

**Regional Municipality of Waterloo  
Council  
Addendum Agenda**



Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024  
Regular Session: 5:00 p.m.  
Location: Council Chambers

Should you require an alternative format please contact the Regional Clerk at Tel.: 519-575-4400,  
TTY: 519-575-4605, or [regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca)

**Pages**

**Council will consider a motion to go into Closed Session at the start of the meeting. The Open Session will resume following Closed at approximately 7:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order
2. Land Acknowledgement
- \*3. Motion to go into Closed Session

**Recommended Motion:**

That a closed meeting of the Council be held on March 20, 2024 at 5:05 p.m., in accordance with Section 239 of the “Municipal Act, 2001”, for the purposes of considering the following subject matters:

1. Potential litigation related to identified risks.
2. Security of the technological property of the municipality.
3. \* Personal matters about an identifiable individual.

4. Motion to Reconvene into Open Session

**Recommended Motion:**

That Council reconvene into Open Session.

5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest under the “Municipal Conflict of Interest Act”
6. Presentations
7. Petitions
8. Delegations

**\*8.1 Temesgen Weldemihret, Tesfamichael Ymesghen, and Haben Tesfay, Erican Foundation**

Re: Eritrean Regime supporters

**\*8.2 Muhammad Aftab Nazir, Kitchener**

Re: Hardships and problems being faced by international students in the Region of Waterloo

- \*8.3 Sean Campbell, Union Co-operative**  
Re: The preservation of existing affordable housing
- \*8.4 Aaron Stauch, Kitchener**  
Re: The creation of a Property Tax Exemption Program for Affordable Housing
- \*8.5 Kae Elgie, Waterloo**  
Re: in support of item 12.2.2 (5) "That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo take the following action with respect to the creation of a Property Tax Exemption Program for Affordable Housing as set out in report CSD-HOU-24-004 dated March 5, 2024."

**9. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**Recommended Motion:**

That the following minutes be approved.

- 9.1 Closed Council - February 21, 2024**
- 9.2 Council - February 21, 2024**
- 9.3 Planning and Works Committee - March 5, 2024**
- 9.4 Administration and Finance Committee - March 5, 2024**
- 9.5 Closed Committee - March 5, 2024**
- 9.6 Community and Health Services Committee - March 5, 2024**

**10. Communications**

- 10.1 Council Information Package - March 13, 2024 (Distributed to Councillors Electronically)**
- 10.2 Correspondence - City Cabs Kitchener**
- \*10.3 Correspondence - Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada**

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**11. Motion to Go Into Committee of the Whole to Consider Reports**

**Recommended Motion:**

That Council go into Committee of the Whole to consider reports.

**12. Reports**

**12.1 Finance Reports**

- 12.1.1 COR-TRY-24-008, Regional Council and Council Appointee Remuneration and Expenses for the Year Ended December 31, 2023**  
For information.

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**12.2 Committee Reports**

- 12.2.1 Planning and Works Committee Summary - March 5, 2024**

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**Recommended Motion:**

That the following recommendations from the Planning and Works Committee be approved:

1. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo endorse the following items as outlined in report EES-WAS-24-003 dated March 5, 2024:
  - a. the 2023 Drinking Water Summary Report;
  - b. the 2023 Management Review of the Drinking Water Quality Management System (DWQMS) (included in Drinking Water Summary Report); and
  - c. the 2023 infrastructure maintenance plan update (included in Drinking Water Summary Report).
2. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo create a new full time equivalent position for a Regulatory and Program Assistant in the Water Operations team within the Water and Wastewater Services Division as outlined in report EES-WAS-24-004, dated March 5, 2024.

12.2.2 Community and Health Services Committee Summary - March 5, 2024

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**Recommended Motion:**

That the following recommendations from the Community and Health Services Committee be approved:

1. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve an increase of \$1,542,836 to the 2024 Homelessness and Supportive Housing Operating Budget expenditure and federal subsidy with no net property tax levy impact as outlined in report COR-CFN-24-001 dated March 5, 2024.
2. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo take the following action for preserving existing affordable housing in the private market and facilitating the transition of private market rentals into long-term affordable housing through acquisition as outlined in CSD-HOU-24-003, dated March 5, 2024:
  - a. Direct staff to explore the creation of a Multi-Unit Rental Acquisition Program to preserve existing affordable housing in the private market and facilitate the transition of private market rentals into long-term affordable housing; and
    - i. For staff to bring forward any recommendations to the Regional Council for

- consideration;
- b. Direct staff to work with the area municipalities to explore the creation of right of first refusal policy and identification of affordable housing at risk of loss; and
  - c. Direct staff to work with area municipalities to assemble a Waterloo Region Housing Needs Assessment to inform a targeted affordable housing acquisition strategy.
3. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo take the following action with respect to rental housing protections and tenant displacement as outlined in CSD-HOU-24-003, dated March 5, 2024:
- a. Direct staff to work with the area municipalities to explore the creation of renovation, conversion, and demolition rental housing protection policies;
  - b. Direct staff to engage with service providers who support tenants at risk of or are currently experiencing displacement to:
    - i. Identify gaps in support of displaced tenants and for tenants at risk of experiencing eviction caused by renovation, demolition, or conversion;
    - ii. Develop potential solutions to fill gaps; and
    - iii. Bring forward gaps and potential solutions to the Regional Council for consideration.
4. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo take the following action with respect to advocating for the preservation of existing affordable housing as outlined in CSD-HOU-24-003, dated March 5, 2024:
- a. Request that the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario establish acquisition programs that would support the acquisitions and renovations/conversions for all types of private market residential properties and other properties, to create new permanent affordable and supportive homes.
5. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo take the following action with respect to the creation of a

Property Tax Exemption Program for Affordable Housing as set out in report CSD-HOU-24-004 dated March 5, 2024:

- a. Repeal By-law Number 02-035, attached as Appendix “A”, and replace with By-Law Number 24-\*\*\*, attached as Appendix “B” for the purposes of updating the by-law to allow Council to exempt regional and education property taxes for municipal housing facilities and also for general house-keeping amendments, which has been prepared in a form satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor;
- b. Approve the Property Tax Exemption for Affordable Housing Program (“Program”) and guidelines for applications made to the Region for properties eligible for the Program attached as Appendix “C”;
- c. Authorize the Commissioner of Community Services to negotiate and execute on behalf of the Region, agreements with housing providers for the Program, to the satisfaction of the Regional Solicitor;
- d. Direct staff to:
  - a. Develop an application process with intake occurring in Q2 of 2024 for the 2025 taxation year;
  - b. Review the uptake and application of the Program to determine property tax impacts due to class shifts, communicating these in advance of 2025 budget process;
- e. Direct staff to work with interested area municipalities within Waterloo Region to exempt the lower tier portion of property taxes for eligible properties under the Program; and
- f. Advocate to the Government of Ontario to amend eligibility for the Ontario Trillium Benefit to allow Ontario residents living in housing deemed affordable by the municipality where the resident resides, to access property tax credits through the Ontario Trillium Benefit, irrespective of property tax exemption.

