



CP SCOOP – December 11th, 2020

## MUNICIPAL UPDATES



**Ribbon Cutting on Municipal Childcare Centre Expansion** – A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held to acknowledge the completion of the expansion to the municipal Childcare Centre at 3 Francis Street in Carleton Place. Mayor Black brought greetings on behalf of the Town and acknowledged those who played a role in seeing the expansion come to fruition:

Hello, my name is Doug Black. I am the Mayor for the Town of Carleton Place. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone who had a hand in creating, supporting, developing, and building this beautiful new addition to our municipal childcare centre.

I am sure there are many municipalities wishing and hoping for Provincial funding and I know there is stiff competition for these rare resources in the Province of Ontario

So why did the Provincial Government choose Carleton Place to invest \$2.9 precious tax dollars via the Ministry of Education through what is called the Community-based Early Years and Child Care Capital Program (CBCP)? This program aim is to ensure that all children and families have access to a range of high-quality, inclusive, and affordable early years and childcare programs and services that are child and family centered and contribute to a child’s learning, development, and well-being.

Well, I would say having 379 children on our waiting list is a contributing factor to us qualifying for the expansion funding. Area parents want these services in Carleton Place because of our long-standing reputation as a centre of excellence.

Our childcare centre has always had a large waiting list not only because of the beautiful facility, but because of the dedication, professionalism and commitment to quality programs created by our staff. These programs help to support curriculum in early childhood settings. Our registered Early Childhood Educators are life-long learners. Our RECEs are resourceful. They integrate knowledge from theory, research, and their own experiences while understanding the individual children and families they work with.

Let me digress to back to 1980 when I was a councillor to publicly support Day Care in Carleton Place. I share this to illustrate that all previous councils have consistently recognized the importance of day care culminating in celebrating our opening here today.

I would like to thank Mary Lou White, former Children's Services Manager with Lanark County as well as the current Manager Tammy Donaldson for their guidance and support during the application process.

When our application to this program was approved there was no doubt it was in large part due to the efforts of our Manager of Childcare Services Tracey Freill. Tracey was instrumental in determining what the needs were from the perspective of the children and advocating for items that would enhance their daily experience.

Our CAO Diane Smithson played a critical role in ensuring the tendering process and the overall off-site management of the project went smoothly. Thank you Diane.

Argue Construction has gone above and beyond to help create both a functional and beautiful space. Their experience and professionalism kept the project moving forward even during the difficulties imposed upon them in the Spring due to COVID-19.

Thank you to Susan Smith and Hannah Sample Architects for their input into the creative design and their flexibility with accommodating requested changes.

Thank you to Lashley and Associate for the creative design of the playground space which will be enjoyed by our children for years to come.

With this ribbon cutting ceremony we celebrate the completion of our expansion that will offer 98 new physical spaces for children from ages 0 to 4 and new employment opportunities within the community. The need for affordable, quality, childcare spaces has never been more apparent than it has in the last couple of years with our centre typically running at 98% capacity pre COVID. With the addition of these spaces we will be aligning with the shared commitment of both the provincial and federal government to increase quality, accessibility, affordability, flexibility and inclusivity when it comes to community-based childcare.

Thank you to everyone for the role you played in making this dream a reality.

## **FEDERAL UPDATES**

**[Helping Ontarians Develop the Skills They Need to Find Good Jobs](#)** - Canada's Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough, and Monte McNaughton, Ontario's Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development, highlighted that the Government of Canada is investing an additional \$1.5 billion in the Workforce Development Agreements (WDAs) with provinces and territories. The Government of Ontario has received \$614 million to help respond to the increased number of Ontarians looking to re-enter the workforce, particularly those in hard-hit sectors and groups disadvantaged as a result of the pandemic. Supports include skills training, on-the-job training, employer-sponsored training, financial assistance and benefits, employment counselling and services, and job opportunities. This funding is in addition to the \$3.4 billion already being provided to provinces and territories under the Labour Market Development Agreements (LMDAs) and WDAs in 2020–21.

## **PROVINCIAL UPDATES**

**[Ontario Moving Regions to New Levels with Stronger Public Health Measures](#)** - **Action is being taken to stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect vulnerable people** - The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, local medical officers of health, and other health experts, is moving seven public health regions to new levels with stronger public health measures, including Windsor-Essex County

Health Unit and York Region Public Health moving into Grey-Lockdown. These steps are being taken to stop the spread of COVID-19 in order to keep schools open in the regions where in-class learning is permitted, safeguard health system capacity, and protect the province's most vulnerable populations. The regional levels and specific public health measures are set out in the [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework](#).

Based on the latest data, the following public health regions will move from their current level in the framework to the following levels effective Monday, December 14th, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.:

- Grey-Lockdown
  - Windsor-Essex County Health Unit; and
  - York Region Public Health.
  
- Red-Control
  - Middlesex-London Health Unit;
  - Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit; and
  - Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health.
  
- Orange-Restrict
  - Eastern Ontario Health Unit.
  
- Yellow-Protect
  - Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit.

