



## Council Meeting Highlights - Thursday, January 9, 2025

Bruce County Council met on January 9, 2025 beginning at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers and virtually through Teams. Video recordings of the meeting can be reviewed at [www.brucecounty.on.ca/government/agendas-and-minutes](http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/government/agendas-and-minutes)



January 09, 2025

### **Bruce County Council Meeting**

Council received a delegation from Brittany Morrison and Mario De Agüero with a Tara Battery Energy Storage System Project Update. [Presentation](#)

Council received from Corporate Services the Q3 and Q4 2024 Summary of Awarded Tenders. [Report](#)

Council received from Corporate Services the Q3 and Q4 2024 Summary of Purchasing Policy Suspension Approvals. [Report](#)

Council received from Long Term Care & Senior Services the Age Friendly Committee Update. [Report](#)

Council received from the Office of the CAO the Appointment to Grey Bruce Board of Health. [Report](#)

Council received from Transportation & Environmental Services the Rural Recharge EV Charging Update - MTO Funding. [Report](#)

Council approved that a by-law be passed to adopt the Fees and Charges for 2025. [Report](#)

Council approved the 2025 Budget with a 4.92% tax levy increase and directed staff to bring forward the 2025 Budget by-law to the January 23, 2025, Council meeting. [Report](#)

Council approved By-law 2025-001, a by-law to authorize temporary borrowing of money to meet the current expenditures for the year 2025. [By-law](#)

Council approved By-law 2025-002, a by-law to establish fees and charges for Bruce County. [By-law](#)

Council directed staff to provide a response related to communication from South Bruce Peninsula on the Proposed Bruce County Official Plan process. [Communication](#)

Council received from the Municipality of Brockton on Support Resolution regarding Candu Reactors. [Communication](#)

Council received communication from Huron County on Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Funding Shortfall. [Communication](#)

Council supported a resolution from the Municipality of Kincardine on Property Tax Assessment Review of Nuclear Generation Facilities. [Communication](#)

Council appointed Deputy Warden Murray, Councillor Craig, and Councillor Kirkland to the Grey Bruce Board of Health.

This publication identifies highlights from recent Bruce County Council and Committee meetings. Bruce County's Office of the CAO maintains complete agendas and minutes from all Council and Committee meetings, which can be reviewed at [www.brucecounty.on.ca/government/agendas-and-minutes](http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/government/agendas-and-minutes)

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## Age-Friendly Committee in Bruce County: Reflecting on Progress and Preparing for 2025

Bruce County Long Term Care & Senior Services highlights the dedicated group of local leaders, community members, and stakeholders that has formed the Bruce County Age-Friendly Committee to guide initiatives that support older adults in the region.



January 09, 2025

Bruce County Long Term Care & Senior Services highlights the dedicated group of local leaders, community members, and stakeholders that has formed the Bruce County Age-Friendly Committee to guide initiatives that support older adults in the region.

“An Age-Friendly community is one that addresses both the opportunities and challenges of an aging population by creating a physical and social environment that promotes independent, active living, and enables older individuals to continue contributing to all aspects of community life,” said Megan Garland, Director of Long Term Care and Senior Services, at the June 9, 2025 Bruce County Council Meeting.

The Age-Friendly Committee formed in June 2024 and is composed of representatives from the public sector, lower-tier

municipalities, and various organizations that support or serve seniors. The committee has focused on establishing a strong foundation for its work, including developing guiding principles and creating a community profile to frame its efforts. The committee's vision is to have Bruce County recognized as an Age-Friendly Community by the World Health Organization (WHO). To date, the committee has successfully completed its 2024 work plan, which included drafting terms of reference, defining guiding principles, and finalizing the community profile.

The Age-Friendly Committee has also partnered with Brock University students to begin drafting a comprehensive needs assessment for Bruce County. This research will help inform the development of policies and strategies that address the specific needs of older adults across the region. Looking ahead to 2025, the Age-Friendly Committee is committed to expanding community engagement to gather input from seniors to ensure their voices continue to shape future initiatives.