## 12.3 Board of Health

- 12.3.1 Board of Health Update  
For information.

## 13. Other Matters Under Committee Of The Whole

- \*13.1 EES-WAS-24-001, Proposed Bill 162 (Get it Done Act) and Drinking Water Supply Implications for Waterloo Region  
For information.

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## 14. Motion for Committee of the Whole to Rise and Council Resume

### Recommended Motion:

That Committee of the Whole rise and Council resume.

## 15. Motion To Adopt Proceedings of Committee of the Whole

### Recommended Motion:

That Council adopt the proceedings of Committee of the Whole.

## 16. Motions

## 17. Notice of Motion

### 17.1 Councillor D. Craig Notice of Motion

#### Recommended Motion:

Whereas, there has been a reported 720 overdose deaths in the Region of Waterloo since 2018,

And whereas, a Region of Waterloo Feasibility Study (February 2018) found that there were an estimated 4000 users in the Region with approximately 2000 users injecting drugs daily,

And whereas, 79% of people surveyed reported injecting drugs alone, increasing the risk of fatal overdoses,

And whereas, inhalation is preferred among people without stable housing in Waterloo Region and is suspected in approximately half the deaths in Ontario,

And whereas, a major conclusion of the Feasibility Report was that the stated figures were an underestimation,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Regional Municipality of Waterloo direct Public Health staff to provide a report, by the end of 2024 Q2, to increase awareness and understanding of the scope of the drug overdose and addictions issues in the Region of Waterloo

And that this report include:

- a. data on the current situation (e.g. how many are using, what are they using, where are they using);
- b. an overview of Public Health and Community Services activities

in response; and

- c. an overview of the current federal, provincial and local initiatives to address problematic substance abuse.

**18. Unfinished Business**

**19. Other Business**

**20. Questions**

**21. Enactment of By-laws – First, Second & Third Readings**

**Recommended Motion:**

That the following by-laws be approved.

**21.1 By-Law 24-006**

**Recommended Motion:**

That a By-law to Repeal By-Law 19-032, being a By-Law to appoint a Deputy Treasurer and to Repeal By-Law Number 15-005 (Cathy Deschamps) be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 24-006, be signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.

**21.2 By-Law 24-007**

**Recommended Motion:**

That a By-law to Amend By-law 16-044, as amended, being a By-law to Licence, Regulate and Govern Brokers, Owners and Drivers of Taxi-Cabs within the Regional Municipality of Waterloo and to Repeal By-laws 04-069, 04-070 and 04-071, as amended (Maximum initial meter fare) be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 24-007, be signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.

**21.3 By-Law 24-008**

**Recommended Motion:**

That a By-law to Provide for Municipal Housing Facilities and to Repeal By-Law 02-035 of The Regional Municipality of Waterloo, as amended, be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 24-008, be signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.

**\*21.4 By-Law 24-009**

**Recommended Motion:**

That a By-law to Amend By-law 16-023, as amended, being a By-law to Regulate Traffic and Parking on Highways Under the Jurisdiction of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo (Lane Designation and Rates of Speed, Bleams and Fischer-Hallman Road, City of Kitchener), be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 24-009, be signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.

**\*21.5 By-Law 24-010**

**Recommended Motion:**

That a By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo at this Meeting Held on March 20, 2024 be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 24-010, be signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.

**22. Adjourn**

**Recommended Motion:**

That the meeting adjourn at x:xx p.m.



## **Eritrean- Canadians Human Rights Group of Waterloo Region**

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Date: 14-03-2024

### **Re: End the Eritrean regime supporters event in our region organized by front organization ‘Eritrean Canadian Community Toronto,**

We are writing to you as residents of Waterloo Region and collective of concerned Eritrean-Canadian human rights Group for the safety of our community and Canadian citizens as this situation needs a serious attention and take an action as the regime supporter keep preparing to hold more events in May, 2024 and post traumatic warnings on their Facebook platform which had been advocating for the killing of Eritrean pro-democracy protesters, calling for their families back in Eritrea to be punished, and spreading hate and discord among Eritreans in Ontario and beyond in support of the dictatorial regime in Eritrea. They shared Facebook posts that call for the LONG ARM of the Eritrean regime to kill protesters, punish their family back in Eritrea and denying their identities.

The regime supporters as Eritrean Canadian Community of Toronto had been holding events and seminars that purport to be Eritrean ‘cultural festivals’. One such event was held on August 05, 2023 in Toronto. Members of this community armed with metal rode, scrap metal, rocks, sticks some of them with nails, specially made iced cubes (used as throwing rocks), broken bottles, frozen beverage bottles, pepper sprays, other types of sprays that help them attack, equipped with military style walky-talky, some dressed with protective vests, helmets, military cloths, orange shirts, PFDJ (Eritrea’s ruling party) flags and Regime flags (current national flag of Eritrea) started rioting against peaceful protesters mostly new refugee arrivals re-traumatized by being followed to Canada by regime they have fled from. The magnitude and type of violence on August 05 was a new phenomenon to the Toronto Police Service who had invoked the “Riot Act”. We are deeply concerned that such front organizations disguised as Community organizations continue to intimidate Eritreans who have fled the regime; militarize Eritrean diaspora youth; propagate the policies of the authoritarian government; retraumatizing new Canadians, fundraise for the Eritrean military, creating discord and violence among Eritrean Canadians are permitted to operate and yet are funded by several Canadian Government initiatives and donor organizations to commit refugee espionage and other crimes on behalf of a foreign government (Eritrean government).

