased financial cost of basic social inclusion. The support of WORC is essential in working with them on a plan for recovery and growth.

The Rural Outreach Program Endeavor encompasses workshops which are offered free of charge with financial support being available for transportation and childcare costs to increase accessibility and remove as many barriers as possible. In addition to supporting women in creating sustainable livelihoods through achieving economic independence, WORC provides business services, business plan assistance, one to one consultations, information sharing, support, referrals, resources and hosts a large donation network.

From April 1st, 2024 to March 31st, 2025, our Centre recorded 3,320 drop-ins, 872 phone calls, 2,968 emails and 94 one to one consultations for business development, personal and crisis calls throughout the year. 594 individual clients had direct engagement with one of our programs throughout the year. Our Entrepreneurial Skills Training workshop supported 16 women in 2024/25 through the process of starting a small business with 12 of these women launching businesses throughout the Almaguin Highlands and an additional 3 hoping to launch within the next year. Our Life Skills Training workshop supported 22 women in 2024/25 and 237 individual women participated in local Resource & Business Network Luncheons. WORC responded to 15 crisis calls which includes 8 in regards to violence against women. 1,356 interactions with our donation network this past year which encompasses both donation pickups and dropoffs – the Donation Network continues to be a growing resource in the Almaguin Highlands for those struggling to afford the basic necessities of life. We keep a dedicated room at our office for donated items which includes clothing, linens, household items, shoes, boots, winter jackets, hygiene products and more which anyone can access at anytime with no requirement to prove eligibility.

In addition to core programming, WORC partnered with local organizations including ACED, AHCC, NECO, The Labour Market Group and others to organize and host the RED Gala in October of 2024. WORC also organized and hosted our third annual International Women's Day Celebration on Saturday March 8th, 2025. The event was sold out with 125 women attending from across Almaguin. We carried forward our program to support Almaguin children in going back to school – we were able to sponsor 64 local children with backpacks, lunch kits, running shoes and

105 Ottawa Ave., Box 155, South River, ON P0A 1X0

Phone: (705) 386-9672 Toll Free: 1-888-640-8668

Fax: (705) 386-7111 Email: info@womensownresource.org

www.womensownresource.org

Women's Own Resource Centre

school supplies to help foster a successful start to the new school year. WORC was also able to support 19 families from across the region for our annual Christmas Sponsorship Program with grocery gift cards and toys for children. These sponsorships were made possible through fundraising initiatives at our office along with support from individuals in the community.

In 2023, WORC received a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to launch a Travelling Community Kitchen Program in response to the increasing struggle we are seeing across the region with food insecurity due to the increase in the price of living. The program has focused on creating affordable homemade meals, budgeting, kitchen skills and reducing social isolation by helping participants to foster connections in their communities. This two-year program has been hugely successful with over 600 people participating over the course of 24 full day workshops. This Travelling Community Kitchen Program visited municipalities across the Almaguin Highlands including Powassan, South River, Sundridge, Burk's Falls, Emsdale, Whitestone, Magnetawan and Kearney – every round has had full registration with a waiting list. Two special sessions were also held in partnership with Almaguin Highlands Secondary School to bring these essential skills to Almaguin youth. Over the course of the two-year funded program, we were able to support over 10,000 meals being made in the workshops going to local families and community members in need.

WORC's services continue to be needed in our region, as indicated by engagement numbers, to foster growth and ensure that the most vulnerable are not left without the supports they need to build sustainable livelihoods. As always, we will continue to be there for the residents of the Almaguin Highlands and are continually striving to address needs and create programming that helps to build the resiliency of women and their families in the Almaguin Highlands. These free workshops and programs are helping to create valuable community connections and ease some of the social isolation that is often felt heavily in rural regions such as the Almaguin Highlands.

In order to continue to offer these free programs and supports, the Women's Own Resource Centre is dependent upon funding from several sources. Donations help to ensure that we can continue to make important services and supports available to the women and families of the Almaguin Highlands. Donations also help us to provide outreach to those clients who are made increasingly vulnerable by their severe isolation due to the sheer size of our region.


We are asking for support from each municipality in the amount of .50 cents per capita to support new and continuing initiatives in 2025/26. We thank those who have supported us in the past and look forward to new working relationships and opportunities. Should you wish WORC to make a presentation to your council to discuss upcoming projects, or if you have any questions, please call 705-386-9672 or email jessica@womensownresource.org

We thank you for your time and consideration in this matter and we look forward to continuing our efforts to help women and their families in the Almaguin Highlands thrive.



Jessica Busch
Program Manager

105 Ottawa Ave., Box 155, South River, ON P0A 1X0
Phone: (705) 386-9672 Toll Free: 1-888-640-8668
Fax: (705) 386-7111 Email: info@womensownresource.org
www.womensownresource.org

	Staff Report
To:	Council
From:	Clerk, Nancy Field
Date of Meeting:	May 13, 2025
Report Title:	Flag and Proclamation Policy-Proclamation Request
Report Date:	May 7, 2025

Recommendation:

After reviewing the Flag and Proclamation Policy it is staff's recommendation that Council support the request to proclaim June as Pride Month and direct staff to post the proclamation on the Township's website and social media platforms for the duration of the month.

Purpose:

A request has been received to proclaim the month of June as Pride Month in the Township of Ryerson. Pride Month is widely recognized across Canada as a time to celebrate the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community, promote diversity, inclusion and equity, and raise awareness of ongoing human rights efforts.

Rational Analysis:

Section 5 of the Township's Flag and Proclamation Policy permits the endorsement of proclamations that:

- Promote public awareness campaigns;
- Support arts and cultural celebrations;
- Recognize special honours for individuals or organizations;
- Involve participation by Township residents.

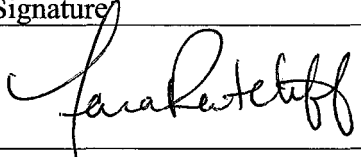
The policy excludes proclamations related to political controversy, religious events, or profit-making campaigns. The request for Pride Month does not fall under any of the exclusionary criteria and Pride Month typically involves local community engagement, education, and reflection, thereby qualifying as a relevant and participatory event. Municipalities across Ontario and Canada proclaim Pride Month, reflecting a standard civic practice that aligns with modern public service values.

A Pride flag raising request would not be approved, since the policy does not allow community flag raisings under section 4.3.

APPENDIX A**Proclamation Request Form**

Please complete and submit the completed Proclamation Request Form to
 clerk@ryersontownship.ca or by mail/drop-off at 28 Midlothian Road | Burk's Falls ON P0A
 1C0

Organization Name:	
Almaguin Pride Network.	
Contact Name	
Tara Ratcliff	
Address	
674 James Camp Rd	
Phone	Email
705-571-0366	taramratcliff@gmail.com.
Proclamation Requested:	
In Recognition of June as PRIDE month.	
Date of Proclamation:	
June 1 st – June 30 th , 2025	
Purpose of Proclamation:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civic Proclamation <input type="checkbox"/> Charitable Fundraising Campaign <input type="checkbox"/> Special Honour of Individual or Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Public Awareness Campaign <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Cultural Celebration <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Description of Organization (attached additional documentation if needed):	
Almaguin Pride Network promotes community, through events, projects & campaigns. Our mission is to support the representation, acceptance + growth of community between LGBTQ+ peoples + their ally	

Has the same/similar proclamation been requested to the Township in the past?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (provided date of previous request) <input type="checkbox"/> No (new request) <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">May 13, 2024</div>	
As part of the proclamation, will there be any special initiatives or events planned in the Township? If so, please describe:	
N/A.	
Do you have a draft wording for the proclamation?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, attached <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Signature	Date
	<div style="font-size: 1.2em;">May 7, 2025</div>

The personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act. The information is used for the purpose of processing this form. Questions about this collection of information can be made to the Clerk at (705) 724-2813.



May 7, 2025

Proclamation Request: Pride Month in the Township of Ryerson

WHEREAS the Township of Ryerson affirms its commitment to fostering a community where diversity is embraced, and all individuals—regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression—are valued, respected, and supported; and

WHEREAS Pride Month is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions, resilience, and identities of LGBTQ+ individuals, while also acknowledging the ongoing efforts toward achieving full equality, inclusion, and protection under the law; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ryerson, does hereby proclaim the month of June as **Pride Month** in the Township of Ryerson. I encourage all residents to recognize and celebrate the strength, diversity, and contributions of the LGBTQ+ community, and to continue working together toward a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

Let this month serve as both a celebration of progress and a reminder of the work still to be done.



Dear Ryerson Council,

On behalf of Almaguin Pride, I am writing to you to respectfully request that the Township of Ryerson raise the Pride Flag for the month of June.

Almaguin Pride's mission is to foster representation, acceptance, and connection within the LGBTQ+ community and its allies. Raising the Pride Flag is a powerful step towards enhancing community support. Pride Month is meant not only to help every member of our communities feel safe and accepted, but also to highlight the ongoing struggle for LGBTQ+ rights. As you may be aware, the Pride Flag flew on Parliament Hill for the first time in 2016. The flag has been raised on the Hill at the start of June ever since.

For a little background, Pride is typically celebrated in the summer months to commemorate the Stonewall Riots which took place in New York City in June 1969 when community members successfully fought back against police raids. Canada's own Stonewall took place in 1981 when 3,000 citizens took to the streets in protest of police raids of queer spaces. The Queer community has seen advancement since then, with the consecration of our rights in the 1985 Charter as well as the 2004 law which allowed for same-sex marriage in Canada. Further legislation passed in 2017 to enshrine the protection of gender diverse individuals, and in 2021 Canada banned conversion therapies.

We hope that the Township of Ryerson will join communities across Canada in celebrating Pride Month in 2025. Please let us know if we can provide a representative for the flag raising.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,
Karen Hoffman
Volunteer
Almaguin Pride

THIS INTERIM FIRE SERVICES AGREEMENT (this “**Agreement**”) is made effective this ____ day of _____, 2025, by and among:

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR
(“**Armour**”)

-and-

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE VILLAGE OF BURK’S FALLS
(“**Burk’s Falls**”)

-and-

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RYERSON
(“**Ryerson**”)

WHEREAS the municipalities of Armour, Burk’s Falls, and Ryerson (collectively the “Parties” or the “Municipalities”), are parties to a Shared Services Agreement with a term expiring on December 31, 2027;

AND WHEREAS the Shared Services Agreement sets out the parties' respective rights and obligations concerning the provision and joint operation and funding of Fire Services;

AND WHEREAS on January 14, 2024, the Council of Armour passed a resolution stating that, pursuant to section 3 of the Shared Services Agreement, Armour provided notice to Burk’s Falls and Ryerson of its withdrawal from that agreement at the end of its present term, being December 31, 2027;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to section 5 of the Shared Services Agreement, upon receiving a notice of withdrawal from another municipality, the Head of Council of a municipality may call a Tri-Council Meeting to terminate the Agreement and prepare for the dissolution of the Services.

AND WHEREAS Schedule C to the Shared Services Agreement provides for the dissolution of the assets for the shared Fire Services upon termination of the Agreement.

AND WHEREAS the parties wish to continue the joint funding and operation of the Fire Services, including the joint funding and construction of the new Fire Hall, throughout the interim period until the termination of the Shared Services Agreement.

AND WHEREAS the parties intend that, in the event the Shared Services Agreement is terminated, this Interim Fire Services Agreement (this “**Agreement**”) shall amend and replace the relevant provisions of Schedule C of the Shared Services Agreement regarding the dissolution of Fire Services assets, ensuring that the terms set out herein continue to govern the dissolution of Fire Services assets following such termination.

AND WHEREAS Ryerson is the administrator of the Fire Service under both the Shared Services Agreement and this Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE: that, in consideration of good and valuable consideration, including the sum of Two Dollars (\$2.00) in lawful Canadian currency now paid by each party to the others, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties covenant and agree as follows:

1. Purpose

This Agreement is designed to ensure the continued joint operation and funding of the Fire Services, including the construction of the new Fire Hall, during the interim period leading up to the potential termination of the Shared Services Agreement. In the event of such termination, this Agreement shall take precedence over the provisions in Schedule C of the Shared Services Agreement relating to the dissolution of Fire Services assets, ensuring that the terms set out herein continue to govern the handling of such matters.

2. Definitions

Unless expressly provided otherwise in this Agreement, all capitalized terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Shared Services Agreement. Where a term is not defined in the Shared Services Agreement, it shall be interpreted in accordance with its ordinary meaning within the context of this Agreement.

3. Continued Joint Operation and Funding of Fire Services

3.1. Contribution Commitments

Each Party agrees to contribute to the construction of the new Fire Hall in accordance with the cost-sharing percentages carried over from the Shared Services Agreement, as follows:

- Armour: 47.84%
- Burk's Falls: 28.6%
- Ryerson: 23.56%

3.2. Grant Monies

Any grant monies received for the construction of the new Fire Hall shall be applied to offset each Party's contribution in the same proportions outlined in Section 3.1.

3.3. Loan Application and Payment

Ryerson shall apply for a loan on behalf of the Municipalities for the construction of the new Fire Hall. Payments for the loan shall be included in the annual Fire Department budget, with each Party's share of the loan payment proportionate to its contribution percentage as set out in Section 3.1.

3.4. Operations and Maintenance Costs

Any costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the new Fire Hall shall be included in the annual fire department budget and shared proportionately by the Parties according to their contribution percentages as set out in Section 2.

3.5. Ownership of Facility and Loan

Upon completion of construction, legal title to the new Fire Hall—including the land, land improvements, and any building(s) erected thereon, as well as any associated loans—shall be held jointly by the Parties in accordance with the cost-sharing percentages set out in Section 3.1.

3.6. Outstanding Contributions

Any outstanding balance for each Party's contribution commitment to the Fire Hall construction project shall become due and payable within ninety (90) days of the termination of this Agreement.

3.7. New Shared Services Agreement

If a new Shared Services Agreement is entered into by any two or more of the Parties, they shall continue to make payments for the loan and operating costs through the Fire Department budget, as outlined in Sections 3.3 and 3.4, in accordance with their contribution percentages.

In the event that no new Shared Services Agreement is entered into, the new Fire Hall and any related assets shall be dealt with in accordance with the dissolution provisions set out in Section 4 of this Agreement.

3.8. Repayment of Grant Monies

In the event that any grant monies received for the construction of the new Fire Hall must be repaid due to the dissolution or termination of this Agreement, the Parties shall share the repayment obligations equally, in proportion to their contribution percentages set out in Section 3.1.

4. Dissolution of Fire Services Assets Upon Termination of Shared Services Agreement

Upon the effective termination of the Shared Services Agreement, sections 4.1 through 4.5 of this Agreement hereby amend and replace the provisions in Schedule C of the Shared Services Agreement regarding the dissolution of Fire Services assets, including any assets relating to the new Fire Hall.

4.1. Ownership of the Real Property Housing Existing Fire Hall

The title ownership of the Real Property housing the existing Fire Hall, located at 168 Ontario Street, Burk's Falls, remains with Burk's Falls and the equitable ownership interests of the other Municipalities revert to Burk's Falls with no compensation owing to those Municipalities.