Explore the new [Senior Services page](#) on the Bruce County website, featuring a growing list of resources and programs that support active living for seniors.

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*Home > Paisley Branch 295, Royal Canadian Legion Donates to New Paisley Branch*

# Paisley Branch 295, Royal Canadian Legion Donates to New Paisley Branch

Bruce County Public Library is thankful to receive a generous donation of \$2,000 from the Paisley Branch 295, Royal Canadian Legion. This contribution will enrich the Paisley Branch's offerings through the purchase of program supplies, children's activities, and local Indigenous artwork.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Royal Canadian Legion for their generosity. This donation will help us enhance our programs and services, but also allows us to celebrate Indigenous culture with the community," said Library Director Brooke McLean.

The Paisley Branch underwent a location move in June 2024 and is the newest accessible Library Branch. Now located in the Paisley Community Centre, it ensures all community members can enjoy its services and programming. This donation will be key in strengthening community connections and creating a welcoming environment for all community members.

Bruce County Public Library is committed to its role as a trusted community connector, digital community facilitator and community sharing place. Consisting of 17 Branches and a Bookmobile BCPL provides access to information, resources, and programs throughout Bruce County. Visit the [BCPL website](#) to learn about donation options.





Show Me How



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# So what is there to discover?

Bruce County Public Library is a vibrant hub and pillar of the community. From eBooks to fishing rods, video games to educational workshops, Bruce County Public Library offers something for everyone.

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Search Site



## No Injuries Reported at 659 Arlington Street Fire in Port Elgin

At approximately 5:30 AM on Sunday, January 12, 2025, a fire was reported at 659 Arlington Street, Port Elgin. This is a residential apartment building in Port Elgin, operated by Bruce County Housing Corporation.



**BRUCE**  
county

January 13, 2025

At approximately 5:30 AM on Sunday, January 12, 2025, a fire was reported at 659 Arlington Street, Port Elgin. This is a residential apartment building in Port Elgin, operated by Bruce County Housing Corporation.

On arrival, local Saugeen Shores firefighters identified a single-unit fire on the second floor of the building. A full building evacuation took place. Crews were on scene until approximately 7:15 AM, at which time tenants were able to return to their homes.

There have been no reported injuries. Victim Services is assisting tenants impacted.

Bruce County wishes to thank Saugeen Shores Police Service, the Saugeen Shores volunteer fire department, and Victim Services for their support on the scene.

Staff of the Housing Facilities and Housing Services teams of the Human Services Department will work on building remediation and serving tenants' immediate needs.

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The logo features the word "PLAN" in green, "the" in a smaller font, and "BRUCE..." in black. Above "PLAN" are three vertical bars of varying heights, and above "BRUCE..." are three small circles.

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## Exciting Student Job Opportunities with Bruce County!

Bruce County is excited to announce that a number of student job opportunities have been posted to the Bruce County Career Connector.



# BRUCE

county

January 15, 2025

Bruce County is excited to announce that a number of student job opportunities have been posted to the [Bruce County Career Connector](#). For the 2025 season, Bruce County seeks to hire students that are driven, dedicated, and thrive in a dynamic public service environment. Student job opportunities in Bruce County provide meaningful experiences working on projects and initiatives that positively impact local communities and residents.

The County will be accepting applications until Friday, January 31, 2025 for these full-time opportunities. Interested students are encouraged to explore the student job inventory available on the [Bruce County Career Connector](#).

Apply online at [www.brucecounty.on.ca/jobs](http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/jobs).