We are deeply concerned about the recent violence within Eritrean communities in Waterloo Region and around the world, and we are urging the region of Waterloo to take concrete actions to address the root causes of the violence, protect the rights and wellbeing of Eritrean refugees in the region and counter the Eritrean regime’s interference in community centers and religious organizations in Kitchener .

The ongoing interference of the Eritrean regime in the lives of Eritrean-Canadians, as executed through its consulate office in Toronto and affiliated organizations and individuals across the

country, is a matter of great concern. The following actions have deeply affected our community in Waterloo Region.

- **Interfering in our community centers, and organizations:** The Eritrean government has been exerting control, influence, and disruption within our community centers and organizations, directly or indirectly, through its agents and the Community he presides.
- **Influence on Religious Institutions:** The Eritrean government has applied undue pressure on Eritrean religious institutions, particularly the Eritrean Orthodox Churches, by coercing them into sending money to Eritrea and manipulating the selection of their leaders and programs as well as changing their by-laws to suit their control.
- **Using “Festivals” as Political Shield:** The Eritrean government has hijacked Eritrean cultural events, festivals, and national ceremonies to promote war propaganda, spread hate speech, radicalize youth and polarize Eritrean communities, and fund its conflicts.
- **Intimidation of Eritrean Refugees:** Eritrean refugees who have fled from the oppressive regime and oppose regime-sponsored events have faced duress, threats of reprisals, and intimidation. In some cases, violent actions were taken against individuals perceived to oppose the regime. The government of Eritrea also conducts refugee espionage and their families back in Eritrea are punished for the refugee’s opinions in Canada.

In the interest of ensuring the safety of community members in the region of Waterloo ;

we request that you take action to ensure that front organizations such as ‘ the regime supporters of Kitchener Eritrean Canadian Community Centre ‘ organized events be banned and halt any government funds channeled to this organization.

There is ample evidence that many front organizations are operating in different cities across Canada disguised as Community groups or Coptic Orthodox Churches.

#### **Such organizations in Region of Waterloo**

- o *Eritrean Canadian Community center kitchener and Eritrean Canadian Community Centre Toronto* : *The community has openly conducted several seminars, fund soliciting events and events linked to the Eritrean regime including the violent riot of August 05, 2023 and February 24, 2024 in our Region in 2006 shantz station rd Guelph.*
- o *St.Mery Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church Kitchener, 214 Highland Rd E Kitchener* : *The Charity organization has been active in concealed activities to support the Eritrean regime’s activities to control the diaspora.*

Should the city of KW Kitchener Waterloo fail to take concrete actions to address the root causes of the violence, protect the rights and well-being of Eritrean refugees, and counter the Eritrean regime's interference in community centers and religious organizations in our region, several grave consequences are likely to unfold:

- **Signaling Tolerance of Interference:** Failure to take action would send a clear message to supporters of the Eritrean regime that the region of Waterloo has no interest in curbing the violent activities of the Eritrean regime within its authority. This could embolden those who support the regime and enable them to continue their disruptive and harmful activities with impunity.

- **Escalation of Violence:** The violence witnessed in Eritrean communities in Kitchener and around the world is a stark reminder of the potential for further unrest if no decisive measures are taken. The clashes and confrontations reported in various cities across Canada and globally should serve as a cautionary tale. Without intervention, tensions are likely to escalate, putting the safety and well-being of Eritrean-Canadians at risk.
- **Re-traumatization of Eritrean Refugees:** Eritrean refugees have already endured immense hardship in fleeing their home country due to the oppressive regime. The failure to address the root causes of violence and the interference of the Eritrean government in Canada would further retraumatize these vulnerable individuals, as they witness the perpetuation of the oppressive tactics they fled from in their homeland.

It is in the best interest of the Waterloo Region, its commitment to diversity and human rights, and the safety of Eritrean-Canadians that concrete steps are taken to address this issue promptly. We implore you to consider the potential consequences of inaction and to support our call to halt funds and deny permits.

### ***Background: Dire Human Rights Situation***

It is imperative to note that the grave human rights situation in Eritrea is the root of the problems, that reverberated across many cities in Canada over the summer of 2023. The Eritrean regime is one of the most repressive in the world. Under the dictatorship of President Isaias Afewerki, who has been in power since 1991, Eritreans are subjected to widespread forced labour; restrictions on various freedoms including freedom of religion and expression; and prolonged, unlawful detentions. The country has no legislature, no independence of the judiciary, no independent civil society, and no elections.

Former US Head of Mission in Eritrea, Steven C. Walker, calling the regime ‘totalitarian’ aptly described Eritrea as a “human rights house of horrors.” In July 2023 Report, the Human Rights Watch wrote, “inside Eritrea, authorities continue to detain individuals incommunicado and indefinitely, some for decades, including for their religious beliefs. In 2023, religious groups have continued to report new arrests of Christians. In the Human Rights Council Fifty-third session (19 June–14 July 2023), the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, Mr. Mohamed Abdelsalam Babiker has presented extensive report that demonstrated the Eritrean human rights situation has worsened dramatically.

Regionally, the Eritrean forces have been implicated as cooperating with Ethiopian forces in the commission of crimes against Tigrayans in the context of the recent Tigrayan conflict. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has concluded that a number of these crimes may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes under international law.

Internationally, the Eritrean leader, Isais Afewerki, has shocked the world by publicly aligning Eritrea with Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, making it the only African state to do so. Furthermore, in the Russia-Africa Summit in July 2023, Eritrea’s Afwerki officially requested Putin to lead the world, and called for war against EU, USA, Canada, and the NATO allies. Mr. Afewerki also visited China and called for the overhaul of the rules-based international system

### **Foreign Interference by the Eritrean Government in Canada through military fundraising festivals**

*Spreading propaganda and fundraising for military efforts*

Over the summer of 2023, events organized by Eritrean embassies and consulates that purport to be Eritrean “cultural festivals” were held in cities across the globe, such as Stockholm, Giessen, Seattle, Tel Aviv, Stuttgart and Toronto. At these events, organizers have been known to involve Eritrean youth from the diaspora in activities that celebrate and glamorize Eritrean military action. Witnessing heavily advertised military fundraisers of the Eritrean government in Canadian cities clearly was shocking to many community members who have fled oppressive circumstances in their homeland, causing them to experience re-traumatization.