4.2. Ownership of Real Property Housing New Fire Hall

The title to the Real Property housing the new Fire Hall—including the land, any land improvements, and all buildings or structures erected thereon used to provide the Fire Service—shall be subject to the following provisions:

- a. **Joint Assumption by Remaining Municipalities:** The municipalities that do not withdraw from the Shared Services Agreement (the "Remaining Municipalities") shall have the right of first refusal to jointly assume title to the Real Property and continue its use for Fire Service purposes. The Withdrawing Municipality shall have no entitlement to any interest or compensation in respect of the Real Property following its withdrawal.
- b. **Sole Assumption by One Municipality:** If only one of the Remaining Municipalities elects to assume title to the Real Property, that municipality shall compensate the other Remaining Municipality in accordance with their respective cost-sharing percentages as set out in Section 3.1. The Withdrawing Municipality shall not be entitled to any interest or compensation in respect of the Real Property.
- c. **Disposition of Real Property:** If neither of the Remaining Municipalities elects to assume title to the Real Property, the Real Property shall be sold or otherwise disposed of. The net proceeds of such disposition shall be distributed among all Parties in accordance with their respective cost-sharing percentages as set out in Section 3.1. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Withdrawing Municipality's share of the proceeds shall be reduced by an amount equal to any costs or losses reasonably incurred by the Remaining Municipalities as a result of the withdrawal.

In all cases, the Withdrawing Municipality shall take all necessary steps, at its sole cost, to effect the transfer or disposition of its interest in the Real Property in accordance with this Section.

4.3. Dissolution of Capital Items

Upon termination of the Shared Services Agreement, the dissolution of Capital Items shall be addressed as follows:

- a. **Joint Assumption by Remaining Municipalities:** The Remaining Municipalities shall have the right of first refusal to jointly assume all Capital Items for the continued operation and funding of the Fire Service. The Withdrawing Municipality shall have no entitlement to any share of the Capital Items following its withdrawal.
- b. **Sole Assumption by One Municipality:** If only one of the Remaining Municipalities elects to assume all Capital Items, that municipality shall compensate the other Remaining Municipality in accordance with their respective cost-sharing percentages as set out in Section 3.1. The Withdrawing Municipality shall not be entitled to any compensation in respect of the Capital Items.
- c. **Disposal of Capital Items:** If neither of the Remaining Municipalities elects to assume the Capital Items, the Capital Items shall be sold or otherwise disposed of. The net proceeds of such disposal shall be distributed among all Parties in accordance with their respective cost-sharing percentages as set out in Section 3.1. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Withdrawing Municipality's share of the proceeds shall be reduced by an amount equal to any costs or losses reasonably incurred by the Remaining Municipalities as a result of the withdrawal.

4.4. Long Term Debt and Capital Leases

Upon termination of the Shared Services Agreement, any long-term debt or capital leases listed on the Fire Service's audited financial statements shall be assumed by the municipality or municipalities assuming responsibility for the Fire Service. No compensation shall be owed by the other municipality or municipalities for such debt or leases.

4.5. Unrecorded Assets or Liabilities

Upon termination of the Shared Services Agreement, any unrecorded assets or liabilities of the Fire Service shall be the responsibility of the Remaining Municipality or Municipalities that assume the Fire Service. The Withdrawing Municipality shall have no entitlement to any share of such assets, nor shall it bear any responsibility for such liabilities, regardless of whether they relate to activities that occurred before or after termination of the Shared Services Agreement.

In the event that only one of the Remaining Municipalities assumes the Fire Service, that municipality shall compensate the other Remaining Municipality for its share of any such unrecorded asset or liability in accordance with their respective cost-sharing percentages as set out in Section 3.1.

4.6 Fire Investment Reserve Account

Any donations made to the Burk's Falls District Fire Department or any of the Municipalities for fire services shall be used exclusively for the benefit of the Fire Service, in line with the purpose for which they were donated. To that end, any remaining funds in the Fire Investment Reserve Account held by the Administering Municipality under the Shared Services Agreement which are intended solely for the benefit of the Fire Service, shall be transferred to the Municipality (or Municipalities) that assumes responsibility for providing Fire Services through the establishment of a new fire department following the termination of this Agreement. If more than one Municipality establishes a fire department, the funds shall be equally distributed among those fire departments to establish new reserves. If no Municipality establishes a fire department after the termination of this Agreement, the funds in the Fire Investment Reserve Account shall be provided to the Burk's Falls District Firefighters' Association, with the condition that the funds be used exclusively for fire suppression and fire prevention services in the Municipalities.

General Provisions

5. Indemnification

Each Party (the "Indemnifying Party") agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the other Parties, their respective officials, employees, agents, and contractors (the "Indemnified Parties") from and against any and all claims, demands, suits, losses, liabilities, damages, and expenses (including reasonable legal fees and costs) arising out of or related to:

1. Any act or omission of the Indemnifying Party or its employees, agents, contractors, or representatives in the performance of their obligations under this Agreement;
2. Any breach by the Indemnifying Party of any provision of this Agreement;
3. The operation and funding the Fire Services including the construction of the new Fire Hall during the term of this Agreement, except to the extent caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Indemnified Parties.

This indemnification obligation shall survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement, and each Party's indemnification obligations shall be limited to its proportional contribution to the funding and operation of the Fire Services as set out herein.

6. Insurance

As the administrator of the Fire Services under this Agreement, Ryerson shall obtain and maintain in full force and effect, at its own expense, the following insurance coverage:

a) **Medical Malpractice Coverage**

Ryerson (or the Administering Municipality) shall maintain medical malpractice

insurance with a limit of not less than twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000). This coverage may be provided as a stand-alone policy or included within the coverage afforded by the General Liability Policy described in section 25 of the Shared Services Agreement.

b) **Errors and Omissions Insurance**

Ryerson shall maintain errors and omissions insurance with coverage of not less than twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000), providing protection against acts, errors, and omissions arising from fire inspection services. The policy shall have a self-insured retention (SIR) or deductible that does not exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per claim. In the event the policy has an aggregate limit, such limit shall be at least double the per-claim limit.

c) **Policy Underwriting and Renewal**

The insurance policy shall be underwritten by an insurer licensed to conduct business in the Province of Ontario and acceptable to the Parties. The policy shall be renewed annually for a period of at least three (3) years following the termination of this Agreement. A certificate of insurance evidencing such renewal shall be provided to each of the other Parties each year.

d) **Cancellation or Non-Renewal Notice**

If the insurance policy is to be cancelled or non-renewed for any reason, Ryerson shall provide at least ninety (90) days' notice of such cancellation or non-renewal to the other Parties. In the event of cancellation or non-renewal, the Parties may request that an extended reporting period (tail coverage) be purchased by the Administering Municipality, at its expense, to ensure continued coverage for claims that may arise during the policy period.

If any Municipality receives a notice of claim, action, application, order, or any other insurance or legal proceeding in respect of the Fire Service, it shall, within five (5) Business Days provide a copy of such to the other Municipalities.

7. Termination

This Agreement shall terminate on the earliest of:

- (a) the date on which a new shared services agreement for the provision of Fire Services is executed by two or more of the Parties;
- (b) the date on which only one Party remains a participant in the Shared Services Agreement, such that the joint provision of fire services can no longer continue; or
- (c) [insert term date], unless extended in writing by the mutual agreement of all Parties.

Upon termination, the Parties shall implement the dissolution and disposition of assets in accordance with Sections 3 and 4 of this Agreement.

8. Entire Agreement

This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding between the Parties concerning the subject matter hereof and supersedes any prior agreements or understandings.

9. Amendments

This Agreement may only be amended by a written agreement executed by all Parties.

10. Governing Law:

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario.

11. Dispute Resolution

In the event of any dispute arising out of or in connection with this Agreement, the Chief Administrative Officer and one representative Member of Council from each of the Parties shall meet to discuss the dispute and attempt to form a resolution. Should informal discussions fail to resolve the dispute, the Parties agree to then attempt to resolve the matter through formal mediation. If mediation fails, the dispute shall be referred to arbitration in accordance with the rules of the *Ontario Arbitration Act*. Parties agree that all of the aforementioned steps are required to be taken, prior to issuing a notice of withdrawal.

12. Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this Interim Fire Services Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives on the day and year first above written.

The Municipal Corporation of the Township of Armour

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

The Corporation of the Municipality of the Village of Burk's Falls.

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

The Corporation of the Township of Ryerson

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

DRAFT



Councilor Report

To:	Ryerson Township Council
From:	Beverly Abbott
Date of Event:	Thursday April 24, 2025
Topic:	Hazmat
Report Date:	May 1, 2025

Importance to the Township of Ryerson:

South River is opting out of the Hazmat agreement for 2026. They currently use North Bay at no cost. There were 11 households that used the service in 2024.

This will mean a slight increase to approximately \$5.00 per household next year. The final cost will be announced after August.

Hazmat date: May 24th from 10-12. Volunteers to arrive at 9:30

Next meeting will be September 18th or 25th, to be announced later



Councilor Report

To: Ryerson Township Council

From: Beverly Abbott

Date of Event: April 23, 2025

Topic: Library Board

Report Date: April 30, 2025

Importance to the Township of Ryerson:

The Lease agreement from Burk's Falls was passed:

2025 the sum of \$7,787.85 per annum, monthly \$648.99

2026 the sum of \$9,700.00 per annum, monthly \$808.33

2027 the sum of \$10,185.00 per annum, monthly \$848.75.

Building /fundraising committee is going to arrange a meeting with Dave Gray to discuss how we can prepare to apply for the grant. Sean Cotton will request a financial commitment from Burk's Falls for our new building.

Lake Cecebe Waterways Assoc has donated \$150 to the library

The annual Student Grant has not yet been accepted. Lily Kyte, our summer student for the past two summers, applied for a grant for the Summer Reading Program. This was accepted in the amount of \$2000. Should the library not receive the student grant the Board has agreed to use the \$2000 to hire our summer student, Lily Kyte.

Many thanks to Delynne Patterson and Brayden Robinson for the update on the sub -committee's first meeting for the Library Service Agreement.

Canada National Film Day held April 16th was a success. Many thanks to Sean Cotton and the Village of Burk's Falls for organizing the event at the theatre.

Future Events: The Friends of the Library is having a plant sale Saturday May 24th, 25th to be held at the Quonset Hut behind the Arena from 9am -12 noon.

Meet the author June 6th 7 pm at the library. Carol Burrows, a Ryerson resident, will be presenting her first novel “Refuge Bay”.

Heritage Festival & Firefighter Challenge 2025 - Dunk-A-Politician

2025-04 14

Hello,

We are at the stage in event planning where we would like to obtain a list of volunteers for the dunk tank at Heritage Festival. Please advise if any of your Council Members would be interested in volunteering in the "Dunk-A-Politician" fundraiser for the Historical Society on Saturday, July 12, 2025. The celebration will be held on the Burk's Falls Fairgrounds and run from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The more, the merrier!

On behalf of the Township and the Historical Society, we would like to sincerely thank our local politicians for taking time out of their day to support the event.

Thanks!

Charlene Watt

Municipal Clerk, Dipl.M.M.
Township of Armour
PO Box 533, 56 Ontario Street
Burk's Falls, Ontario P0A 1C0
Telephone: 705-382-3332
Fax: 705-382-2068

Website: www.armourtownship.ca

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ALMAGUIN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (ACED)

MINUTES March 27, 2025

A regular meeting of the ACED Board was held at the Township of Strong Office and virtually on March 27th, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Present: Chris Nicholson, Township of Joly, Chair
Wendy Whitwell, Township of Armour
Margaret Ann MacPhail, Township of Perry
Dan Robertson, Township of Ryerson
Justine Leveque, Village of Sundridge
Tim Bryson, Township of Strong
Chris Hope, Village of Burk's Falls
John Theriault, Township of McMurrich/Monteith
Brenda Scott, Village of South River
Sandra Connell, AHCC Representative
Noel Walker, FedNor

Regrets: Trista Porter, MND

Staff: Dave Gray, Director of Economic Development
Courtney Metcalf, Economic Development Officer
Sarah Cooke, Communications Officer

Guests: Rod Ward, Township of Armour

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Thursday, February 27th, 2025 were adopted as presented.

Director's Report

The Director covered the following items from the report:

1. An update on core activity tracking, which lists what the department has done over the past month. These included business assistance, marketing, ACED website updates, social media activities, and communications.

2. Some of the updates in the report included:

- a) An update on the RNIP/RCIP program
- b) The tourism event hosted with Explorers' Edge and the webinar with Trevor Norris from Bay of Quinte
- c) Community organization outreach plan
- d) The plans moving forward for the Almaguin Community Transportation Committee, as well as plans to support the marketing of the Northlander passenger rail service through PARC
- e) AHSS student engagement
- f) The updated Signage Plan and applications for funding
- g) Tourism promotion and the astro-tourism event.
- h) ACED Shared Service Agreement, Budget and Stakeholder Consultation

3. The Almaguin Vendor Event Marketing Pilot Program was discussed. This program will be marketed to community organizations through the community organization outreach program completed by the CMO. Requirements of applicants include reports completed to track success of the program.

4. The revised ACED Joint Services Agreement was discussed. Other edits to member municipalities were noted. Ryerson's membership was questioned with respect to their \$5,000 donation as a non-voting member. Other concerns were raised over the new proposed agreement effective date and end date. Tiered membership options were also discussed.

FedNor Updates

FedNor continues to offer its core programs during this time amid a federal election. FedNor is still reviewing applications, but no decisions will be made until the new Government is determined.

Two evergreen resources on tariffs are also available from the Federal Government, including:

- [Canada's response to U.S. tariffs](#) – found on Canada.ca
- [Canada's engagement with the U.S.](#) – found on International.Canada.ca

Resolutions

1. 2025-09– Moved by Justine Leveque; Seconded by Wendy Whitwell
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board approve the February 27, 2025 meeting minutes, as circulated. Carried
2. 2025-10 – Moved by: Wendy Whitwell Seconded by: Tim Bryson
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board have reviewed and approve the Almaguin Vendor Event Marketing micro-grant program. Furthermore, the Board directs staff to implement the program and report back once the program is complete. Carried

3. 2025-11 – Moved by Tim Bryson; Seconded by: Wendy Whitwell
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board have received and reviewed the revised Draft ACED Joint Services Agreement. Furthermore, the Board recommends that all member Councils/Boards review the revised draft agreement at their upcoming regular meetings and bring any feedback or change requests to the April ACED Board meeting. Carried

Adjournment

4. 2025-12– Moved by Wendy Whitwell Seconded by Justine Leveque
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board adjourn the April 25, 2024, ACED meeting at 8:28 p.m. Carried

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. If this change, members will be advised.

March 26th, 2025

The Almaguin Brand Alignment Signage Project

Summary Report

Recommendation

The Almaguin Community Economic Development Committee (ACED) Brand Alignment and Regional Signage Project (The Signage Project) is a collaborative initiative between the member municipalities of ACED. The primary goals of this plan are:

1. To create consistent and unified brand presence throughout Almaguin by designing and deploying a mix of signage and visual identity elements throughout the region; and
2. To increase the awareness and usage of municipal points of interest and attractions through the installation of branded wayfinding and destination signage.

The purpose of this plan is to establish solutions for both regional and municipally specific signage and visual identity elements which will include considerations for signage, costing and placement.

Background

The proposed Signage Project is supported by two past studies, the 2018 Regional Economic Development Plan (RED Plan), and the 2020 Almaguin Brand Strategy.