Apply via email: Send your resume to [employment@brucecounty.on.ca](mailto:employment@brucecounty.on.ca)

**Student Job Opportunities:**

## Museum & Cultural Centre

March Break Student (March 10 to March 14 - Southampton)

Marketing & Outreach Assistant Student (Full-time – June 2025 to August 2025 - Southampton)

Programming Assistant Student (Full-time – June 2025 to August 2025 - Southampton)

Summer Explorers Camp Leader Student (Full-time – May 2025 to August 2025 - Southampton)

## Long Term Care

Recreation & Leisure Student (Full-time – May 2025 to August 2025 - Brucelea Haven, Walkerton)

Landscaping & Maintenance Student (Full-time – May 2025 to August 2025 - Brucelea Haven, Walkerton)

Landscaping & Maintenance Student (Full-time – May 2025 to August 2025 - Gateway Haven, Wiarton)

## Community Development Office

Tourism & Economic Development Student (Full-time – May 2025 to August 2025 - Walkerton, Port Elgin, or Wiarton)

## Planning & Development

Planning Student (Full-time – May 2025 to August 2025 - Port Elgin, Wiarton, or Walkerton)

## Transportation & Environmental Services

Operations Student (Full-time – May 2025 to August 2025 - Walkerton, Wiarton, Paisley, or Lucknow)

Environmental Services Student (Full-time – May 2025 to August 2025 - Walkerton)

GIS Student (Full-time – May 2025 to August 2025 - Walkerton)

Engineering Student (Full-time – May 2025 to August 2025 - Walkerton)

View all student job opportunities and job descriptions on the [Bruce County Career Connector](#).

Additional Information about [Living and Working in Bruce County](#).

Your adventure with Bruce County starts here!

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## Bruce County Advocating For Local Needs at ROMA Conference

Bruce County is sending a delegation of local politicians and staff to advocate for local needs at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference starting on Sunday, January 19, 2025.



January 16, 2025

Bruce County is sending a delegation of local politicians and staff to advocate for local needs at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference starting on Sunday, January 19, 2025. Bruce County Warden Luke Charbonneau and Deputy Warden Don Murray will make delegations to the following provincial leaders:

Solicitor General Michael Kerzner, and Attorney General Doug Downey on the cost of court security, and an equitable distribution of costs between municipalities.

“ROMA’s annual conference is an important venue to continue dialogue with the province on municipal issues.” said Warden Charbonneau. “I am looking forward to advocating for the needs of Bruce County.”

In addition, made in Bruce County solutions are being profiled in four panel discussions:

Negotiating Approvals for Energy Procurement featuring Commissioner Claire Dodds;

Growing the Long-Term Care Workforce featuring Director of Long-Term Care & Senior Services Megan Garland in her role as Chair of the Advantage Board;

Leadership to Protect Employees from Unreasonable Behaviour featuring BCPL Director Brooke McLean in her role as AUPLO Chair; and

Recent Changes in Land-Use Planning: A Rural Perspective featuring Director of Planning Jack Van Dorp

### About Bruce County

Situated within the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, Bruce County is home to nearly 75,000 residents in predominantly rural communities. Nestled between Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, we are celebrated for our natural heritage and as a destination for Ontarians.

**Agricultural Impact:** Agriculture is central to Bruce County's economy and identity, with nearly 2,000 farms generating over \$255 million annually in gross sales. Notably, Bruce County produces 22% of Ontario's beef.

**Energy Leadership:** Bruce County supplies 30% of Ontario's electricity and is vital to the electrification of Canadian society. Key initiatives include Bruce Power's Major Component Replacement, pre-development work for 4,800 megawatts of new nuclear generation, a pumped storage facility, and a large-scale battery storage facility.

**Global Healthcare:** Our region provides a significant share of the world's medical isotopes, essential for sterilizing equipment and treating cancer.

**Future Growth:** Bruce County is projected to grow by over 20,000 residents by 2045.

Since 2021, inflation has consistently exceeded historical norms, placing unprecedented strain on municipal finances across Ontario. Municipal funding models remain unresponsive to inflationary pressures, exacerbating the challenge. According to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, municipalities receive only 8 cents of every tax dollar, while shouldering responsibility for much of the infrastructure and services essential to daily life.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario has called for a renewed municipal funding model through a Social and Economic Prosperity Review. Their initial findings reveal that municipalities are using property taxes to maintain services in areas of provincial responsibility. Bruce County has contributed over \$126 million through the tax levy to areas identified by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) as provincial responsibilities. These areas include long-term care, paramedics, public health, Ontario Works, and housing.