*Inciting unrest in cities abroad, including in Canada*

In addition to generating revenue for the Eritrean government and armed forces, regime fundraisers sow discord within Eritrean communities and result in violent unrest in western cities. Canada has been particularly hit by the Eritrean-regime organized military fundraisers. There were clashes reported in Toronto, Edmonton, and Calgary where thousands of Eritreans participated, resulting in numerous injuries, arrests and destruction of properties. The events were organized by Eritrean consulate office in Toronto and in partnership with its affiliates such as CECCO (Coalition of Eritrean Canadian Communities and Organizations.)

We are deeply saddened to witness the violence that erupted in these Canadian cities. Learning from the experience in European cities, we had previously pleaded through numerous letters sent to the Global Affairs, the RCMP and City Councils to cancel these events. Regrettably, most of the events was canceled for the community safety purpose. We firmly believe the interference of the Eritrean government in the lives of the diaspora community and the importation of its repressive methods into the diaspora communities are the root causes. We urge Canada to look into these root causes seriously and hold the Eritrean consulate office in Toronto and its front organizations responsible for their actions.

**Conclusion**

- It is worth remembering that in 2010, Canada imposed sanctions on Eritrea and in July 2013, it has expelled the Eritrean consul from Canada over the illegal 2% tax. We believe it is high time for SDIR to discuss the Eritrean human rights situation in its upcoming sessions. The last meeting SDIR held on the topic was on May 26, 2015.

-There are considerable and compelling evidence that aptly describe the activities of the Eritrean government in Canada, including its annual fundraising festivals, as foreign interference. We request your referral of the matter to Public Inquiry Committee on Foreign Interference in a bid for the Canadian government to take the necessary action against the Eritrean Consulate in Toronto and the Eritrean government.

Thank you for your time and consideration. For further information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Temesgen Weldemihret Eritrean- Canadian Human Rights Group in Kitchener

Tesfamichael Ymesghen

Eritrean-Canadian Human Rights Group Kitchener

Haben tesfay; Eritrean - Canadian Community Activist Kitchener

## REFERENCES

1. “Eritrea: Events of 2020”, *Human Rights Watch*, available online: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/eritrea>.
2. “Why is Eritrea backing Russian aggression in Ukraine?”, (8 March 2022), *The Economist*, available online: <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2022/03/08/why-is-eritrea-backing-russian-aggression-in-ukraine>.
3. “Canadian Sanctions Related to Eritrea”, *Government of Canada*, available online: [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/sanctions/eritrea-erythree.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/sanctions/eritrea-erythree.aspx?lang=eng).
4. The Report of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission/Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights Joint Investigation into Alleged Violations of International Human Rights, Humanitarian and Refugee Law Committed by all Parties to the Conflict, available online: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3947207?ln=en#:~:text=From%2016%20May%20to%2030,refugee%20law%20committed%20in%20the>.
5. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/07/10/eritrea-dire-rights-record-should-be-publicly-condemned>
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9. “Ottawa forced Eritrea to nix ‘2% extortion tax’ on citizens in Canada” (2 September 2012), *National Post*; available online: <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/ottawa-forces-eritrea-to-nix-2-extortion-tax-on-citizens-in-canada>; “Eritrea’s ‘diaspora tax’ is funding violence and oppression” (20 February 2023), *Aljazeera*, available online: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2023/2/20/eritreas-diaspora-tax-is-funding-violence-and-oppression>.
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11. “Giessen Eritrea festival clashes leave 26 police officers injured” (9 July 2023), *BBC News*, available online: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-66145900>.
12. “Dozens injured after protestors storm Eritrean festival in Stockholm”, (3 August 2023), *The Guardian*, available online: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/aug/03/dozens-injured-after-protesters-storm-eritrean-festival-in-stockholm>
13. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/why-eritreans-in-canada-are-clashing-at-festivals-1.6944229>
14. <https://nationalpost.com/news/eritrean-celebration-turns-violent-in-calgary-amid-political-divisions>

Dear council members of Waterloo Region,

City Cabs is urging the region to regulate the meter rates asap. The meter rates shall be all the same for all taxi companies in the Waterloo Region.

The meter rates shall be: drop rate of \$4.50 (new rate, if approved), \$2.50 per kilometer, and \$40 per hour (waiting time).

The taxi companies shall be obligated to update the rates as soon as the region approves the new rates and allow each taxi company to increase/update the rate within 10 business days or so.

If taxi companies have the same rates, and one taxi company decides to give discounts to their customers that's totally fine, and they may do that after the ride is complete.

We don't need this kind of regulation where taxi companies may choose not to increase/update the rates.

The customers are protected as long as we don't charge them more than the maximum rates regulated by the region.

This kind of regulation that is in place right now could cause a war among the taxi companies in the region.

It has never been like this before. In 2011, all taxi companies had to update the rates at the same date/time. It was mandatory. I am unsure who and why changed this meter rate regulation.

I truly hope that the region will review the by-law regulation asap and make appropriate amendments to resolve this issue going forward:

"Per Part III of bylaw 16-044, section 37.(1):

Every person who holds a Taxi-cab driver license providing a meter Taxi-cab service shall ensure that:

...iii) His or her Taxi-cab Meter conforms to the maximum fees as prescribed in Schedule A of this by-law"

The maximum rates shall be mandatory.

If the region decides NOT to regulate the maximum mandatory meter rates, there is no reason to regulate the meter rates at all. Then, simply deregulate it, and the each taxi company dictates their rates.

Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend the meeting, but I hope this email will be forwarded to the council members to discuss and act on the matter described above.

Many thanks.

On behalf of City Cabs,

Sincerely,

Radenko Ivanisevic, President  
City Cabs Kitchener



Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada  
Fédération de l'habitation coopérative du Canada

**March 4, 2024**

Region of Waterloo Clerk  
150 Frederick Street 2nd Floor,  
Kitchener, ON N2G 4J3

Sent by email: regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca

**Re: 8.1 Strategic Priority – Homes for All**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo Community and Health Services Committee:

The Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF Canada) would like to express our support for items 8.1.1, 8.1.2 and 8.1.3 for the upcoming March 5 meeting.

CHF Canada is the national voice of co-operative housing, representing 2,200 housing co-operatives, home to a quarter of a million people in every province and territory. In Ontario, we represent 550 co-ops, home to 125,000 people. Co-operative housing is a well-documented success story. For over 50 years, co-ops have provided good-quality, affordable housing owned and managed by the community members who live there.