The 2018 RED Plan noted that the use of consistent branding – including brand language and visual identity, such as consistent signage, will help establish the region and strengthen its ability to consistently communicate its value to residents and visitors. The report also suggested that an early success for economic development could include consistent signage across the region that communicates location, places to stop, and attractions. One of the main priorities of the RED plan included the recommendation to develop a collective branding strategy that should include compelling brand language that offers clear differentiators, value propositions, and brand story that can be used across the Almaguin Highlands; a consistent visual identity to be used on signage, marketing materials, and online platforms.

The 2020 Almaguin Regional Brand Strategy that followed as a result of the recommended actions of the RED Plan suggested the completion of a Wayfinding and Marketing Partnership Program (WMPP). The Brand Strategy recommended the WMPP follow a similar model to a Community Improvement Plan to encourage partnership investment into regional branding initiatives with matching funds. The Brand Strategy noted the creation or enhancement of assets while integrating the regional identifier will strengthen overall regional brand awareness for both internal and external stakeholders.

Project Budget

Proposed Budget: \$250,000

The Signage project most closely aligns with marketing costs, including design, promotional materials, and advertising.

Sign Manufacturing & Installation	\$184,800
Municipal Community Signage (MTO)	\$15,200
Contingency – additional costs due to tariffs, installation issues, etc.	\$50,000
Total Costs	\$250,000



Economic Benefit and Tracking

The Signage Project involves the implementation of priority initiatives identified in several economic development plans that demonstrate strong economic results.

The main focus of The Brand Strategy was to act as a framework to establish a collaborative brand including a regional visual identity. The second phase of the Brand Strategy, being physical brand recognition through the use of signage, will allow residents and visitors to geographically identify the Almaguin region.

Throughout the execution of the Signage Project, the ACED Team will be working closely with municipal staff and roads departments to determine the best use of signs and where to install them. The main economic benefits of the project include increased tourism and benefits to quality of life for residents.

Increased Tourism:

1. With the installation of Gateway Signage on Highway 11, people travelling through the region can begin to recognize the area they are driving past and have increased interest in visiting the region.
2. By promoting community assets to existing visitors (seasonal residents, cottage renters, etc.), the signage can help to mobilize people around the region, having them explore neighbouring communities and encourage increased spending.

Lifestyle/Quality of Life:

1. In many cases, residents do not have a good understanding of the assets that exist in their own community or neighbouring communities. Signage can assist with informing locals of new areas to explore, get active, and result in a greater appreciation for their local community.
2. Front-line staff working in retail and food/and beverage establishments will have a better understanding of activities and points of interest in the region when asked by visitors about the best places to explore while on vacation.

Other Considerations

While the economic benefits of The Signage Project are not as tangible as other economic activities, attempts will be made to track the success of the project. A community survey will also help establish the project's success of mobilizing residents and visitors around the region.

Trackable Components include:

- Number of assets promoted across the region
- Number of municipalities that support the project
- Number of locals who have seen the signs and used them as a guide to a destination
- Number of visitors who have used the signs to discover a new location

For the Almaguin region to remain competitive with other tourist destinations such as North Bay, Parry Sound, and Muskoka, signage is a needed component to make downtown centers attractive and accessible, while also encouraging people to explore the region beyond the main streets.



Director of Economic Development (DoED) Report

April 24th, 2025

Core Activity Tracking – (Since last report)

Activity:	Interactions	Description
Business Assistance		
Start Up Files	0	
Expansion Files	1	(1) Burk's Falls
Developer Files	1	(1) Magnetawan
General Support	2	(1) Burk's Falls, (1) Sundridge
Brand Ambassador	4	(2) Sundridge, (1) Burk's Falls, (1) Ryerson
High Priority		
Business Visits	1	(1) Burk's Falls
Program Referrals		
Marketing*		
ACED Website Updates	5	Directory, events, tariff page, investment properties, brand ambassador page
Social Media Posting	18	
Facebook Reach	39,700	1,900 (ACED) 37,800 (Explore)
Facebook Likes/Followers	4,599	1,801 (ACED) 2,758 (Explore)
Facebook Ad Engagement	-	N/A
Website Tracking		
Total Users / Views	1,800	
Most viewed pages (besides landing page)	160	Almaguin Maple Festival article
Communications		
Email Blasts	3	Spring tourism, AG webinar and Almaguin Tariff Response
Organization Meetings	3	AHCC, IION, NECO
Partnership Projects		
Municipal Visits	1	ACED attended Perry Community Engagement Day
Member Interactions / Support Requests		
Media Comment Requests	2	Almaguin News reporter wants to talk tourism in region.

Current Files & Projects

Project 1A – Business Support

RCIP Update

ACED staff met with the CEO of the North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce to discuss the new RCIP Pilot Program. Following that meeting, ACED member versus non-member municipalities were discussed, and the financial request based on population was readjusted to \$2,500/ year for the 5-year program, reflecting only the populations of ACED's member municipalities. Some considerations following the April 4th meeting include:

- The RNIP Pilot Program has included various measures to track successful candidates of the program, including follow up surveys with employers and quarterly surveys to all applicants through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). New tracking measures have been proposed for the RCIP program, including yearly contact with successful applicants for the duration of the 5-year program.
- Currently, tariffs do not impact the program, but the program is designed to be flexible, and if new sectors are determined to be a priority and are experiencing labour shortages, the program can readjust its priority sectors.
- Current financial partners of the RCIP program include FedNor, the North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce and The City of North Bay. West Nipissing and Parry Sound will also be approached for financial contributions. YES Employment, The Labour Market Group and the North Bay Multicultural Centre are non-funding program partners.
- The boundary map of the new program includes the entire District of Parry Sound and the Nipissing District. All applicants that fall within the borders will be considered for the program, but active outreach will take part primarily in the financially contributing areas.
- The new formula for the financial ask is based on the population of ACED paid members, which is 10,616 = 10.13% of the overall program coverage area, meaning a contribution of \$2,500.

The RNIP Final Report has been included as an attachment, as well as the priority NOC codes that will be included in the RCIP program, based on insights from the Labour Market Group.

Project 1B – Business Support Events

ACED Staff partnered on the recent AHCC Business After-Hours Event, hosted at Hubbert's Maple. The event was well attended, with 40 participants ranging from businesses, community organizations, and support organizations. ACED was provided the opportunity to present on the Brand Ambassador Program, which resulted in the sign-up of 3 new ambassadors.

The Chamber event led to an interesting meeting with a new business to the Sundridge area, who confirmed that marketing done by Explore Almaguin was the reason she chose to buy a house and relocate her business to Almaguin. The business is interested in being interviewed for a Nearnorthenomics podcast, focusing on the power of marketing.

Project 2A – Community Organization Support

Staff have completed one CR&E interview with two more scheduled following an email blast to community organizers. Individual phone calls will be made to organizations that may have missed the email.

Project 2B – Regional Recreation & Municipal Support

CEMC Video Support

The CMO is moving into the editing phase of the initial CEMC video project.

Project 3A – Long Term Housing

Housing Task Force Update

The Almaguin Housing Task Force meeting was held on April 8 where the group decided to continue through 2025 and move from the planning phase into operational and communications phase. Some next steps include:

- Inviting municipalities and ratepayers to meetings
- Presenting an update at the Municipal Association meeting
- Exploring engagement with the building and trades community, including potential for a trades survey linked to the report.

Project 3B – Transportation

Almaguin Community Transportation Committee

An Almaguin Community Transportation Meeting took place on March 27th, 2025. Next steps include:

- Determining a lead municipality that is interested in taking on the funding application to launch the Community Bus Pilot Program
- Developing a full report on the progress of the committee to-date, with images and maps of the bussing zones

The Return of Passenger Rail Service

PARC has updated that an application to RTO12/Explorers' Edge has been submitted for their partnership project funding, as well as the request for funding from NECO that was submitted prior to March's report. Updates on progress will be provided as we receive it.

Project 3C- AHSS Student Engagement

Life Skills Workshop

The Life Skills Workshop has been rescheduled to May 27th, as a snowstorm resulted in the cancellation of the April 8th date. Grade 12 students will again benefit from a crash course on credit scores and mortgages, resumes/cover letters and interview skills, and managing a budget.

Project 4A – Brand Strategy Implementation

Phase 2 – Physical Brand Roll Out

Staff developed a one-page summary report for FedNor prior to the Phase 1 Application. Discussions with FedNor highlighted the need to design a project that includes more economic benefits, while also falling within FedNor's focus areas. The application could be improved to include downtown revitalization elements, targeting multiple towns and points of interest around the region, with signage being a component of the overall project.

Social Media/Explore Almaguin Website/ Email Marketing

Staff created an Almaguin Tariff Response Hub on the Explore Almaguin website with links to provincial and federal information on Canada's response to tariffs from the U.S.

The spring tourism newsletter was circulated to 1,055 unique emails, collected from multiple initiatives, with a 45% open rating which is above Mailchimp's average open rating.

A Near Northonomics podcast on the topic of the Chamber of Commerce was released and netted over 1,700 views due to the Chamber sharing it on social media. The next topic is going to be on the impact of marketing.

The CMO has created a template for sharing investment properties from the website onto ACED's Facebook.

Project 4B – Tourism Promotion

The Astro-tourism event continues to move forward, called the 'Almaguin Summer Star Party'. The event dates are Sunday, August 10th until Tuesday, August 12th. Cliff Valley Astronomy will be taking part in a webinar on May 6th as a lead up to the August event, focusing on how businesses can take advantage of the Star Party event and promote their business/accommodation to visitors interested in dark-sky or astronomy tourism. The webinar will be shared by Explorers' Edge, and once the invite is made public, ACED will share it with our network.

ACED Shared Services Agreement, Evolution of Service Delivery, ETC.

Post-Director of Economic Development Transition: The Economic Development Officer has planned to attend three training courses in 2025. This includes: Managing Conflict (UofT), Public Speaking (McMaster University), and Leading Teams (Great Canadian Training & Consulting Co.). The plan for 2026 will be to finalize the Ec.D. certification process.

Should the Board wish to consider reducing the staff to 2 FT staff after the DoED transition is complete in 2027, there is potential for a significant reduction in costs (approximately 28.4%). For example, the 2028 estimate for 3 staff is \$343,650. The 2 staff estimate is \$267,370. Reducing staff would require a reduction in planned work; however, once the transition is absorbed within municipal budgets, internships can be re-evaluated for specific projects.

SS Agreement: The following definition for Non-Voting member was presented by staff from a member municipality for the Board's consideration:

"Non-voting member" – means a municipality or organization which makes a yearly contribution to ACED but does not have a vote on the ACED Board. The yearly contribution would not exempt the municipality or organization from the ACED fees for services.

Should the Board be in favour of this change, it will be added to the draft agreement.

Board Structure: Through discussions with staff from non-member municipalities, it was suggested that a major factor in their decision not to participate in ACED was the perception that the board was 'too political' in nature. Recommendations from Laridae (consultant) in the RED Plan included representation from municipal staff as well as community partners, businesses, and other stakeholder groups. Reflecting on the previous BACED board, each municipality was represented by a voting member of council, a voting member of the business community, and a non-voting staff member. The Board could consider measures to encourage more staff participation in meetings as well as alternative membership concepts (businesses, supportive organizations, etc.).

ACED Staff In-Office: Staff are proposing that, where space allows, an ACED Staff member works a minimum of one day per month from each Member municipal office, ideally following a council meeting. This would provide direct access to ACED staff members and increase awareness of local priorities. During this in-office time, an hour would be dedicated to meeting with the Clerk or designate staff member to discuss the current priorities of council, upcoming events/initiatives, etc. At the Board's direction, Staff will begin arranging this with member municipalities for deployment in May.



RESOLUTION

2025-13

Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board approve the March 27, 2025, ACED meeting minutes as: (please circle).

CIRCULATED

AMENDED

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: Yes No

Comments:



RESOLUTION

2025-14

Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board supports the RCIP Pilot Program and wishes to actively participate in the program by having an ACED Staff member sit on the review committee. Furthermore, the Board approves an annual contribution of \$2,500 for the duration of the 5-year pilot.

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: Yes No

Comments:



RESOLUTION

2025-15

Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board recommends that ACED Staff work a minimum of 1 day per month in each Member municipal office following a Council meeting, where space and time in each municipality permits.

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: Yes No

Comments:



RESOLUTION

2025-16

Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board adjourn the April 24th, 2025, ACED Meeting at _____ P.M.

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: Yes No

Comments:



RESOLUTION

2025-____

Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: Yes / No

Comments:



NORTH BAY & AREA
Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot

RNIP PILOT REPORT



Prepared by

**NORTH BAY &
DISTRICT CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

nbdcc.ca



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada



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INTRODUCTION



**DONNA
BACKER**

President and CEO, NBDCC

In 2020, the North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce (NBDCC) launched the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's (IRCC) Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP) in support of increasing economic immigration in the North Bay area. North Bay was one of the 11 communities across Canada chosen to implement the new pilot program, which provided a path to permanent residence for skilled foreign workers who wanted to work and live in our area.

The North Bay & Area RNIP coordinators vetted thousands of applications over the 5-year pilot. The RNIP coordinators assessed prospective candidates who:

- **Best fit the economic needs of the North Bay community**
- **Received a genuine offer of employment that met community requirements**
- **Had the intention of staying in the community after the program ended**

Furthermore, RNIP coordinators delivered information workshops to employers and candidates, made presentations around the boundary, attended community events, worked with employers to determine their needs and prepared the necessary report to the local RNIP Community Recommendation Committee of those being presented for approval.

North Bay & Area RNIP had some great successes. It assisted over 250 businesses by filling identified labour shortages. We heard first-hand the significant positive impacts this pilot has had in mitigating some skilled labour shortages felt by the business community across a range of sectors. It also addresses diminishing population growth and provide a pathway for newcomers to live, contribute and grow their families in our area. Immigration and newcomer attraction continue to be strategic priorities for most rural and northern communities and this pilot has allowed North Bay & Area to make a mark on the map.

North Bay and Area RNIP was truly a community effort with numerous partners involved from within the boundary. Our community recommendation committee was comprised of individuals from every part of the boundary, who had community connections and acted as ambassadors of the program.

A total of 703 community recommendations were issued to candidates and we are truly thankful to the committee assisting us in approving these candidates.

Programs like these don't happen without the generous support of our community and government partners. We are grateful to FedNor, The City of North Bay, Yes Employment Services, North Bay & District Multicultural Centre, and The Labour Market Group for assisting us in funding, promotion, and delivery of the pilot.



PROGRAM OBJECTIVES & SCOPE

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the North Bay & Area RNIP program was to address labour shortages across the region and to bring skilled individuals to Northern Ontario to stimulate economic growth. Initially, the RNIP for North Bay had a boundary of a 45 km radius. In August 2022, these boundaries expanded to benefit smaller, outlying communities struggling to fill positions within their businesses. The communities included North Bay, Callander, Powassan, East Ferris, West Nipissing, Mattawa, Temagami, Marten River, Sundridge, Burks Falls, South River, and Bonfield.