In addition to this financial burden, Bruce County faces several other challenges that put significant pressure on its resources and residents:

**Housing Affordability:** 45% of renters in Bruce County spend more than 30% of their income on housing. Dwelling values have increased by 76% between 2016 and 2021, a rate 17% higher than the provincial average, making housing affordability a growing challenge.

**Labour Market:** The Stratford-Bruce Economic Region reported an unemployment rate of 3.6% in December 2024, continuing a decade-long trend of having one of the lowest unemployment rates in Canada. Bruce County's living wage is \$22.75 per hour - one of the highest in Ontario, second only to the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). These factors make it increasingly difficult for local employers to attract and retain skilled workers.

**Funding Disparities:** Bruce County receives the lowest provincial and federal funding compared to six similar upper-tier county governments. This shortfall limits the County's ability to effectively address critical needs in housing, transit, infrastructure, social assistance, childcare, long-term care, energy, health care, and other essential municipal services.

These unique facts about Bruce County underscore the importance of having a voice at the ROMA conference and ensuring our provincial partners understand our unique needs. Please reach out to Aaron Stauch (Director, Government Relations) at [astauch@brucecounty.on.ca](mailto:astauch@brucecounty.on.ca) if you want to arrange an interview with the Warden during the ROMA conference.

**About ROMA:** ROMA takes pride in promoting, supporting, and enhancing strong and effective rural governments. About 270 of Ontario's 444 municipalities have populations of less than 10,000, while scores more are rural in character. The rural arm of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, ROMA advocates for policies and programs that will help build thriving rural Ontario communities.

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**SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENT:** Bruce County has declared a significant weather event has started due to forecasted or observed weather conditions. For more information [click here](#)



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January 23, 2025

### **Bruce County Council Meeting**

Council received from the Community Development Office an Energy Transition Initiative Update. [Report](#)

Council received from Government Relations an Employment Services 2024 Mid-Year Update. [Report](#)

Council received from Human Services on 2025 Call for Proposals for the Strategic Community Initiatives Fund. [Report](#)

Council received from the Museum with a Q4 2024 Archives Report. [Report](#)

Council received from the Museum with a January 2025 Information Report. [Report](#)

Council received from Transportation & Environmental Services an Update on Road Level Service Request from the Town of South Bruce Peninsula and Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation. Council directed staff to further work with

these municipal partners on this initiative. [Report](#)

Council approved that the 2025 Pre-Budget Consultation Submission be endorsed for submission to the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. [Report](#)

Council approved that part of Campbell Street/Bruce Road 86 in Lucknow, being Part 1 on the draft plan of survey be declared surplus. Council directed the Clerk to provide notice of Council's intent to transfer the land to the Township of Huron-Kinloss in accordance with the Sale of Real Property policy. Council approved that by-laws be introduced after notice has been given to authorize the stopping up, permanent closing, and conveyance of part of Campbell Street/Bruce Road 86 in Lucknow, being Part 1 on the draft survey, to authorize the transfer of land to the Township of Huron-Kinloss. [Report](#)

Council approved, in advance of the 2026 capital budget approval, to commit to the purchase of one (1) tandem axle cab and chassis snowplow with a proposed budget of \$441,000. [Report](#)

Council approved By-law 2025-004, a by-law to adopt the 2025 budget for Bruce County. [By-law](#)

Council received communication from Clean Energy Frontier on Nomination for the Clean Energy Leadership Awards. [Communication](#)

Council received communication on the AMO 2025 Pre-Budget Submission. [Communication](#)

Council received communication from United Housing for All on the Smart Commute App. [Communication](#)

## Long Term Care Homes Committee of Management

The Committee received the October, November and December 2024 Long-Term Care Update Report. [Report](#)

The Committee received the Q4 2024 Long Term Care Quality Report. [Report](#)

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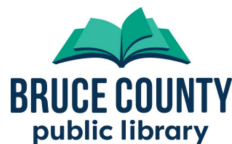
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The Bookmobile will not be making its regular stops today, Thursday, January 23, due to the weather. Thank you for your understanding.