Recent reporting from the Waterloo Region Community Foundation shows the stark housing affordability and supply challenges the region is facing, such as that housing prices increased almost 300 per cent between 2005 – 2022. In Kitchener-Waterloo, average home prices increased by 295 per cent between 2005 and 2022. This is coupled with a fast-growing population and a mismatch between the types of housing being built and housing needs in the Region.<sup>1</sup>

A recent report by the Scotiabank showed that affordable rental housing makes up only 3.5 per cent of Canada's housing stock – which is half the OECD and G7 averages, and among the lowest in the developed world.<sup>2</sup> As Waterloo Region is the 7<sup>th</sup> fastest growing area in Canada and the United States, it is important that increasing the supply of affordable housing – including co-operative housing – is a top priority.<sup>3</sup>

This is why CHF Canada is pleased to see recommendations for the Region to preserve existing affordable stock through acquisition and conversion to community housing, including co-operative housing. CHF Canada has put forward budget recommendations to both the Province of Ontario and the federal government, urging them to invest in non-market housing acquisition programs so that affordable housing is not lost due to

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.therecord.com/opinion/columnists/our-affordable-housing-crisis-is-worse-than-we-thought/article\\_626c5a85-9e37-5764-9977-3646a5d02867.html](https://www.therecord.com/opinion/columnists/our-affordable-housing-crisis-is-worse-than-we-thought/article_626c5a85-9e37-5764-9977-3646a5d02867.html)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.scotiabank.com/ca/en/about/perspectives.articles.economy.2023-01-social-housing-scotiabank-report.html>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.therecord.com/opinion/columnists/our-affordable-housing-crisis-is-worse-than-we-thought/article\\_626c5a85-9e37-5764-9977-3646a5d02867.html](https://www.therecord.com/opinion/columnists/our-affordable-housing-crisis-is-worse-than-we-thought/article_626c5a85-9e37-5764-9977-3646a5d02867.html)





demovictions, renovictions or increases in rent. This goal directly aligns with the Region of Waterloo's request to Ontario and the federal government (CSD-HOU-24-003).

Hand in hand with preserving existing affordable housing stock, there is a need to build net new affordable housing. Unlike private developers, affordable housing providers, including co-ops, often do not have additional available land to grow and expand their housing portfolio. For growth of the sector to be feasible, land must be provided at little to no cost. Providing surplus municipal land to affordable housing providers ensures that the land remains a public good, a community asset. We support the Region of Waterloo's plans to explore partnerships with non-profits and community organizations to provide surplus land. We are hopeful that co-op housing can also benefit from these partnerships, particularly the Central Ontario Co-operative Housing Federation (COCHF), which CHF Canada works very closely with.

A small fraction of the homes built in Ontario within the last 20 years have been non-market housing, only 0.4% between 1990 and 2021.<sup>4</sup> With Ontario's goal of building 1.5 million new homes by 2030 and municipal commitments to help achieve this goal, multiple levers can be deployed to spur the development of new homes, particularly non-market housing. This includes exemptions that would make the construction of and overall long-term operational stability of non-market housing more feasible. CHF Canada is very supportive of the bold recommendation to exempt affordable housing, including co-operative housing, from property taxes, as outlined in 8.1.3 CSD-HOU-24-004.

CHF Canada is looking forward to supporting our regional partner, COCHF, as they work with the Region of Waterloo to see the preservation and expansion of co-op housing. For over 50 years, the co-op housing sector has worked with all orders of government and communities across the country to build and maintain vibrant, affordable non-profit co-operative homes.

Sincerely,

Amina Dibe  
Senior Manager, Government Relations  
Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada

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<sup>4</sup> [https://www.unitedwaygt.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/BAHH Action Plan Final.pdf](https://www.unitedwaygt.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/BAHH_Action_Plan_Final.pdf)

**Region of Waterloo**  
**Corporate Services**  
**Treasury Services**

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**To:** Regional Council  
**Meeting Date:** March 20, 2024  
**Report Title:** Regional Council and Council Appointee Remuneration and Expenses for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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**1. Recommendation**

For Information.

**2. Purpose / Issue:**

Section 284(1) of the Municipal Act requires the Regional Treasurer to provide Council with an itemized statement of remuneration and expenses paid in the previous year to each member of Council and to Council Appointees to local boards and other bodies.

**3. Strategic Plan:**

Nil.

**4. Report Highlights:**

- The report includes 2023 Remuneration and Expenses for Regional Council, Waterloo Region Police Services Board Appointees and Council Appointees.

**5. Background:**

The report is prepared and submitted annually in accordance with the Municipal Act.

**6. Communication and Engagement with Area Municipalities and the Public**

Staff from the Regional Chair’s office and Council and Administrative Services assisted in the preparation of this report.

**7. Financial Implications:**

Remuneration and expenses for Regional Council and Council Appointees were included in the approved Regional Budget for 2023 as established per By-laws 13-062 and 17-078. Due to meeting remotely in 2023 no payments were made to Council appointees to Grand River Conservation Authority, Ecological and Environmental

Advisory Committee and Heritage Planning Advisory Committee.

**8. Conclusion / Next Steps:**

Nil.