SCOPE

The committee selected the following sectors as the initial scope for issuing Community Recommendations:

- **Healthcare & Social Work**
- **Trades (licensed or unlicensed)**
- **Business Administration**
- **Information Technology**
- **Other Professionals (architecture, aviation, etc.)**

PROCESS SPOTLIGHT



250

Participating
Employers



94%

Employer
Satisfaction



SMEs

of various sizes
participated

EMPLOYER

Before an employer could even consider participating with the North Bay RNIP, they had to meet specific criteria. Once these requirements were satisfied, they could proceed with the application process. The criteria was as follows:

- Set within boundaries and operating a business within North Bay for a min of 3 years, OR a new business that has invested a minimum \$500,000 in capital.
- Demonstrate a need for Foreign Nationals, as local recruitment was not successful.
- Offering a job that is Full time; min 30 hrs/week, permanent (non-seasonal with no end date), and offering a wage that meets or exceeds the Job Bank's minimum wage.
- Not in violation of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and/or the Immigration, Refugee and Protection Regulations.
- No outstanding orders against the employer under the Ontario Employment Standards, 2000 or the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

If the employer met the eligibility criteria, they proceeded to the following steps:

- Employer must fill out IMM 5984 Offer of Employment form for the candidate.
- If candidate does not have a work permit, the employer must submit an Offer of Employment through the Employer Portal so the candidate can apply for the RNIP specific one year permit.

PROCESS SPOTLIGHT

APPLICANT

Before a candidate could even consider participating with the North Bay RNIP, they had to meet specific criteria. Once these requirements were satisfied, they could proceed with the application process. The criteria and requirements included:

- The candidate must first be sure they meet all eligibility requirements federally, and according to the communities' requirements.
- Once they met all eligibility requirements, they would visit the North Bay RNIP website, and fill out the application form, submitting all documents required.
- If they did not have their work permit, their employer would need to complete a few things in order for them to apply for the RNIP specific one year work permit.
- If their application was complete and the coordinators were sure they met the requirements, they would be provided with questions to complete and return back to the coordinators when complete.
- Once they completed these questions, the candidates would then be given a score. This score along with a non-biased review of the candidate would be brought forward.



Applications Received
Over 5 Years

4190



Community
Recommendations
Allocated

750



Community
Recommendations
Issued

703

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The North Bay and Area RNIP Coordinators visited various communities to discuss how the program could benefit their local economies and support employers in addressing labour shortages.

Alongside these visits, weekly information sessions were held separately for employers and applicants, with sessions for candidates offered virtually and in person to ensure accessibility.

In the early stages of the pilot, the coordinator also hosted Q&A sessions on TikTok and Instagram to promote the program. Eventually, as RNIP became well-known, the social media sessions were no longer required and were phased out.

CHALLENGES & BARRIERS

1. Language and Communication Barriers:

Despite the applicants completing a language test to be eligible for the program, English is not their first language, and they did not always understand the information we were relaying.

2. Social Barriers: Some candidates did not understand that when the coordinators answered their questions, it was the final answer. Occasionally, an individual would not take the answer given to them and would continuously ask the same question repeatedly, just rewording it.

3. Cultural Barriers: Not understanding what is acceptable in Canada.

4. Sector Barriers: Not all sectors could participate in the pilot program, even if they were struggled and faced staffing challenges.



Pathways to Prosperity Conference in Montreal 2023. Selfie with the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, The Honourable Marc Miller.



THE POST-COVID “SHIFT”

At the beginning of the pilot, the North Bay RNIP Committee decided which occupations and sectors would get accepted according to the labour demands and needs of the boundary. As previously noted, these sectors included Healthcare & Social Work, Trades (licensed or unlicensed), Business Administration, Information Technology, and Other Professionals (architecture, aviation, etc.). However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the needs of our communities changed, leading to an expansion of the application pool to include the food industry, which had not been part of the program initially.

EVOLVING NEEDS

* Due to COVID-19, the North Bay RNIP had to adapt to meet the evolving needs of employers. Many businesses faced staffing shortages due to employees resigning or falling ill. In response, **we expanded our application pool to include the food industry.** Shifting economic and labour demands required a more flexible approach to immigration programs. This adjustment not only addressed immediate labour shortages but strengthened long-term economic recovery.

88%

of employers would consider using a similar pilot program should North Bay be selected.

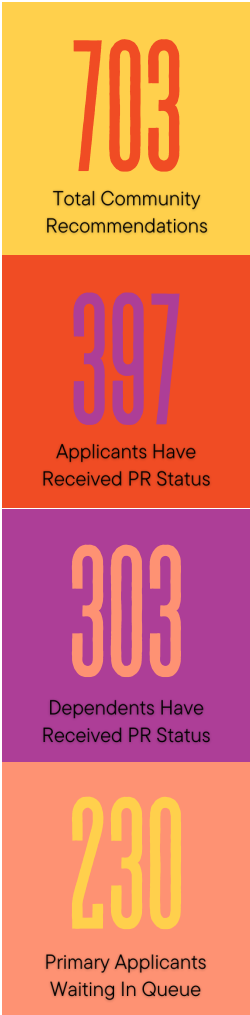
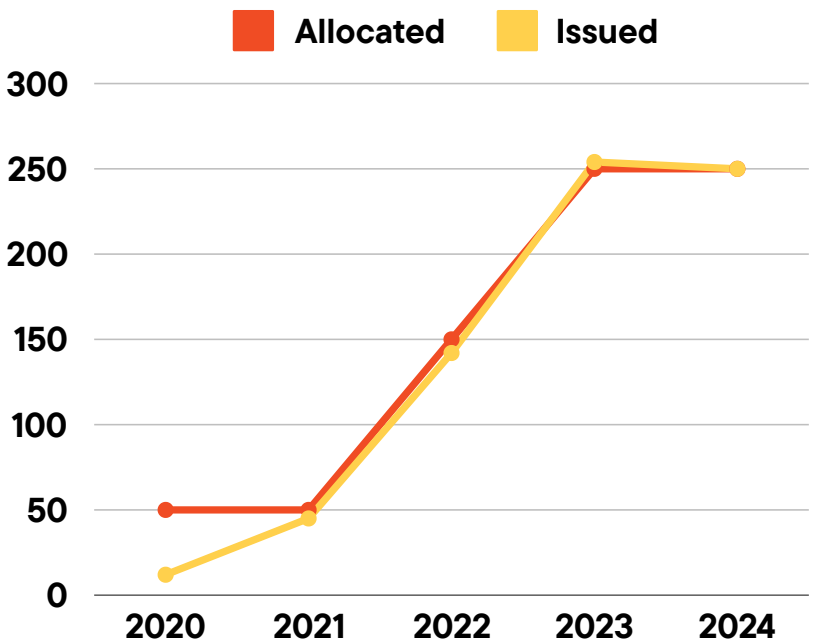


ECONOMIC IMPACT AND JOB CREATION

With an aging population in rural and northern communities, new residents are needed to foster growth. Employers struggled to fill labour shortages, especially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, so inviting skilled individuals from other countries became a key solution. Immigrants filled labour shortages and made valuable contributions to North Bay and surrounding areas. Not only do these individuals boost our economic capacity, they spend money at local retailers and grocery stores, dine at local restaurants, and visit local attractions. Skilled foreign workers have a positive impact on our communities beyond their official employment capacity and duties.

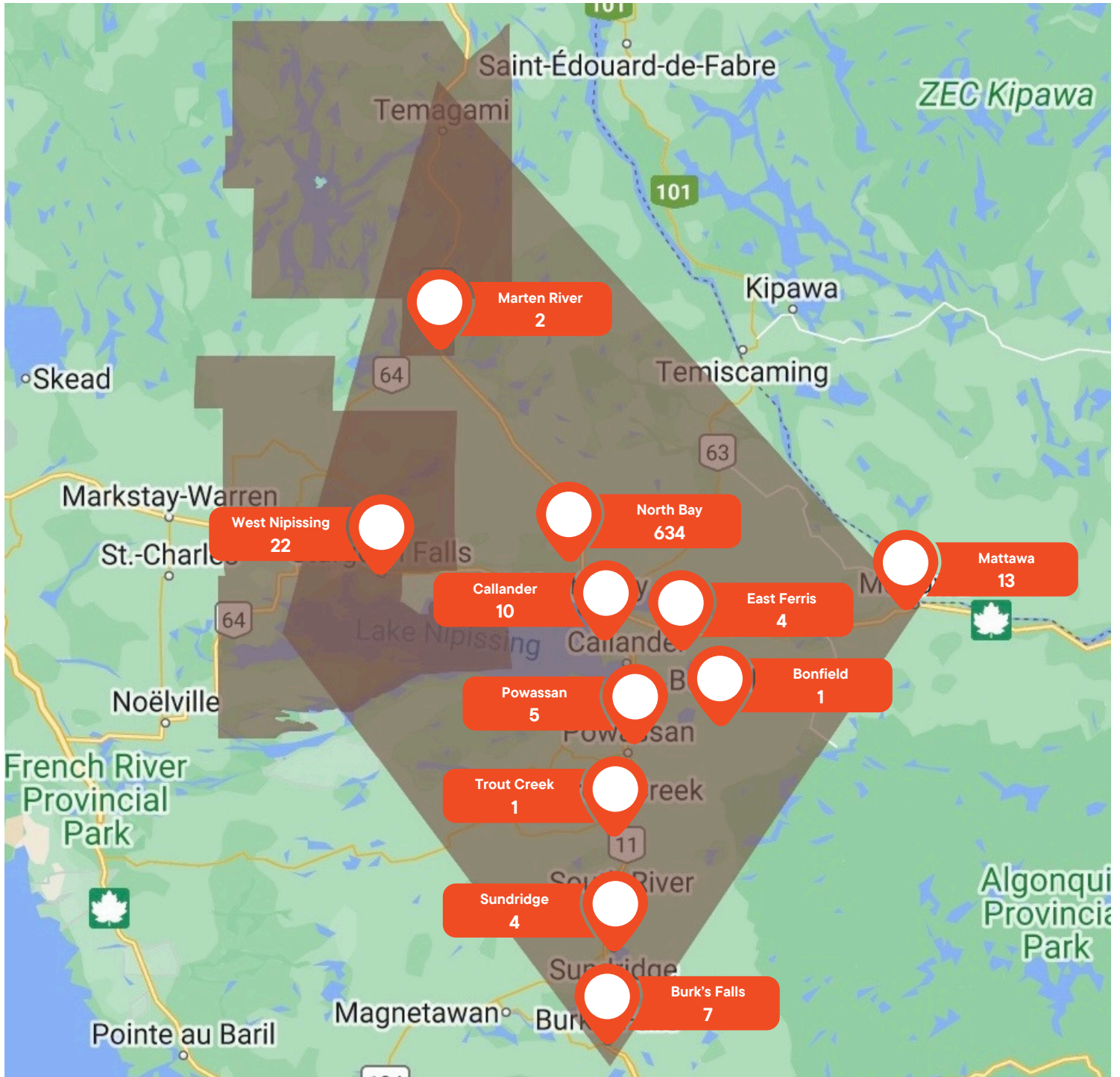
COMMUNITY RECOMMENDATIONS

A community recommendation was required by IRCC for a PR application. It identifies a candidate who fits the community’s needs and intends to reside in the community. This graph shows how many community recommendations were allocated to North Bay in a given year versus how many were issued.



Data as of
December 31, 2024

BREAKDOWN OF ALLOCATIONS



INSIGHTS & ANALYSIS

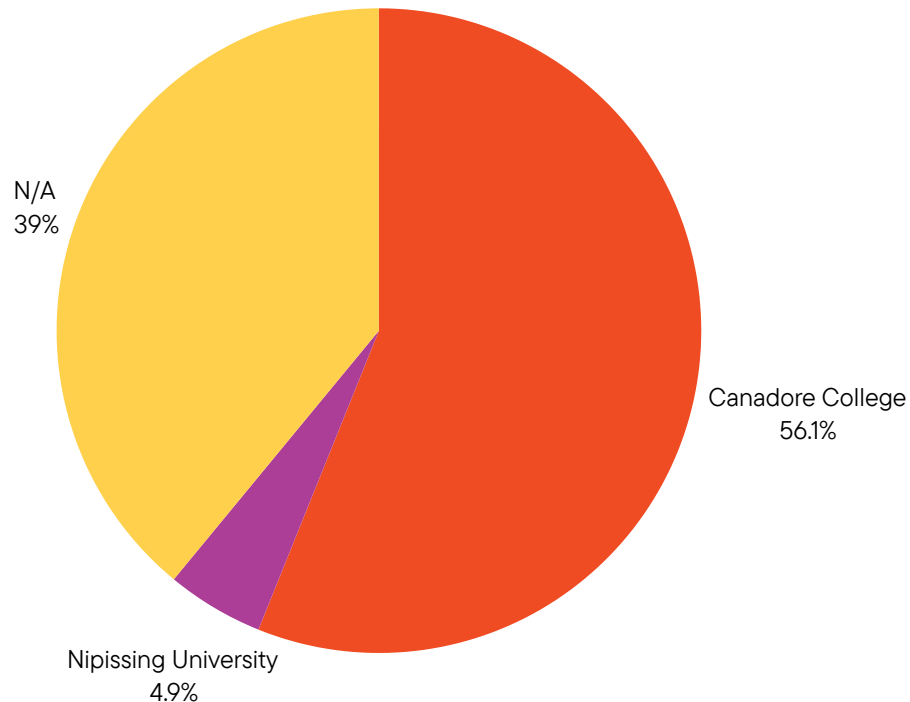
At the conclusion of the pilot, our team reached out to candidates and employers to gauge their experience and feedback.

CANDIDATES FEEDBACK

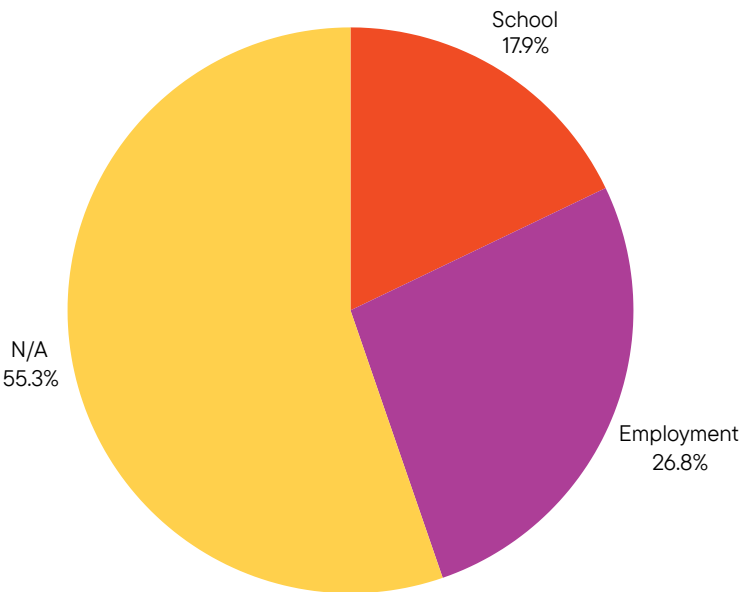
The RNIP program received an overwhelming response, with high demand from skilled workers eager to build their futures in our community. Participants praised the program and its benefits, noting that it provided a clear and supportive pathway to employment and permanent settlement. Many expressed gratitude for the opportunities it created, allowing them to secure stable jobs in industries facing labour shortages. As a result, numerous participants chose to remain in the area, establishing roots and contributing to local economies. Their positive experiences and stories reinforced the program's success, demonstrating its ability to attract and retain skilled talent while strengthening Northern Ontario.

The data below was gathered from successful candidates who participated in the program. Their feedback is essential to understanding the efficiency of the pilot program and what changes, if any, could have been made to better the experience.