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# Bruce County Public Library Hosts Unique Black History Month Event

January 27, 2025

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Celebrate Black History Month with a story highlighting cultural resilience and the fight for recognition. Bruce County Public Library's Port Elgin Branch brings the award-winning short documentary *Patty vs. Patty* to the community. This documentary, which won the 2023 Canadian Screen Award for Best Short Documentary, explores the bizarre story of the 1985 Toronto 'Patty Wars,' when Canadian federal food inspectors deemed that Jamaican beef patties were illegally named and threatened vendors with fines up to \$5,000 (now over \$11,100). Vendors resisted, refusing to rename the beloved Jamaican snack, creating a unique and inspiring chapter in Canada's history.

The event will take place on Sunday, February 2, at 2pm, at the Port Elgin Branch and will begin with opening remarks from Executive in Charge of Production for CBC Docs Lesley Birchard. Following the screening, the film's director, Chris Strikes, will join us virtually for a live Q&A session. To add even more flavour, attendees will enjoy a patty tasting session, courtesy of Coral's Caribbean from Warton.

"This event is a wonderful way to bring history to life for our community, and a chance to reflect on a cultural story while savouring a piece of that history with delicious patties," said Library Director, Brooke McLean.

This is a free event for residents and promises to be an enriching and flavourful celebration of Black History Month. Visit the [Bruce County Public Library website](#) to stay up to date on programs and special events.

Bruce County Public Library is committed to its role as a trusted community connector, digital community facilitator and community sharing place. Consisting of 17 Branches and a Bookmobile BCPL provides access to information, resources, and programs throughout Bruce County.

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**SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENT:** Bruce County has declared a significant weather event has started due to forecasted or observed weather conditions. For more information [click here](#)

**DRIVERS SHOULD BE AWARE:** Wiarton Patrol has ceased operations



## Bruce County calls for a joint Social and Economic Prosperity Review

Bruce County has called on the provincial government, through a Pre-Budget Consultation Submission, to take strategic action on issues like rural infrastructure funding, energy host community support, poverty reduction, rural transit, community safety, rural healthcare, housing affordability, and long-term care.



January 27, 2025

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The current municipal funding model in Ontario is failing to meet the needs of communities, particularly rural and growth-intensive regions like Bruce County. Municipalities, responsible for nearly half a trillion dollars in critical infrastructure, are forced to rely predominantly on property taxes and user fees - revenue sources that neither grow with the economy nor keep

**SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENT:** Bruce County has declared a significant weather event has started due to forecasted or observed weather conditions. For more information [click here](#)

**DRIVERS SHOULD BE AWARE:** Wiarton patrol has resumed operations



## Bruce County Launches Innovative Side Gig Program to Support Entrepreneurs

Business to Bruce in partnership with the Province of Ontario is excited to announce the launch of the Side Gig Program that gives aspiring entrepreneurs in Bruce County the opportunity to turn their passions and skills into profitable side businesses.



January 28, 2025

[Business to Bruce](#) in partnership with the Province of Ontario is excited to announce the launch of the [Side Gig Program](#) that gives aspiring entrepreneurs in Bruce County the opportunity to turn their passions and skills into profitable side businesses. The Side Gig Program is designed to provide training, resources, and support to individuals looking to grow or start a part time business.

The Side Gig Program leverages the expertise of [Fanshawe College](#) to deliver high-quality training that combines practical skills with entrepreneurial insights. The expert-led training covers topics on building a brand, developing a customer base and managing the administrative side of being an entrepreneur. Participants will also gain access to one-on-one coaching and

additional support provided by [Business to Bruce](#).

“We are pleased to launch this new program that empowers individuals to transform their ideas into viable businesses,” says Jeffrey Loney, Manager of Economic Development at Bruce County. “Whether it is launching an online store, starting a service-based business, or monetizing a creative skill, the Side Gig Program will help provide the tools and guidance to make it happen.”