**9. Attachments:**

Appendix A – 2023 Remuneration and Expenses – Regional Council

Appendix B – 2023 Remuneration and Expenses – Police Services Board  
Appointees

Appendix C – 2023 Remuneration and Expenses – Council Appointees

**Prepared By:** Tijana Barisic, Financial Analyst

**Reviewed By:** Cathy Deschamps, Director of Treasury Services/Deputy Treasurer

**Approved By:** Craig Dyer, Commissioner, Corporate Services/Chief Financial Officer

## 2023 Remuneration and Expenses-Regional Council

Councillor	Remuneration	Benefits	Mileage (1)	Meetings/ Events	Telecom	Conferences and Training Details		Waterloo Regional Police Service Board		SWIFT (2)	GRCA (2)
						Details	Amount	Remuneration	Benefits		
Craig, D.	\$ 47,872	\$6,776		\$750	\$2,920	FCM Conference May 25-28 AMO Conference August 18-21	\$3,443	\$12,596	\$1,934		\$1,721
Deutschmann, R.	\$ 47,872	\$15,389		\$45	\$248						
Erb, J.	\$ 55,059	\$8,579	\$932	\$759	\$507	AMO Ending Homeless Symposium May 3-4	\$564				\$1,446
Foxton, S.	\$ 47,872	\$15,389	\$2,104	\$1,348	\$1,179					\$3,669	\$5,476
Harris, M.	\$ 55,059	\$16,648		\$45	\$1,260						\$94
Huinink, C.	\$ 47,872	\$15,389		\$1,823	\$1,007	FCM Annual Conference May 25-28 AMO Annual Conference August 18-21 AMO New Councillor Training October 20	\$5,070				
James, C.	\$ 55,059	\$16,648	\$1,442	\$1,483	\$2,302	AMO New Councillor Training April 3 FCM Annual Conference May 25-28 CCBP Conference August 9-11 AMO Annual Conference August 18-21	\$6,203				\$982
Liggett, J.	\$ 47,872	\$8,126									
McCabe, D.	\$ 47,872	\$15,389									
Nowak, J.	\$ 47,872	\$8,400	\$1,129	\$343	\$1,628	OGRA Conference April 16-19	\$2,582				\$5
Redman, K.	\$ 169,382	\$38,369	\$16,443	\$4,525	\$431	ROMA Annual Conference Jan 21- 24 AMO Annual Conference Aug 17-21 EcDev Mayoral trip to Germany Nov 14-18	\$9,497	\$15,411	\$2,662		
Salonen, N.	\$ 47,872	\$15,389		\$492	\$276						\$803
Shantz, S.	\$ 47,872	\$15,567	\$1,599	\$628				\$12,596	\$1,934		\$1,215
Vrbanovic, B.	\$ 47,872	\$10,777			\$1,556						
Williams, K.	\$ 47,872	\$15,389			\$271						\$1,606
Wolf, P.	\$ 47,872	\$8,400	\$899	\$1,080	\$1,661	FCM Annual Conference May 25-28 AMO Annual Conference August 18-21	\$3,624				\$1,481

## Notes:

1. Includes vehicle allowance for Regional Chair
2. Includes remuneration, per diems and expenses

**The Regional Municipality of Waterloo**  
**2023 Remuneration And Expenses - Police Services Board Provincial and Council Appointees**

<b>Council</b>			<b>Travel / Mtg</b>		<b>Conferences / Seminars</b>	
<b>Appointees</b>	<b>Remuneration</b>	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Expenses</b>		<b>Amount</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Waterloo Regional Police Services Board</b>						
<b><u>Provincial Appointees</u></b>						
McLean, I.	\$12,503	\$779				
Giovinazzo, D-A.	\$12,503	\$779				
Schnarr, K.	\$8,031	\$501				
<b><u>Council Appointees</u></b>						
Hobbs, K.	\$12,503	\$779			\$840	OAPSB Spring Conference

Alternative format available upon request

**The Regional Municipality of Waterloo  
2023 Remuneration and Expenses - Council Appointees**

Council Appointees			Travel / Mtg	Conferences / Seminars	
	Remuneration	Benefits	Expenses	Amount	Details
<u>Grand River Conservation Authority (1)</u>					
<u>Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee</u>					
<u>Heritage Planning Advisory Committee</u>					

No payments in 2023

## **The Regional Municipality of Waterloo**

### **Planning and Works Committee**

#### **Summary of Recommendations to Council**

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That the following recommendations from the Planning and Works Committee be approved:

1. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo endorse the following items as outlined in report EES-WAS-24-003 dated March 5, 2024:
  - a) the 2023 Drinking Water Summary Report;
  - b) the 2023 Management Review of the Drinking Water Quality Management System (DWQMS) (included in Drinking Water Summary Report); and
  - c) the 2023 infrastructure maintenance plan update (included in Drinking Water Summary Report).
2. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo create a new full time equivalent position for a Regulatory and Program Assistant in the Water Operations team within the Water and Wastewater Services Division as outlined in report EES-WAS-24-004, dated March 5, 2024.

March 5, 2024

**The Regional Municipality of Waterloo  
Community and Health Services Committee  
Summary of Recommendations to Council**

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That the following recommendations from the Community and Health Services Committee be approved:

1. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve an increase of \$1,542,836 to the 2024 Homelessness and Supportive Housing Operating Budget expenditure and federal subsidy with no net property tax levy impact as outlined in report COR-CFN-24-001 dated March 5, 2024.
2. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo take the following action for preserving existing affordable housing in the private market and facilitating the transition of private market rentals into long-term affordable housing through acquisition as outlined in CSD-HOU-24-003, dated March 5, 2024:
  - a. Direct staff to explore the creation of a Multi-Unit Rental Acquisition Program to preserve existing affordable housing in the private market and facilitate the transition of private market rentals into long-term affordable housing; and
    - i. For staff to bring forward any recommendations to the Regional Council for consideration;
  - b. Direct staff to work with the area municipalities to explore the creation of right of first refusal policy and identification of affordable housing at risk of loss; and
  - c. Direct staff to work with area municipalities to assemble a Waterloo Region Housing Needs Assessment to inform a targeted affordable housing acquisition strategy.
3. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo take the following action with respect to rental housing protections and tenant displacement as outlined in CSD-HOU-24-003, dated March 5, 2024:
  - a. Direct staff to work with the area municipalities to explore the creation of renovation, conversion, and demolition rental housing protection policies;
  - b. Direct staff to engage with service providers who support tenants at risk of or are currently experiencing displacement to:
    - i. Identify gaps in support of displaced tenants and for tenants at risk of experiencing eviction caused by renovation, demolition, or conversion;
    - ii. Develop potential solutions to fill gaps; and



- iii. Bring forward gaps and potential solutions to the Regional Council for consideration.
4. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo take the following action with respect to advocating for the preservation of existing affordable housing as outlined in CSD-HOU-24-003, dated March 5, 2024:
  - a. Request that the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario establish acquisition programs that would support the acquisitions and renovations/conversions for all types of private market residential properties and other properties, to create new permanent affordable and supportive homes.
5. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo take the following action with respect to the creation of a Property Tax Exemption Program for Affordable Housing as set out in report CSD-HOU-24-004 dated March 5, 2024:
  - a. Repeal By-law Number 02-035, attached as Appendix “A”, and replace with By-Law Number 24-\*\*\*, attached as Appendix “B” for the purposes of updating the by-law to allow Council to exempt regional and education property taxes for municipal housing facilities and also for general house-keeping amendments, which has been prepared in a form satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor;
  - b. Approve the Property Tax Exemption for Affordable Housing Program (“Program”) and guidelines for applications made to the Region for properties eligible for the Program attached as Appendix “C”;
  - c. Authorize the Commissioner of Community Services to negotiate and execute on behalf of the Region, agreements with housing providers for the Program, to the satisfaction of the Regional Solicitor;
  - d. Direct staff to:
    - a. Develop an application process with intake occurring in Q2 of 2024 for the 2025 taxation year;
    - b. Review the uptake and application of the Program to determine property tax impacts due to class shifts, communicating these in advance of 2025 budget process;
  - e. Direct staff to work with interested area municipalities within Waterloo Region to exempt the lower tier portion of property taxes for eligible properties under the Program; and
  - f. Advocate to the Government of Ontario to amend eligibility for the Ontario Trillium Benefit to allow Ontario residents living in housing deemed affordable by the municipality where the resident resides, to access

SS240305

property tax credits through the Ontario Trillium Benefit, irrespective of property tax exemption.