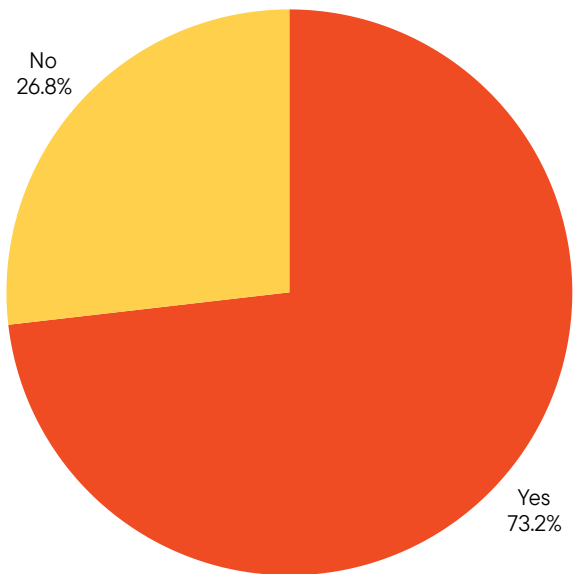
Did you attend Canadore College or Nipissing University?



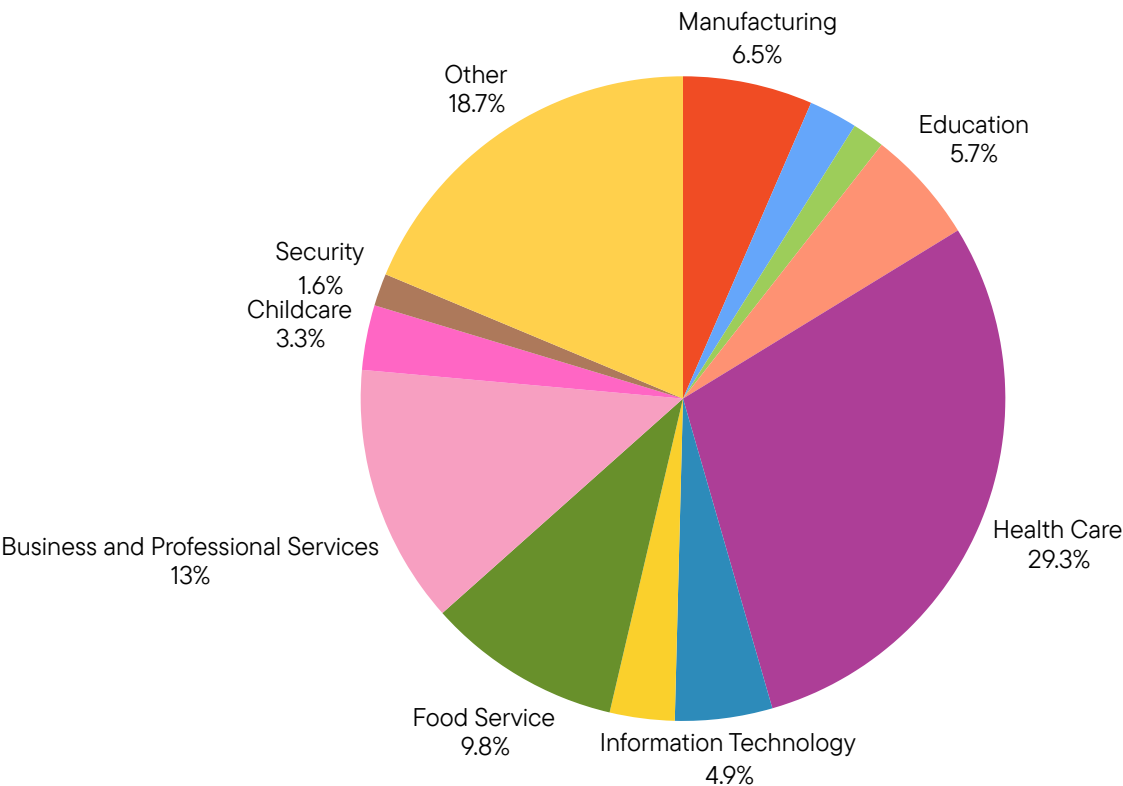
Did you have family relocate with you to attend school or for employment opportunities?



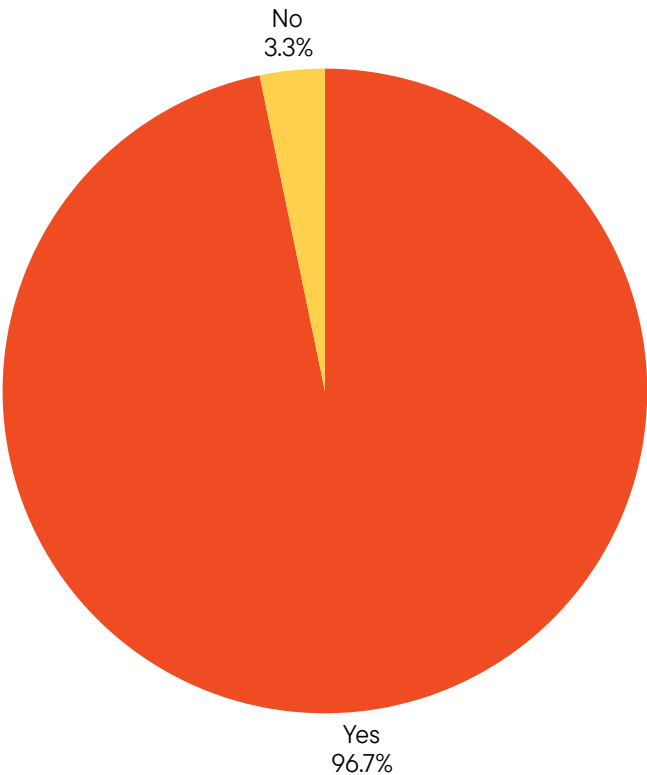
Are you working for the same employer as when you received your recommendation?



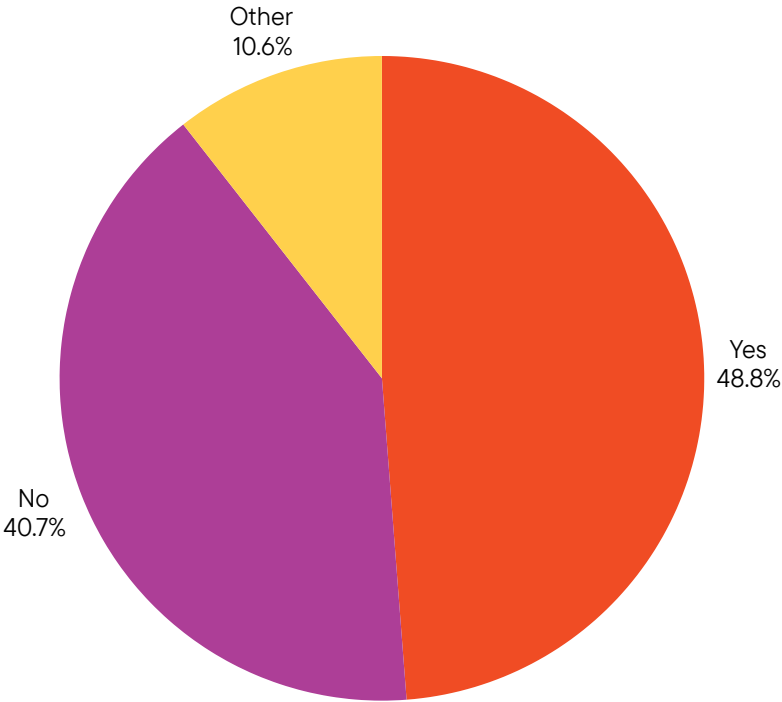
Which industry are you currently working in?



Do you reside within the North Bay & Area RNIP boundaries?



Did you access settlement services and did you feel supported?



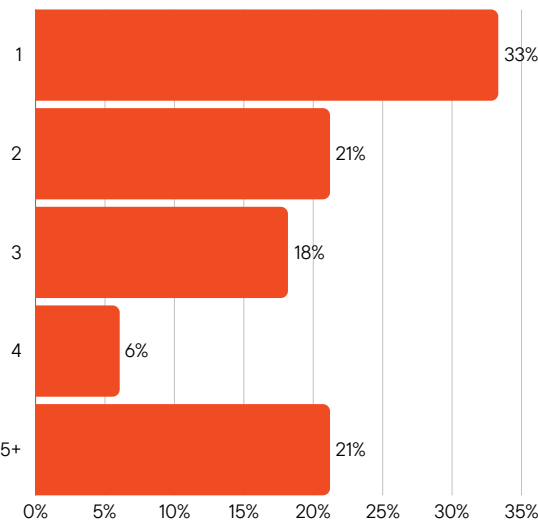
INSIGHTS & ANALYSIS

EMPLOYERS FEEDBACK

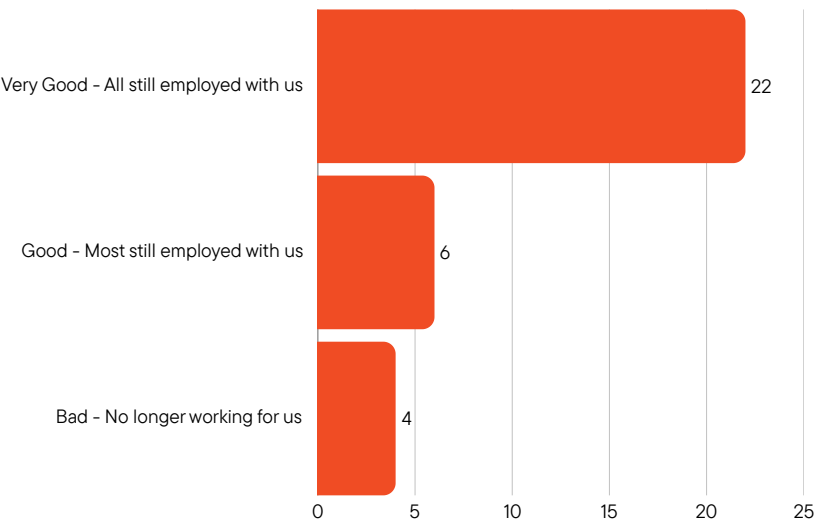
Employers reported positive feedback on the immigration pilot program, noting that it successfully addressed labour shortages by connecting them with skilled and dedicated workers. Due to the strong demand, businesses were able to fill critical roles with qualified candidates who quickly adapted to their workplaces. Many employers praised the reliability and work ethic of the participants, emphasizing how their contributions strengthened operations and boosted productivity. **94% of employers surveyed had good to overly positive experiences through the RNIP program, and 88% would consider using the RCIP program should North Bay get selected to administer it.**

A key success of the program was its ability to retain talent. The majority of the participants remained with their employers after completing the program, providing workforce stability and continuity. Overall, the program was seen as a valuable initiative that met immediate labour needs and supported long-term economic growth.

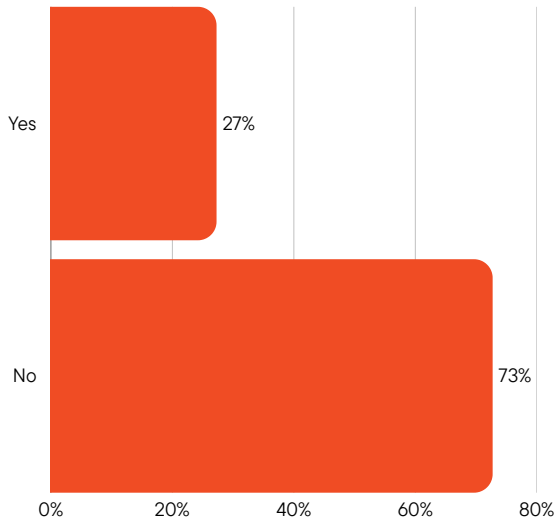
How many of your employees have utilized the RNIP program?



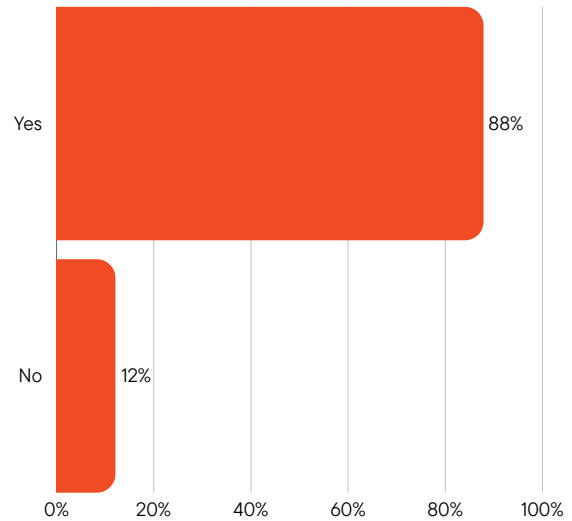
How is staff retention after your employee(s) received their Permanent Residency (PR)?



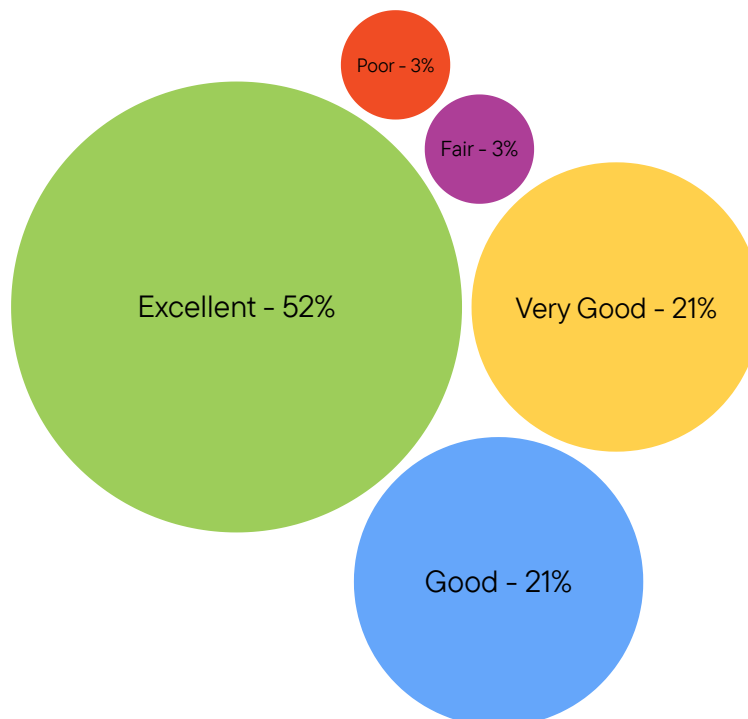
Did you seek settlement services to assist your employees? For example, housing, health care, and education.



Would you consider using the RCIP pilot should North Bay be selected?



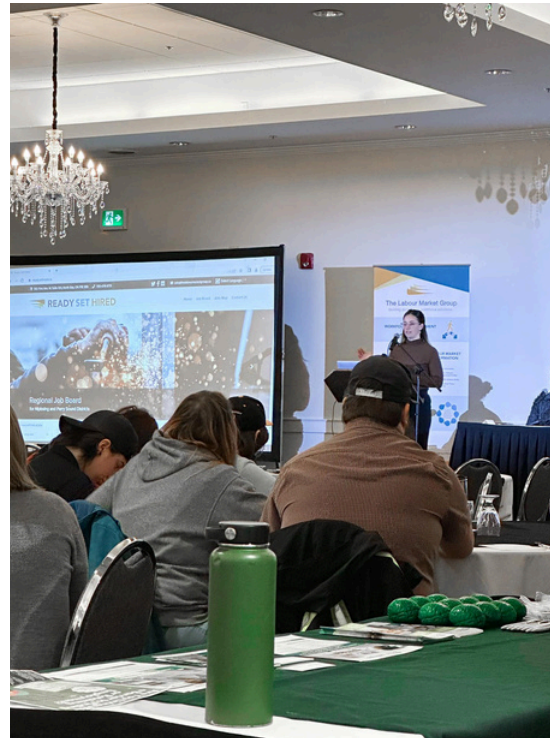
On a scale from Poor to Excellent, how would you rate your experience with the RNIP program as an employer?



RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTLOOK FOR RCIP

Although RNIP was a huge success, we noticed some challenges we faced throughout the pilot and what we could change for RCIP to make it that much better for the coordinators, applicants, and employers:

1. Adding quarterly meetings with our community partners, like our local multicultural centre and workforce planning board, to ensure newcomers are being served.
2. When a candidate submits an application, they should have a reference number.
3. Applicants need a confirmation email when their applications are submitted.
4. Once their application is submitted, they need a 'what are the next steps?' so they know what to expect, and don't feel the need to constantly follow up with the coordinator.
5. Create an overview sheet to share with post-secondary institutions and community partners about the program, with bi-annual presentations to the post-secondary institutions and hopefully reach the students who are interested in the program.
6. A step-by-step guide for Employers in the PR application, should they need to apply for the LMIA exemption. More assistance from IRCC would be extremely beneficial for the employers as it can be a confusing process.



Heather highlighting the impact of the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot program— connecting skilled foreign workers with local employers and providing them with meaningful opportunities for long-term success. This initiative has helped address labour shortages, strengthen the workforce, and ensure long-term economic and social growth.

OVERALL REVIEW



ASSESSING THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM

Overall, the program was a great success. We met most of our goals and surpassed some of them. With the great feedback from the employers within our community, we know we were able to assist many employers throughout the city, while also providing newcomers an opportunity for a fresh start in Canada, and to plant their roots somewhere other than the larger cities they may only be aware of.

Having the Chamber of Commerce located downtown, and being right by the bus terminal, was a perk for applicants as well. They were able to easily access the project coordinators to assist them with anything.

From the starting of the pilot, there was only one coordinator. In March 2023, a second coordinator joined the team which really helped with the workload as North Bay RNIP was only getting busier. The original coordinator focused on the candidates as they had already formed relationships with them, and the new coordinator focused more so on the employers. While we each had their own roles, we still collaborated and worked together on many things.

94%
**OF EMPLOYERS HAD A GOOD
TO OVERLY POSITIVE
EXPERIENCE THROUGH USING
THE RNIP PILOT**

1- Business, Finance and Administration (6)

11100 - Financial auditors and accountants
 12200 - Accounting Technicians and Bookkeepers
 11200 - Human Resource Professional
 13110 - Administrative assistants
 14201 - Banking, Insurance and other financial clerks
 14400 - Shippers & Receivers

Stacie added

Natasha added

3-Health (4)

31301 - Registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses
 33100 - Dental assistants and dental laboratory assistants
 33102 - Nurse aides, orderlies and patient service associates
 33103 - Pharmacy technical assistants and pharmacy assistants

4- Education, Law and Social, Community and Government Services (4)

42202 - Early childhood educators and assistants
 42201 - Social and community service workers
 44101 - Home support workers, caregivers and related occupations
 43100 - Elementary and secondary school teacher assistants

6- Sales and Service (3)

64410 - Security guards and related security service occupations
 64314 - Hotel front desk clerks
 60010 - Corporate Sales Managers

Natasha added

7-Trades, Transportation, and Equipment Operators (8)

72100 - Machinists and machining and tooling inspectors
 72200 - Electricians
 72404 - Aircraft mechanics and aircraft inspectors
 72402 - Heating, refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics
 72410 - Automotive service technicians, truck and bus mechanics and mechanical repairers
 72106 - Welders & related machine operators
 72310 - Carpenters (includes apprentices)
 75110 - Construction Trade Helpers & Labourers

Natasha added

Include roofers and shinglers here

Wild card list (this can be expanded as certain ones come in)

72302 - Gas fitters
 32104 - Animal health technologists and veterinary technicians
 33102 - Nurses aides, orderlies and patient service associates
 72200 - Electricians (except industrial and power system)
 72300 - Plumbers
 62020 - Food Service Supervisors
 60030 - Restaurant and food service manages

smaller communities
 smaller communities

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Burk's Falls & District Historical Society
Fell Homes, Burk's Falls
Monday, April 14, 2025**

Members Present: Diane Brandt – President
Jarv Osborne – Vice President
Jenny Hall - Treasurer
Charlene Watt – Deputy Treasurer/Secretary
Nancy Kyte
Kirk Du Guid
Peter Hall
Krista Trulsen
George Sterling
Barry Burton

The Members present constituted a quorum.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
Diane Brandt in the Chair.

Welcome:

Diane welcomed Members. Diane introduced Nancy Kyte, the new municipal representative for the Village of Burk's Falls.

Approval & Amendments of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Acceptance of minutes and adoption of the March 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes as circulated:
Moved by Jarv Osborne, Seconded by Jenny Hall. Carried

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's / Financial Report was presented by Jenny Hall. The main bank account balance was \$12,227.45 on March 1, 2025. Expenses totalled \$63.22 for expected fixed monthly business expenses (telephone/internet), and \$1,243.00 to the Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce for a full-page advertisement. With no revenue for this period, the end of month balance was \$10,921.23. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by George Sterling, Seconded by Barry Burton. Carried**

Committee Reports:

Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse Update:

Diane Brandt reported to Members that the schoolhouse requires spring cleaning and she will contact Jill Latendre, Klink Enterprises to inquire if she is interested in completing the task. Member supported the request. **Motion to authorize the spring-cleaning services of the Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse up to the amount of \$300 + HST from Klink Enterprises: Moved by Barry Burton, Seconded by George Sterling. Carried**

Watt Farm House Update:

Diane Brandt updated Members on the status of the red building's construction. Correspondence from the Township was shared. The plumber is to provide the Township of Armour with their plan to complete the job next week. Should they fail to do so, the contractor has been informed that Armour will be forced to take legal action. The goal is to get that work completed (or near completion) by the end of next week. There was some discussion at the March 25th Armour Council meeting regarding some of the discrepancies in the design/construction phases. Once the plumbing is complete, we can resume discussions with the Township to address the major concerns with those discrepancies. In the funding application the following statements were made:

- "The Society aims to host 2-4 events per month in the shoulder season and continue to develop new programming as the Centre re-establishes public interest following the pandemic"
- "The addition of the new building will enable the society to develop additional exhibits and diversify its programming" - While this statement is rather ambiguous in nature - the designs of the interior of the building are clearly designed to host multiple exhibits.
- The project summary in the application states "Constructing a new building with accessible and functional exhibit, event, and storage space capable of storing larger artifacts". In my opinion, this reflects our commitment to the NOHFC that will be considered during the final review of the project.

The Township's file resonates with statements that reinforce the intention of having public occupancy at the facility - The BFDHS Resolution of support (March 20, 2023) = "AND WHEREAS this project will expand the functional exhibit spaces at the Heritage Centre;" and in an email dated July 11, 2022 responding to a request for additional information to support the application, you noted - "This will give the Historical Society the ability to store and display the abundance of artifacts...."

Diane Brandt advised Members that Mairi MacGregor from the Harris Family donated a wedding dress, christening gown and a tea set. An appraisal has been requested.

Members discussed the tinted windows in the living room and dining room. The UV protective film is not as effective as it once was and is causing fading of some displays. Nancy Kyte offered to make window coverings if the Historical Society covers the cost of the materials. Nancy will investigate fabric options that suit early 1900s era of the farmhouse and report back.

Membership Committee:

Peter Hall advised members that there are 25 paid memberships for the year to date. Two memberships are outstanding.

Facilities and Function Committee:

Members were advised that the April 16, 2025 meeting has been postponed. A meeting date will be determined in the near future.

Correspondence:

Members were advised that a letter of appreciation and a \$50.00 donation was received from Linda Sheridan for research conducted by Mike Quinton respecting Maurice Marsden and family. A donation receipt was issued to Linda Sheridan.

Diane Brandt updated Members on the inquiries from last month. James Gray was provided information on Robert Kennedy and the Clerk from the Township of Ryerson was consulted to assist in obtaining historic information on the property known as 894 Royston Road.

General Business:

Heritage Festival 2024:

Members discussed Heritage Festival and the assigned duties.

Crowd Favourite Ballot Box Counting: Jenny Hall & Nancy Kyte

Selection of Heritage Festival Car Show Award: George Sterling, Barry Burton & Eugene

Order Popcorn & Small Bags from the Village of Burk's Falls: Nieves Guijarro

Dunk Tank Co-ordinator: Mike Quinton

Donation Jars/Cash Boxes: Diane Brandt will provide the cash box and \$200 float for the dunk tank and two donation jars (one for the Historical Society tent, one for the Car Show Judging Station).

Event Programme: no programme will be created this year but a sheet listing the firefighter challenges will be printed.

Tents: Popcorn Booth and Centre Field

Diane Brandt is unable to commit to attending for the full day of the Heritage Festival.

Nancy Kyte advised that her son, James, is interested in volunteering at the event.

Representative Resignation:

Members reviewed the resignation letter from the Village of Burk's Falls Councillor, Ryan Baptiste. Members expressed appreciation for Councillor Baptiste's support over the past three years.

Appointment of Municipal Representative:

Members reviewed the resolution from the Village of Burk's Falls appointing the new Village of Burk's Falls Councillor, Nancy Kyte. Members welcomed Councillor Kyte and expressed interest in working together.

New Business:

Young Canada Works – Heritage Co-ordinator Summer Student:

Diane Brandt updated Members on the status of the Young Canada Works program. The Historical Society has not been approved for funding this year. The CAO for the Township of Armour has responded to the Canadian Museums Association and requested a meeting to discuss future applications and the need for continued support from the YCW program.

Diane discussed the requirement for summer staff. It was suggested that we advertise for a mature person to work six hours per day and five days a week for nine weeks. Diane will forward the employment opportunity notice to Charlene for circulation.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 12, 2025 at Fell Homes. The meeting has been moved from the third Monday to the second Monday due to the Victoria Day holiday. There being no further business, **George Sterling moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.**

Recorded by
Charlene Watt, Deputy-Treasurer/Secretary

Approved by
Diane Brandt, President


Corporation of the
Municipality
of
Magnetawan

Tel: (705) 387-3947
Fax: (705) 387-4875
www.magnetawan.com

P.O. Box 70, Magnetawan, Ontario P0A 1P0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 100 **APRIL 16, 2025**

Moved by: 

Seconded by: 

WHEREAS the Parry Sound Emergency Medical Service Advisory Committee is jointly made appointment with neighbouring municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the EMS board requires a unanimous appointment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Magnetawan rescinds motion 2025-35 supporting the appointment of Jon Hind;

AND HEREBY supports the appointment of Dan Robertson.

Carried  Defeated _____ Deferred _____


Sam Dunnett, Mayor

Recorded Vote Called by: _____

Recorded Vote

Member of Council	Yea	Nay	Absent
Bishop, Bill			
Hetherington, John			
Hind, Jon			
Kneller, Brad			
Mayor: Dunnett, Sam			



*Knowing our heritage
we will build our future*



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

RESOLUTION

Date: April 22, 2025

Motion # 133

WHEREAS the Parry Sound District Emergency Medical Service Advisory Committee Board Member has resigned from the Council of the Village of Burk's Falls;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Armour rescinds Motion #84 dated March 11, 2025 nominating Jon Hind;

AND HEREBY supports the appointment of Dan Robertson from the Township of Ryerson to the Parry Sound District Emergency Medical Service Advisory Committee for the East Parry Sound Group comprised of Ryerson, Armour, Perry, Burk's Falls, Kearney, Magnetawan and McMurrich/Monteith.

Moved by:

Blakelock, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brandt, Jerry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Haggart-Davis, Dorothy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ward, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whitwell, Wendy	<input type="checkbox"/>

Seconded by:

Blakelock, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brandt, Jerry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Haggart-Davis, Dorothy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ward, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whitwell, Wendy	<input type="checkbox"/>

Carried / Defeated

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by: _____

Recorded vote requested by: _____

Recorded Vote:

Blakelock, Rod

Brandt, Jerry

Haggart-Davis, Dorothy

Ward, Rod

Whitwell, Wendy

For

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Opposed

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

**JOINT BUILDING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL PERMIT SUMMARY
2025**

Month	No. of Permits	Permit Fees	Project Values	Size (sq.m)
January	7	\$12,586.00	\$791,900.00	137
February	5	\$19,070.00	\$1,238,000.00	1552
March	10	\$37,040.50	\$2,402,700.00	1321
April	13	\$30,650.00	\$1,952,000.00	1372
May	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
June	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
July	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
August	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
September	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
October	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
November	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
December	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
TOTALS	35	\$99,346.50	\$6,384,600.00	New Construction 4382
				Demolitions 120

**JOINT BUILDING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL PERMIT SUMMARY
2025**

Month	No. of Permits	Permit Fees	Project Values	SFD'S, Seasonal Dwellings and Multi-Unit Dwellings	
				<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Burks Falls	1	\$5,350.00	\$350,000.00	0	1
Joly	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0
South River	3	\$10,470.00	\$678,000.00	0	1
Machar	9	\$24,546.00	\$1,576,400.00	2	3
Strong	10	\$37,070.00	\$2,399,500.00	2	3
Ryerson	6	\$11,590.50	\$732,700.00	1	1
Sundridge	6	\$10,320.00	\$648,000.00	3	3
TOTALS	35	\$99,346.50	\$6,384,600.00		12
Permit activity at end of April 30, 2025					
TOTALS	24	\$71,845.00	\$4,447,000.00	8	
Permit activity at end of April 30, 2024					
TOTALS	11	\$27,501.50	\$1,937,600.00		4
Difference from previous year					



705-382-2900
www.almaguin-health.org

Minutes: May 1, 2025 at 10:00 am via Zoom and at the Township of Perry Municipal Office.

Present: Rod Ward (Chair), Vicky Roeder-Martin (Vice- Chair), Delynne Patterson, Margaret Ann MacPhail, Norm Hofstetter, Sean Cotton, Jim Ronholm, Tom Bryson, Ashley Soundy (Secretary)

Regrets: Brad Kneller, Shawn Jackson, Cheryl Philip

Guest: David Gravelle, Shelly van den Heuvel, Courtney Metcalf, Sandy Zurbrigg

Called to order at 10:01 am by Chair R. Ward

1. 2025-11 Moved by Jim Ronholm - Seconded by Vicky Roeder-Martin
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the regular meeting of March 6, 2025, as circulated. Carried.

2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST:** None

3. **DELEGATIONS:**

a) Nicole Porter, Public Education Coordinator, Alzheimer Society of Muskoka

Nicole provided Council with a brief introduction and presentation on the Dementia-Friendly Community initiative. She outlined the program's goal of raising awareness and developing shared educational resources to support dementia-friendly practices. While the initiative has national roots, it is being implemented locally, with a focus on adapting practices to meet the needs of individual municipalities, organizations, and communities at the provincial and regional levels. The core objective is to foster a community that is aware of dementia and knows how to interact appropriately and compassionately with those living with the condition.