Tailored to meet the needs of modern entrepreneurs balancing work commitments with their business dreams, the program emphasizes community building. It connects participants with like-minded individuals and local resources to foster collaboration and long-term growth.

Applications close on February 17th, and with only 30 spots available, be sure to apply early and seize this exciting opportunity to turn your ideas into income. Apply today at [businessstobruce.com/sidegigprogram](https://businessstobruce.com/sidegigprogram).

**About Bruce County:** *Bruce County is an upper-tier municipality in Southwestern Ontario, Canada, made up of 8 lower-tier municipalities and 77,221 residents. The explorers who visit, live, and work here are the dreamers who take roads less travelled and see tried and true as an invitation to try something new. Be an Explorer and call Bruce County home.*

## CONTACT US

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pace with inflation. Meanwhile, municipalities across Ontario continue to subsidize provincial responsibilities by almost \$5 billion annually, straining their ability to fund local priorities. Since 2020, Bruce County has contributed over \$126 million through the tax levy to areas identified by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) as provincial responsibilities. These areas include long-term care, paramedics, public health, Ontario Works, and housing. The challenges are exacerbated by unprecedented growth pressures, climate-related infrastructure demands, and a housing affordability crisis that disproportionately impacts communities like Bruce County.

To address these systemic issues, Bruce County supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's (AMO) call for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review. This joint provincial-municipal review would update the provincial-municipal fiscal relationship, ensuring sustainability for both levels of government, fairness for taxpayers, and equity for communities. Bruce County urges the provincial government to prioritize this initiative in the 2025 budget and work collaboratively to build a funding framework that supports Ontario's municipalities as they address today's challenges while planning for the future.

"Bruce County is proud to be a critical partner in feeding and powering Ontario - supporting the province's energy, housing, and economic development priorities," says Warden Luke Charbonneau. "Bruce County remains committed to working collaboratively with the provincial government to make life better for our residents and businesses."

Bruce County has worked with provincial counterparts over the past year to identify areas that would support our success in continuing to power the province:

**Access to Infrastructure Funds:**

Earmark infrastructure funding specifically for rural municipalities like Bruce County to ensure they can support growth, address infrastructure gaps, and continue delivering critical services for the province.

**Funding for Energy Host Communities:**

Expand funding to municipalities hosting energy project expansions and develop a principle-based framework to ensure host communities are supported in their engagement with impact assessments and licensing processes.

**Poverty Reduction:**

Fix social assistance rates and reform the Ontario Works system to enable recipients to achieve financial independence and meet local workforce needs. Ontario Works rates have not increased in six years despite inflation, leaving individuals in poverty and increasing strain on municipalities delivering Ontario Works. Rates and the system are insufficient to prepare clients for financial independence and workforce participation.

**Rural Transit:**

Make the Community Transit Grant permanent and expand funding eligibility to municipalities like Bruce County to establish and sustain rural transit systems beyond reliance on property tax revenues.

**Community Safety & Wellbeing:**

Provide sustained provincial funding for Community Safety and Well-being initiatives to ensure their continued success and cost savings. The province mandated municipalities to create Community Safety and Wellbeing Plans but provided no ongoing funding to sustain their implementation.

**Rural Health Care:**

Pilot a mandatory municipal role in OHT governance in Bruce County to address the unique healthcare needs of rural communities.

**Housing Affordability:**

Amend O. Reg 221/07 to allow Bruce County to create an upper-tier CIP to streamline housing solutions, reduce administrative burdens, and accelerate affordable housing development.

**Long-Term Care:**

Work with Bruce County to develop sustainable funding models for municipal long-term care that recognize inflationary pressures, resident acuity, and the unique contributions of municipal LTC homes.

In January 2025, Bruce County has shared a detailed Pre-Budget Consultation Submission with the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, Lisa Thompson, MPP, Rick Byers, MPP, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

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