All other public health regions will remain at their current level. Please visit [Ontario.ca/covidresponse](https://ontario.ca/covidresponse) for the full list of public health region classifications.

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**[Ontario Begins Rollout of COVID-19 Vaccine - Phase One to Vaccinate Frontline Health Care Workers Starting December 15th](#)** - The Ontario government has developed a three-phase implementation plan to receive, store and administer COVID-19 vaccines to Ontarians as soon as they are received. Phase One will begin on Tuesday, December 15th, 2020 with a pilot project in Toronto and Ottawa which will include the vaccination of over 2,500 health care workers with the Health Canada approved Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

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**[Ontario Helping More Job Seekers Enter the Skilled Trades - Province funding critical pre-apprenticeship training programs](#)** - The Ontario government is investing an additional \$21 million in pre-apprenticeship training programs for up to 2,000 people, including at-risk youth, new Canadians, Indigenous peoples and women, to help them pursue the hands-on experience they need to begin rewarding careers in the skilled trades. Eligible organizations can apply for the funding now, with the call for proposals ending on January 5th, 2021.

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**[Ontario Invests in Virtual Learning Strategy - Province strengthens its position as a global leader in postsecondary education](#)** - The Ontario government is investing \$50 million in virtual learning and educational technologies to help expand access to high-quality, market-responsive, and globally competitive "Ontario Made" education. The move will strengthen the province's position as a global leader in the postsecondary sector.

## **OTHER UPDATES**

**Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Region Moved to Yellow - Protect Level** - Today the government of Ontario announced that the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark region will move from the Green–Prevent level to the Yellow – Protect level of the [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open COVID-19 Framework](#). The sharp rise in COVID-19 cases in LGL over the past two (2) weeks means that the region meets the criteria for the Yellow – Protect level, with a weekly incidence rate between 10 and 24.9 cases per 100,000.

The move to the Yellow – Protect level means that strengthened public health measures will come into effect in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark on Monday, December 14th, at 12:01 a.m. The additional measures include limited hours of operations for certain settings, limits on the hours for sale food and beverage establishments, limits on the number of individuals permitted in certain settings, and formalized [Workplace Safety Plans](#) for many businesses and organizations. Full details of the limitations and restrictions for the Yellow – Protect Level can be found on the Health Unit’s website: <https://healthunit.org/health-information/covid-19/business-re-opening/framework/>.

Businesses in the affected sectors will be contacted directly; restaurants, fitness facilities and retail outlets are encouraged to check their email for important information from the Health Unit and contact [protection@healthunit.org](mailto:protection@healthunit.org) if they have questions.

“The move from Green-Prevent to the Yellow – Protect level in our region over the past two weeks highlights how quickly COVID-19 can spread when precautions aren’t in place,” comments Dr. Paula Stewart, Medical Officer of Health for the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit. “Our staff are working diligently to follow-up and isolate all people with COVID-19 and their high-risk contacts to prevent transmission in our community. We are relying on the residents, businesses, services and workplaces in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark to follow precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19 in their settings. It is in our hands to protect our communities and prevent further restrictions at levels beyond yellow.”

Staying home and apart as much as we can is the most important thing we can do. Being safe and protecting yourself means you are protecting your family, friends and co-workers.

- S - [Self-isolate](#) if you have [symptoms of COVID-19](#). Consider [getting tested](#)
- M - [Mask/face covering](#) on properly when in enclosed public spaces and when physical distancing is a challenge outdoors.
- A - Avoid touching your face.
- R - Remain 2 metres/6 feet apart from people not part of your household – avoid play dates, and other close social contact. Social circles beyond the household are no long encouraged.
- T - Twenty (20) seconds for regular [hand hygiene](#). Cover your coughs and sneezes.

The [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open COVID-19 Framework](#) categorizes public health unit regions into five levels: Green-Prevent, Yellow-Protect, Orange-Restrict, Red-Control, and Lockdown being a measure of last and urgent resort.

For more information about COVID-19, visit: <https://healthunit.org/health-information/covid-19/business-re-opening/framework/> or call 1-800-660-5853.

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**Help Lanark County Paramedics Fill an Ambulance with Food** - Every day, paramedics with the Lanark County Paramedic Service (LCPS) care for our community. This Holiday Season, they will do so in a different way. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there has been an increase in demand for the food bank. On December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> throughout Lanark County, paramedics will hold their annual “Fill an Ambulance with Food” drive in Almonte, Carleton Place, Smiths Falls, and Perth.

Last year 110 boxes of food were collected, totaling close to 6,000 pounds. In addition, just over \$8,000 was raised for local food banks.

If you would like to donate to the “Fill an Ambulance with Food” food drive, paramedics will be collecting non-perishable food items as follows:

- December 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 3 pm – Your Independent Grocer in Perth and Smiths Falls
- December 13<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 3 pm – Your Independent Grocer in Carleton Place and Almonte

The LCPS provides emergency response service for an area encompassing almost 3,000 square kilometres with a population of 70,000. It responds to approximately 25,000 calls for service each year.