March 5, 2024

**Region of Waterloo**  
**Engineering and Environmental Services**  
**Water and Wastewater Services**

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**To:** Regional Council  
**Meeting Date:** March 20, 2024  
**Report Title:** Proposed Bill 162 (Get it Done Act) and Drinking Water Supply Implications for Waterloo Region

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**1. Recommendation**

For information.

**2. Purpose / Issue:**

This report will provide an overview of Bill 162 and the implications of this Bill on the Region's drinking water supply. Groundwater from the Waterloo Moraine is the primary source of drinking water for the Region and is critical for building housing and job creation initiatives. Development on the Waterloo Moraine will limit our ability to build more housing and economic opportunities in the future. There is also potential through the approval of lands to incent leapfrogged development that will make building housing infrastructure more expensive for residents.

**3. Strategic Plan:**

This report supports Homes for All and Climate Aligned Growth by protecting the Regions water supply for the Region's future growth.

**4. Report Highlights:**

- The Waterloo Moraine is the primary source for groundwater recharge in Waterloo Region. The moraine is protected in the Region Official Plan (ROP), Policy 7.B.23, with Regional Recharge Area designation which restricts development on the moraine. Protection of the moraine is essential for the quantity of water supply and the quality of the water.
- Ontario uses a multi-barrier approach to protecting drinking water safety which includes source protection. This is intended to keep the raw water as clean as possible to lower the risk that contaminants will get through or overwhelm the treatment system.
- At least 75% of Waterloo Region's drinking water is primarily drawn from groundwater through water supply wells. Groundwater wells in the Kitchener and

Waterloo area are almost exclusively drawn from aquifers of the Waterloo Moraine.

- On February 20, 2024, in response to consultation undertaken by the Province in late 2023, the Province introduced Bill 162 (Get it Done Act, 2024). Bill 162 proposes modifications to the Regional Official Plan (ROP). Based on a preliminary review of the mapping associated with Bill 162, the modifications include adding an expansion to the Urban Area beyond the Countryside Line and onto the Regional Recharge Area in Southwest Kitchener.
- If development happens in the Regional Recharge area, there will be less water available to shallow and deep municipal supply aquifers of the Waterloo Moraine. This threatens the sustainability of drinking water supply to current and future residents in the cities of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo, and the Townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot, and Woolwich.
- Reduced recharge will restrict the Region's ability to maintain and enhance capacity of the Region's water supplies. This could lead to a reduced amount of water supply to support future homes. Development could also degrade water quality at urban well fields due to road salt application, which could result in the loss of available urban water supplies, further restricting growth.
- Reduced and lost water supplies resulting from land use decisions will significantly impact the building of new homes as the quantity of water available to service new development may impact the ability of the area municipalities to meet housing targets in the Region as water supply capacity may be considerably reduced. In addition, it could accelerate the need for a pipeline connection to Lake Erie.

## 5. Background:

On February 20, 2024, the Province released Bill 162 (Get it Done Act, 2024). Bill 162 proposes to amend various statutes, including the Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023 and is posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario for comment until March 21, 2024. Bill 162 changes the legislatively approved official plans of some of the province's fastest-growing municipalities to address local needs while continuing to support the Province's goal of building at least 1.5 million new homes by 2031.

For the Region of Waterloo, Bill 162 proposes modifications to the Regional Official Plan which would expand the Urban and Township Urban Areas. Based on a preliminary review of the mapping released with Bill 162, the modifications would generally implement the Area Municipal Mayors requests submitted through the Province's consultant on Bill 150 (Planning Statue Law Amendment Act, 2023) and include adding land to Urban/Township Urban Areas to the full extent of the Countryside Line in

Woolwich, Cambridge and Kitchener, an employment conversion in Cambridge, expansions to the Township Urban Area boundaries in Wilmot and Wellesley and an expansion to the Urban Area beyond the Countryside Line and onto the Regional Recharge Area in Southwest Kitchener. See Figure 2.

### The Waterloo Moraine

The Waterloo Moraine is located in almost the entirety of the Region of Waterloo (Figure 1) and is protected by the Regional Recharge Area designation in the ROP, as well as, the *Clean Water Act*. The moraine acts as a natural recharge for groundwater, which the Region uses for drinking water. The moraine is a natural filter with sandy soils, which support a quick recharge of aquifers. Since the moraine is not completely developed it also provides good quality water to wells in other areas of the moraine which have seen increasing salt levels due to winter maintenance. Salt in wells is a public health concern and must be monitored carefully for the safety of residents. Protection of the Waterloo Moraine satisfies the first step in the multi-barrier protection of drinking water safety. Please see Figure 3 for an illustration of how the moraine works.

### Drinking Water Implications

The supply wells for the Region of Waterloo are fed by large water supply aquifers that form part of the Waterloo Moraine. Groundwater wells in the Kitchener and Waterloo area are almost exclusively drawn from these aquifers. The greatest risk to the groundwater supply is the introduction of hard surfaces as part of development and salinization of water supply aquifers by increasing rates of winter maintenance salt use. The Province's proposed modifications to the ROP would result in an expansion of the Urban Area of approximately 64 hectares onto the Regional Recharge Area. Should these lands be developed for urban purposes this will reduce the amount of water which infiltrates into the ground. This will cause uncertainty that there is adequate water available to be drawn for the Region's drinking water, and will introduce more road salt into the moraine through winter maintenance activities.