Nicole shared information on the four main types of Alzheimer's, noting that there are over 100 types of dementia in total, and highlighted the growing number of Canadians affected by the disease along with common traits and symptoms of the disease. She also reviewed several medical conditions that can mimic dementia symptoms but are treatable and temporary. She emphasized that while there is currently no cure, early intervention and preventative measures are critical. The main focus is on setting individuals up for early prevention and care.

Part of the presentation promoted the website findingyourwayontario.ca, which provides resources such as identification kits and information on programs that support individuals with dementia, their care partners, families and first responders. The "Finding Your Way" program aims to raise awareness about the risk of individuals with dementia going missing, help communities prepare for such incidents, and support the safe and inclusive living of those with dementia. It was noted that approximately 60% of individuals with dementia-related memory issues become lost at some point.

Council inquired about the most effective locations for sharing resources with the public, such as libraries, doctors' offices, and municipal buildings. Discussion also included potential venues for hosting information sessions or seminars. It was noted that nearly 99% of the services offered by the Alzheimer Society of Muskoka are provided free of charge

4. RESOLUTIONS PASSED:

2025-12 Moved by Norm Hofstetter – Seconded by Delynne Patterson
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council agrees to reimburse the Village of Burk's Falls in the amount of \$271.20 for the annual Vistaprint website service fee. Carried

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a) Action Item Follow up – April:

S. Cotton provided an update on the investigation into conducting a full engineering study for the 150 Huston Street building. The CAO of Burk's Falls is currently obtaining quotes for the study and has received two to date. Once all quotes have been received and reviewed, they will be brought forward to the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre (AHHC) Committee for consideration. The committee will then pass a resolution to present the information to their respective municipal councils for further review.

There was discussion on how best to present the quotes, with concern that offering multiple options may hinder progress—potentially resulting in underfunding or overfunding of certain aspects. As such, committee members were advised to present a single recommended option to their councils for consideration.

The discussion also included potential funding sources for the required study and repairs, including the use of Local Share funding. It was also noted that some municipalities passed resolutions which specifically separated Local Share contributions from "Almaguin-focused" contributions (the so-called 80-20 split), while others did not specify. Questions were raised regarding who should be responsible for decisions on Local Share allocations. It was agreed that this matter would be deferred to the upcoming Clerks/Treasurers meeting, as the AHHC Committee's role is to provide recommendations, not make funding decisions. The committee agreed to await the results of the engineering study before determining next steps.

b) Open discussion regarding all potential Healthcare facilities and services in the Almaguin Highlands

R. Ward presented slides outlining the property recently purchased by Armour Township for the future development of a Fire Hall. The presentation included a preliminary layout and conceptual development plan for the site. In addition to the Fire Hall, there is interest in collaborating with a potential investor on the development of a health and wellness centre. This initiative is currently in the early planning stages.

The slides featured conceptual designs prepared by Greystone, showcasing possible future uses of the property to meet evolving community needs. These concepts are intended for discussion and feedback only. The proposed vision includes enhancing local services by adding community-based health and wellness programs that could complement existing healthcare services and align with the MAHC redevelopment plan.

Discussion followed regarding possible uses of the health and wellness facility and the types of services that could be introduced to benefit all area residents. It was noted that the Dementia-Friendly Community Initiative is actively seeking space to host senior-focused programs such as day programs that support aging in place. Other potential programs and services were also considered.

Council members raised questions about the implications for other municipalities, possible rental arrangements, ownership as a private facility, and projected timelines. Funding models, including potential municipal contributions for service delivery, were also discussed. Clarification was requested regarding how such funding arrangements might work. Suggestions were made to continue evaluating the project with a focus on efficiency and adaptability, recognizing that community needs will evolve over time.

c) Planning for Almaguin Highlands Health Care Summit with MAOHT

R. Ward provided an update on the proposed summit focused on exploring the future of healthcare facilities and identifying opportunities to integrate with MAHC – Satellite Services. The intent of the summit is to assess how existing facilities can be leveraged to support satellite service delivery.

Key questions discussed included the timing of the summit, who should be invited, how it should be facilitated, and how to ensure its effectiveness. R. Ward has reached out to the Muskoka Almaguin Ontario Health Team (MAOHT) to request inclusion on their agenda and to highlight AHHC's interest in exploring options and receiving feedback.

Council engaged in a discussion regarding the need to focus the summit's agenda, define the vision and criteria for the initiative, and determine which municipalities should be involved. Council members agreed on September 2025 as a tentative target date for hosting the summit. It was also noted that there is already interest in the event.

At this stage, no concrete plans have been finalized, and efforts are currently focused on gathering information from healthcare providers. Further details will be shared as planning progresses.

d) Other Business

S. Zurbrigg stated that the Patient Family Caregiver Partners Advisory Committee (PFCPAC) is still looking for new members and encourages people to apply.

A. Soundy, Secretary for AHHC, will be stepping down effective the June 5 meeting. However, she has offered to assist with the July meeting if needed. Council is encouraged to share this opportunity with individuals who may be interested in taking on the role. A brief discussion took place regarding potential candidates to fill the position.

ACTION ITEM LIST:

- Council members are asked to share the opportunity with individuals who may be interested in taking on the role of Secretary for the AHHC.

6. ADJOURNMENT

2025-12 Moved by Delynn Patterson - Seconded by Vicky Roeder-Martin
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at am to meet again on June 5, 2025 at 10:00 am at Perry Township. Carried.

WE'VE UPDATED OUR NAME!



**Muskoka
Almaguin**

ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM

***Still MAOHT. Still building
better care together, closer
to home.***

Our new name better reflects the communities we proudly serve across Muskoka and the Almaguin Highlands—and reinforces our commitment to building a more connected, collaborative health system across the region.

MAOHT.CA

TRI COUNCIL INFORMAL SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING **MINUTES**

Wednesday, April 16, 2025 – 10:00AM

Location: Armour Township Office, 56 Ontario Street, Burk's Falls

Discussion Items

Shared Service Agreements

Library Agreement

Funding contribution amounts were discussed. The option to transition to population-based contribution percentages rather than usage in a new agreement was raised.

It was proposed that provisions related to future capital projects should be included in a new agreement.

The committee discussed the new library build project. Concern was raised regarding the appropriateness of the Library Board having ownership in the new building or property based on the stipulations in the Public Libraries Act R.S.O. 1990, c. P.44, section 19. Considerations were discussed regarding the contribution commitments that have been made to date and the responsibilities of fundraising for the build, including who should be applying for funds to support the project. The committee discussed the roles of municipalities and the Library Board regarding the management of capital projects.

Considerations were discussed related to the proposed site on Red Cross Road including the options provided by Greystone related to the foundation options for the new building and the presence of various sewer and drainage infrastructure elements.

The Committee discussed the new build project timeline and the perceived urgency from the Board to move forward. Some committee members felt that there is potential for this project may require a longer-range timeline.

The Committee discussed the need for improved communications between municipalities and the Library Board.

The committee discussed the merit of including the creation of a library association that would encompass multiple municipalities in the region within a new library agreement. An association could have the potential to create various efficiencies including shared leadership, resources, and staff across multiple libraries. The Committee discussed creating an interim library agreement to continue the established library partnership while a regional model was investigated.

Current Shared Services Agreement for Fire, Landfill, and Arena

The Committee discussed the creation of individual agreements for all shared services rather than the existing multi-service agreement.

The Committee discussed concerns related to the communications between shared services administrators for all services. Establishing a policy or framework to improve future communications that could be included new agreements was also discussed.

Concerns were raised related to the medium- and long-term capital plans for all shared services. It was proposed that the creation of a capital futures sub-committee should be reflected in a new agreement. Capital planning considerations should encompass the eventual need for full replacement of current facilities. The Committee also discussed the need to update the 2022 10-year capital asset plans on an annual basis and that these updates should be included as an addendum to the annual budgets.

Fire Services Updates & Current Council Considerations

An update was provided regarding a project specific agreement between Tri Council Partners related to the new Fire Hall build project. The draft agreement is expected to be circulated for partner review in the coming weeks prior to the upcoming Tri Council Meeting. The Committee will set a meeting date to review the draft agreement prior to the Tri Council Meeting.

The Committee recommended that a brief update regarding the project status be prepared and circulated to all partners.

Arena Updates & Current Council Considerations

The Committee discussed the merit of investigating a regional arena services model that could include provisions for regional leadership, facility management, and shared resources.

Landfill Updates & Current Council Considerations

None noted during the meeting.

Next Meetings

April 30th @ 4:00PM - Fire agreement Meeting (Ryerson Township Office)

May 21st @ 10:00AM – Location TBD

Adjournment



MUSKOKA ALGONQUIN
HEALTHCARE



Huntsville
Hospital Foundation

NEWS RELEASE



New MRI Machine Has Arrived in Muskoka!

Key diagnostic equipment has been delivered after three years of determined local fundraising

(Tuesday, May 6, 2025, Muskoka, ON) – After a successful fundraising campaign to bring much-needed medical equipment to the Muskoka area, a brand-new Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine has arrived and is finding its new home in Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare's Huntsville District Memorial Hospital (HDMH) Site.

The 8,000-pound machine left the Siemens Facility in Erlangen, Germany on April 30, and was [lowered by crane](#) into its final position where it will be installed within the new MRI addition in Huntsville. The hospital anticipates commissioning testing and diagnostics to later this month, with the machine fully functional by July.

The MRI's arrival is the result of a concerted effort by the Huntsville Hospital Foundation (HHF) to raise \$10 million as part of its [Focus on Imaging campaign](#). This initiative sourced contributions from the community to bring new and improved medical imaging and diagnostic equipment to the area. The campaign generated 2,460 donations from residents, businesses and community groups from South River to Orillia and Haliburton to Parry Sound in only three years, a relatively short period of time for a campaign like this.

“This is a life-changing investment for Muskoka and Almaguin’s healthcare and a game changer for each resident and visitor”, says Katherine Craine, CEO of Huntsville Hospital Foundation. “Our donors have turned a shared vision into reality, and now they can see the impact of their generosity.”

Once opened with patient services this summer, the new local MRI service in Muskoka is estimated to save over 7,000 hours behind the wheel for patients, and spare more than 700,000 kilometres of travel to hospitals outside of our region for an MRI. At maturity, Muskoka and area’s MRI service will complete 5,000 MRI scans locally every year.

“The addition of MRI services close to home is a transformative step forward for our hospital operations,” says Cheryl Harrison, President and CEO of Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC). “It will allow us to diagnose patients more quickly and accurately, reduce the need for travel, and ultimately improve care coordination across the region.”

Both the HHF and MAHC are grateful to the donors who made this possible, as well as to the staff and medical professionals who worked behind the scenes to bring the MRI machine to Muskoka.

The Foundation continues its fundraising efforts to provide better healthcare for local residents and visitors. To see current campaign initiatives and/or to donate, please visit www.huntsvillehospitalfoundation.ca.

-30-

Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC) is a multi-site health care organization accredited with exemplary standing that provides acute care services at the Huntsville District Memorial Hospital and South Muskoka Memorial Hospital in Bracebridge. Find out more about Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare by visiting www.mahc.ca. Connect with us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Huntsville Hospital Foundation is a fundraising organization dedicated to improving healthcare services for residents of Muskoka and East Parry Sound. A registered charity since 1984, its mandate is to provide ongoing capital and education resources for Huntsville District Memorial Hospital that is not covered by provincial taxes. This will ensure our hospital and medical professionals have the technology and equipment they require to provide exceptional care. Find out more about the Foundation by visiting www.huntsvillehospitalfoundation.ca

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

Bobbie Clark, Director of Communications & Stakeholder Relations, Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare
705-645-4404 ext. 3336; bobbie.clark@mahc.ca

Katherine Craine, Chief Executive Officer, Huntsville Hospital Foundation
705-789-2311 ext. 2492; katherine.craine@mahc.ca

SOUTHEAST PARRY SOUND DISTRICT PLANNING BOARD

Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2024

(Unaudited- See Notice To Reader)



Township of Perry
1695 Emsdale Road, Emsdale, ON P0A 1J0

PHONE: (705)636-5941

FAX: (705)636-5759

www.townshipofperry.ca

NOTICE TO READER

On the basis of information provided by management, I have compiled the statement of financial position of the Southeast Parry Sound District Planning Board as at December 31, 2024 and the statements of financial activities and changes in net assets for the year then ended.

I have not performed an audit or review engagement in respect of these financial statements and accordingly, I express no assurance thereon.

Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Emsdale, Ontario
April 14, 2025

Kim Seguin
Treasurer - Township of Perry

SOUTHEAST PARRY SOUND DISTRICT PLANNING BOARD

Statement of Financial Position

Year Ended December 31, 2024

(Unaudited- See Notice To Reader)

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 21,483	\$ 26,594
Short Term Investments	2,691	2,632
Accounts Receivable	17,330	15,123
Prepays	-	-
	<u>\$ 41,503</u>	<u>\$ 44,349</u>
 LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 4,136	\$ 2,763
Deferred Revenue	-	2,400
	<u>4,137</u>	<u>5,164</u>
 NET ASSETS	<u>37,367</u>	<u>39,186</u>
	<u>\$ 41,503</u>	<u>\$ 44,349</u>

SOUTHEAST PARRY SOUND DISTRICT PLANNING BOARD**Statement of Financial Activities****Year Ended December 31, 2024***(Unaudited- See Notice To Reader)*

	2024	2023
REVENUE		
Application Fees	\$ 71,900	\$ 58,867
Consultation Fees	-	-
Miscellaneous Revenue	-	-
Interest	59	41
	<u>\$ 71,959</u>	<u>\$ 58,908</u>
EXPENSES		
Salaries and Wages	68,756	73,437
Insurance	-	-
Office	4,927	5,130
Interest and Bank Charges	95	90
Planning Fees	-	-
	<u>73,778</u>	<u>78,656</u>
INCOME (LOSS) FROM OPERATION	(1,819)	(19,748)
OTHER INCOME		
Other Income #1	-	-
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ (1,819)</u>	<u>\$ (19,748)</u>

SOUTHEAST PARRY SOUND DISTRICT PLANNING BOARD

Statement of Change in Net Assets

Year Ended December 31, 2024

(Unaudited- See Notice To Reader)

	2024	2023
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 39,186	\$ 58,934
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	(1,819)	(19,748)
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 37,367</u>	<u>\$ 39,186</u>

If the planning board had annually increased fees based on the annual CPI the 2025 fees would be - Bold amounts

Planning Board fees Proposed adjustment

Annual CPI	2014 1.50% fee for 2015	2015 1.60% fee for 2016	2016 1.50% fee for 2017	2017 1.90% fee for 2018	2018 2.00% fee for 2019	2019 2.20% fee for 2020	2020 0.70% fee for 2021	2021 4.80% fee for 2022	2022 6.30% fee for 2023	2023 3.40% fee for 2024	2024 1.80% fee for 2025	2025 Proposed
Rates set in 2014												
Consent Applications												
new lot	800.00	812.00	824.99	837.37	853.28	870.34	889.49	895.72	938.71	997.85	1,031.78	1,050.35
lot addition	700.00	710.50	721.87	732.70	746.62	761.55	778.30	783.75	821.37	873.12	902.80	919.05
row	700.00	710.50	721.87	732.70	746.62	761.55	778.30	783.75	821.37	873.12	902.80	919.05
addl property row	125.00	126.88	128.91	130.84	133.32	135.99	138.98	139.96	146.67	155.91	161.22	164.12
recir fee	150.00	152.25	154.69	157.01	159.99	163.19	166.78	167.95	176.01	187.10	193.46	196.94
finalization fee	200.00	203.00	206.25	209.34	213.32	217.59	222.37	223.93	234.68	249.46	257.94	262.59
def decision	150.00	152.25	154.69	157.01	159.99	163.19	166.78	167.95	176.01	187.10	193.46	196.94
val of title/forclosure/pos												
Application fee	800.00	812.00	824.99	837.37	853.28	870.34	889.49	895.72	938.71	997.85	1,031.78	1,050.35
finalization fee	200.00	203.00	206.25	209.34	213.32	217.59	222.37	223.93	234.68	249.46	257.94	262.59
Subdivision Cond app												
application basic upto 5lots/units	3,000.00	3,045.00	3,093.72	3,140.13	3,199.79	3,263.78	3,335.59	3,358.94	3,520.17	3,741.94	3,869.16	3,938.81
6-10 units	500.00	507.50	515.62	523.35	533.30	543.96	555.93	559.82	586.69	623.66	644.86	656.47
11-20 units	400.00	406.00	412.50	418.68	426.64	435.17	444.74	447.86	469.36	498.92	515.89	525.17
21-30 units	250.00	253.75	257.81	261.68	266.65	271.98	277.97	279.91	293.35	311.83	322.43	328.23
31+units	100.00	101.50	103.12	104.67	106.66	108.79	111.19	111.96	117.34	124.73	128.97	131.29
finalization fee	350.00	355.25	360.93	366.35	373.31	380.77	389.15	391.88	410.69	436.56	451.40	459.53
extension draft approval	250.00	253.75	257.81	261.68	266.65	271.98	277.97	279.91	293.35	311.83	322.43	328.23
Other												
Preconsults -consent	150.00	152.25	154.69	157.01	159.99	163.19	166.78	167.95	176.01	187.10	193.46	196.94
preconsults -subdivision	400.00	406.00	412.50	418.68	426.64	435.17	444.74	447.86	469.36	498.92	515.89	525.17
Change conditions	150.00	152.25	154.69	157.01	159.99	163.19	166.78	167.95	176.01	187.10	193.46	196.94
site inspections - consent	100.00	101.50	103.12	104.67	106.66	108.79	111.19	111.96	117.34	124.73	128.97	131.29
site inspections - subdivision	175.00	177.63	180.47	183.17	186.65	190.39	194.58	195.94	205.34	218.28	225.70	229.76
cost of ad												
file search -historical	25.00	25.38	25.78	26.17	26.66	27.20	27.80	27.99	29.33	31.18	32.24	32.82
nsf- cheques	25.00	25.38	25.78	26.17	26.66	27.20	27.80	27.99	29.33	31.18	32.24	32.82
copies/page	0.25	0.25	0.26	0.26	0.27	0.27	0.28	0.28	0.29	0.31	0.32	0.33
addlt time over 6 hrs per file per hr rate	35.00	35.53	36.09	36.63	37.33	38.08	38.92	39.19	41.07	43.66	45.14	45.95

Handwritten notes and signatures on the right margin, including "10-20" and "10-20" with a checkmark.

Almaguin Community Transportation (ACT) Committee

Spring 2025 Progress Report & Phase 2 Update

Introduction

The Almaguin Community Transportation (ACT) Committee was established in March of 2025 following the completion of the Almaguin Community Bus Partnership (ACBP) Committee scope of work.

The ACBP Committee formed in the Fall of 2023 to determine if there was interest in establishing a cooperative partnership involving multiple municipalities in Almaguin. The retirement of the Burk's Falls Community Link bus led to the possibility of considering a regional, or multi-community, approach for providing transportation services. The committee gained representation from 7 municipalities as well as one non-voting transportation sector advisor.

- Hosted the Almaguin Community Bussing Survey (466 respondents)
- Published the 2024 ACBP Activities Report
 - Consulted various strategic plans & studies
 - Analyzed the results of the Bussing Survey
 - Evaluated two main delivery model concepts
 - Developed a multi-phase pilot concept
- Produced the 2024 ACBP Phase 1 update addendum
- Formed the ACT Committee to proceed with further phases.

The goal of the ACT Committee is to develop and implement solutions that increase transportation service options within participating Almaguin communities. The ACT Committee has adopted Terms of Reference and established interim positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

ACT Chair: Dave Gray, ACED/Armour Township
ACT Vice-Chair: Jim Ronholm, Councillor, Strong Township
ACT Secretary: Courtney Metcalf, ACED

Next Steps

1. **Establish a lead/administrating municipality.** The lead municipality will serve as the applicant municipality for any funding opportunities that are sourced to support the project.
2. **Source financial support.** The ACT Committee will review the eligibility requirements for any available funding programs to support next steps.
3. **Develop a request for proposals (RFP).** The ACT Committee will develop a request for proposals from qualified service providers to review the feasibility of delivering services to the zones identified below. The RFP will consider financial needs and logistical considerations.
4. **Apply for funding.** Funding will support the RFP process as well as any resulting pilot program.

5. **Support non-bus-service related transportation solutions.** These include supporting the local response to return of the Northlander Passenger Rail Service (such as exploring the addition of stops, promotion, etc.), Carpool Almaguin, and other opportunities.
6. **Encourage regional communication and inclusion.** The ACT will work to keep municipalities and stakeholders up to date on the progress of the project.

Service Delivery Structure & Phase 2 Report

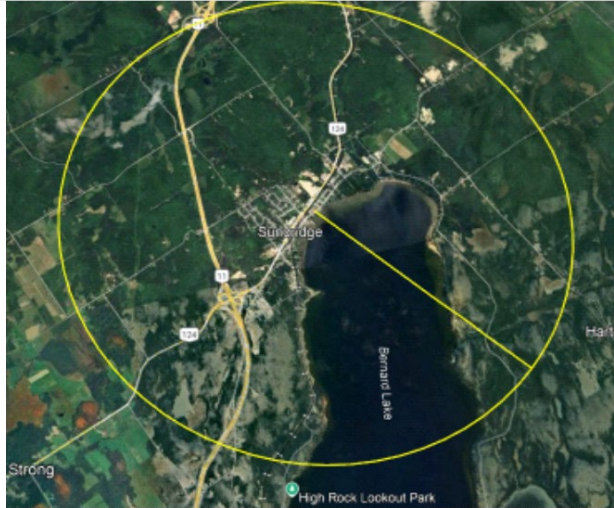
The ACBP Phase 1 update established that the preferred deliver structure was to procure transportation services through an established private sector provider. This structure was seen as favourable as it reduces risks to municipal partners (capital asset management, insurance, and liability) while maximizing efficiencies through accessing industry expertise, processes, and fleet assets.

The service delivery concept for these zones involves a weekly on-demand service within each zone on a specified day of the week. Services will provide users with transportation to staple destinations (grocery stores, post office, hardware, convenience, etc.).

Semi Monthly all-zone trips to the Town of Huntsville and/or the City of North Bay will be organized using central pick-up points along the Highway 11 Corridor with the possibility of supporting transportation from outlying community centres (Sprucedale and Kearney).

The following pilot zones have been established to facilitate financial analysis and logistical considerations.

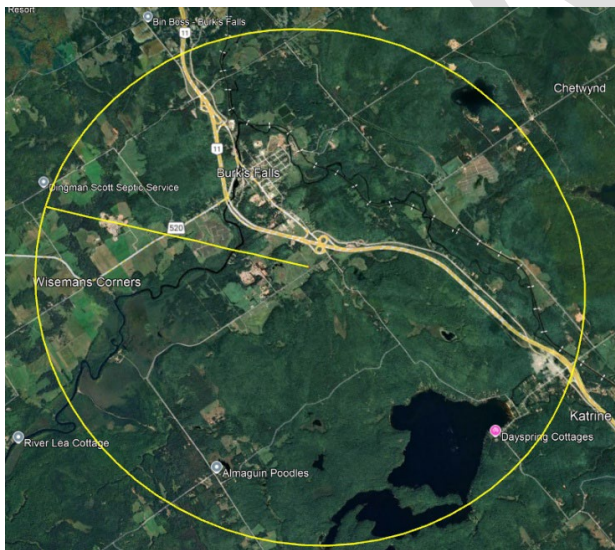
ZONE 1: Village of Sundridge & Township of Strong



Key Considerations

- 5KM Radius from the Sundridge Village Centre.
- Service to businesses and services in Downtown Sundridge and Highway 124/John Street Commercial Areas.

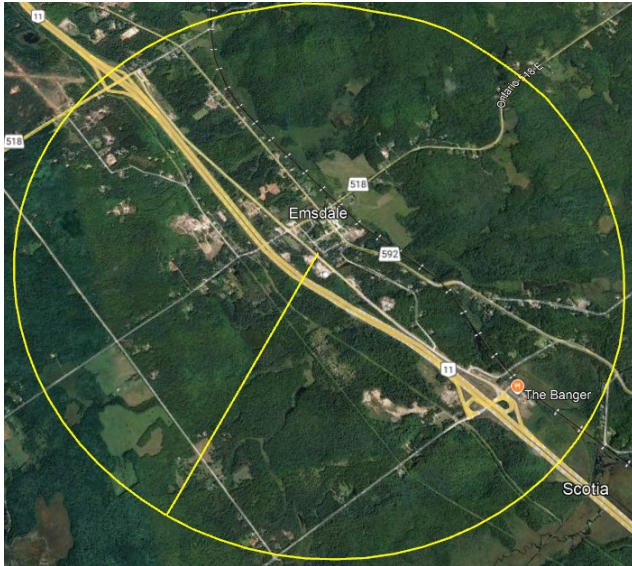
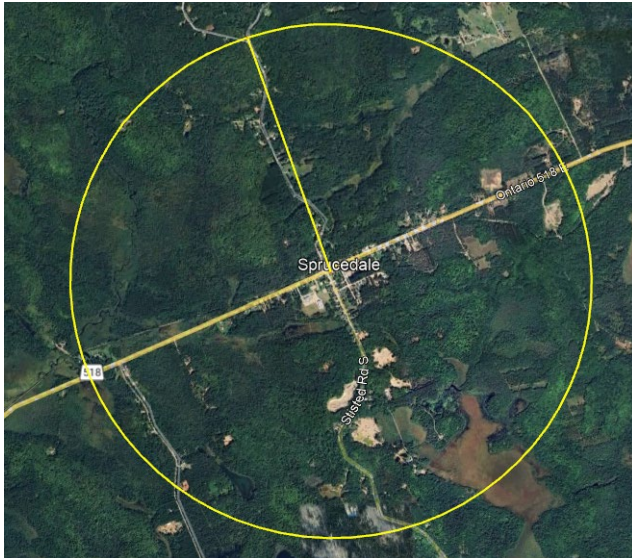
ZONE 2: Village of Burk's Falls and Townships of Armour & Ryerson



Key Considerations

- 5KM Radius from Ferguson Road (to include pick-ups in Katrine).
- Service to Downtown Burk's Falls & Commercial Drive.

ZONE 3: 518 Corridor East – Townships of McMurrich Monteith & Perry



Key Considerations

- Sprucedale - 1.3KM radius of Stisted Rd. / 518 Intersection (Top)
- Emsdale – 2.5KM Radius from Marshall Well Drilling (Bottom)
- Service to Hwy 518/Emsdale Road commercial area & Hope's Foodland / Novar along HWY 592.

ZONE 4: 518 Corridor West – Town of Kearney and Township of Perry



Key Considerations

- Kearney – 1.3KM Radius from Main St. / Rain Lake Road intersection.
- Emsdale – 2.5KM Radius from Marshall Well Drilling (Pictured above)
- Service to Hwy 518/Emsdale Road commercial area & Hope's Foodland / Novar along HWY 592.

Almaguin Community Transportation Committee

MINUTES

March 27, 2025

The ACT Meeting was held at the Township of Armour Office and virtually on March 27th at 10:00 a.m.

Present:

Caitlin Haggart – Clerk Strong
Dan Robertson – Councillor Ryerson
Chris Hope – Mayor Burk's Falls
Jim Ronholm – Councillor Strong
Dave Gray – CAO Armour
Courtney Metcalf – EDO ACED
Tanvir Kabir – EDO South River

Group Discussion:

- Current Zones were discussed, including:
 - Central Almaguin – Sundridge/Strong,
 - Burk's Falls/Ryerson/Armour,
 - Hwy 518 Corridor – Kearney/Perry/ Sprucedale.
- Prior to applying for funding, the organization of the ACT Committee needs to be established.
- A lead municipality will need to be determined prior to applying for funding.
- Incorporation of a Transportation/Transit Committee was discussed.
- The current Terms of Reference does not include a procedural by-law which are needed to move forward. Questions raised during the discussion – Which municipality will take the lead? Will this committee need a dedicated employee?
- It was suggested that a request to member municipalities and Clerks be put forward to determine a lead municipality.
- Project Phases were discussed, including:
 - Phase 1- RFP for 'consulting company' to map out the logistics
 - Phase 2 – Put it out for tender for the services needed
- Armour Township was proposed as municipality to follow the procurement by-law and procedural by-laws until a lead municipality is determined.
- The Committee will remain open to all regional partners who may wish to participate as an observer. Armour is hosting the next Clerks and Treasurers meeting, and the Transportation Committee will be discussed at that next meeting so that all municipalities will be aware of the progress to date.
- Logistics of the Transportation Zones were discussed, including pickup and drop off windows, on-demand services, weekly schedules. The Burk's Falls bus offered 'hub-to-hub' services at designated locations, and 'point-to-point' home-based stops would cost more outside of the main communities. Multi-community services could also be potentially viable.

- A Phased in approach to the zones was discussed:
Phase 1- within a 5km radius of main village hubs
Phase 2: keep track of considerations for growth beyond the pilot project.
- It is important to track where people are coming from, what municipalities people are living in, how many people outside of the 5km radius are asking for the services, and how frequently services are being requested.

Next Steps:

- Determine a lead municipality
- Develop a full report of the progress to-date, with images/maps of zoning
- Issue an RFP for a consulting company to help design the pilot program
- Apply for funding to run the pilot program
- Issue a Tender to carry out the bus service for a 1-year pilot program contract
- Determine other non-bussing transportation solutions that can be explored by the ACT Committee

Resolutions:

1. 2025-1 – MOVED BY: Dan Robertson, SECONDED BY: Chris Hope
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Transportation Committee call the March 27th, 2025, meeting to order at 10:34. Carried
2. 2025-2 – MOVED BY: Chris Hope, SECONDED BY: Dan Robertson
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Transportation Committee hereby appoint the following members to the interim positions of:
Chair: Dave Gray
Vice Chair: Jim Ronholm
Secretary: Courtney Metcalf
Carried
3. 2025 -3 – MOVED BY: Jim Ronholm, SECONDED BY: Dan Robertson
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Transportation Committee adopt the procedural and procurement policies of the Township of Armour. Carried
4. 2025-4 – MOVED BY: Chris Hope, SECONDED BY: Dan Robertson
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Transportation Committee welcome and recognize representative from municipalities as observers. Carried
5. 2025-5 – MOVED BY: Chris Hope, SECONDED By: Jim Ronholm
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Transportation Committee adjourn the March 27th, 2025 meeting at 11:17a.m. Carried

Next Meeting: TBD