### Waterloo Moraine Protection through the Regional Official Plan (ROP)

The ROP provides enhanced protection for the Waterloo Moraine that goes above and beyond the protection offered by the *Clean Water Act* through the Regional Recharge Area policies and mapping. This protection is critical to sustain this unique, local drinking water supply source.

The Regional Recharge Area is an area where considerable deposits of sand and gravel allow for the infiltration of significant quantities of rainfall and snowmelt deep into

the ground. The Regional Recharge Area serves important functions:

- Replenishes large quantities of water to aquifers that feed municipal drinking water supplies,
- Groundwater discharge that sustains a wide range of aquatic habitats and ecosystems within the Greenlands Network, and
- Contributes a high percentage of baseflow to the Grand River, its tributary rivers and cold-water streams, which helps maintain the health of the Grand River and provide assimilative capacity for the Region's wastewater treatment plants.

Preserving the form and function of the Regional Recharge Area protects sensitive ecological features and watercourses, and ensures a sustainable drinking water supply to residents in the cities of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo, and the Townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot, and Woolwich.

#### Potential Implications of Land Development on the Core of the Waterloo Moraine

In areas of greenfield development groundwater recharge will be reduced by 50 to 80% on newly developed lands, depending on the type of development proposed (i.e. residential vs. commercial/industrial).

An indirect consequence of the reduction in recharge is that groundwater levels are predicted to decline at the Mannheim Well Field, an important source of water to the Integrated Urban System (IUS). Future Urban Area expansions could reduce the Mannheim Well Field capacity by upwards of 10% of the available supply. If new development is allowed on the Regional Recharge Area, on the lands proposed through Bill 162, it will greatly reduce the water available to service growth. This loss of water equates to 500 to 1,800 fewer new homes that cannot be built, compared to equivalent land development in areas outside of the Regional Recharge Area. The Region could achieve higher community growth targets if equivalent land development occurs in areas outside of the Regional Recharge Area.

If a precedent is set, and development is permitted to proliferate across the entirety of the Regional Recharge Area within Kitchener's municipal boundaries, modelling shows that water losses would mean upwards of 10,000 fewer homes compared to equivalent land development in areas outside of the Regional Recharge Area.

Development of lands designated Regional Recharge Area will also cause potential reductions in baseflow (a portion of the river and/or stream flow which is not storm or snow run off) to sensitive ecological features in Waterloo Region. Groundwater baseflow is also important for assimilative capacity (the amount of treated wastewater which can enter a river/stream) at the Region's wastewater treatment facilities. A

number of the Region's communities situated on receiving waters have assimilative capacity constraints. It is anticipated that in order to provide servicing for the additional growth areas in some of these communities, more advanced treatment, beyond what is currently used anywhere in Canada, would be required, at a per capita cost far exceeding that of existing infrastructure.

If the Waterloo Moraine is developed, the need for an approximately \$2 billion pipe line from Lake Erie would be required to support growth. This pipe will take at least 20 years to build which makes the protection of the Waterloo Moraine even more important to support building homes.

### Infrastructure Planning Implications

The modifications proposed to the ROP through Bill 162 are beyond the boundary expansions to accommodate growth considered by Regional Council in August 2022.

The population and employment forecasts contained in the ROP will need to be updated to reflect any new growth areas added through Bill 162. In addition, the lands proposed to be added to the Urban Area and Township Urban Area will need to be considered in Master Planning processes through which the availability, financial impact and timing of servicing will be determined.

Some of the new Urban and Township Urban Areas identified under Bill 162 may have significant challenges with respect to wastewater servicing and technical studies will need to be completed. Development on the lands will require more study to understand the costs of servicing required. If lands are developed far from existing infrastructure, this would result in higher costs and oversizing of infrastructure. It is anticipated that costs would be orders of magnitude higher to expand the treatment plants. The cost to operate these facilities and the GHG impact from this operation would also be anticipated to significantly increase.

Bill 162 allows for leap-frogging development which can negatively impact affordability. Leap-frogging occurs where a developer may be ready to build further out from existing infrastructure than a developer who is closer to existing infrastructure. Since needed infrastructure is determined based on the population, there is a possibility of higher construction costs as infrastructure is oversized to ensure there is enough capacity to service development where the infrastructure is built. Oversizing of infrastructure leads to 10% to 30% higher construction costs and higher operations costs. Construction costs will be increasingly debt financed for growth related project and these costs are borne by the ratepayers in the Region.

## **6. Communication and Engagement with Area Municipalities and the Public**

### **Area Municipalities:**

The Regional Recharge Area and associated policies were included in the 2009 ROP, which previously went through extensive consultation and received Council endorsement. The development of ROPA 6, which includes the continued protection of the Region's drinking water supply through the Regional Recharge Area designation located in the core of the Waterloo Moraine, included extensive consultation with area municipalities and was fully endorsed by Council on August 18, 2022.

It will continue to be important to work collaboratively with the Area Municipalities to consider the staging of development within the expansion areas to ensure that growth and infrastructure are occurring in an efficient manner, and maximize medium and long-term growth.

**Public:**

The public was extensively consulted during the development of ROPA 6. The public also can provide comments on Bill 162 through the ERO on the Provincial website.

**7. Financial Implications:**

The changes proposed under Bill 162 will require a large scale review of growth related infrastructure in terms of scope, need, timing, and cost, particularly for Water Supply, Wastewater Treatment and Roads infrastructure. A number of the Region's master and business plans will need to be updated to reflect required servicing for the new Urban and Township Urban Areas contemplated under Bill 162. Most of these plan updates are scheduled to occur in the 2024/2025 timeframe with updates to be reflected in 2026/2027 capital programs and future Development Charge (DC) Background Studies. Detailed financial impacts of each of these plans on the Region's ten year capital program will be provided when these plans are presented for Council approval.

**8. Conclusion / Next Steps:**

The protection of the Waterloo Moraine, through the ROP Regional Recharge Area designation, is critical to ensuring homes will be built in the Region of Waterloo. Expansions of the Urban Area onto areas designated Regional Recharge Area will impact the Region's water supply and water quality which is critical to supporting growth and the construction of new homes in Waterloo Region.

It is also expected that the approaches that will be required to service the new Urban and Township Urban Areas approved through Bill 162 will result in an increase in climate impacts and our carbon footprint.

The Region of Waterloo will prepare a response to the ERO for Bill 162, due on March 21.



**9. Attachments:**

Attachment A: Figures 1, 2 and 3

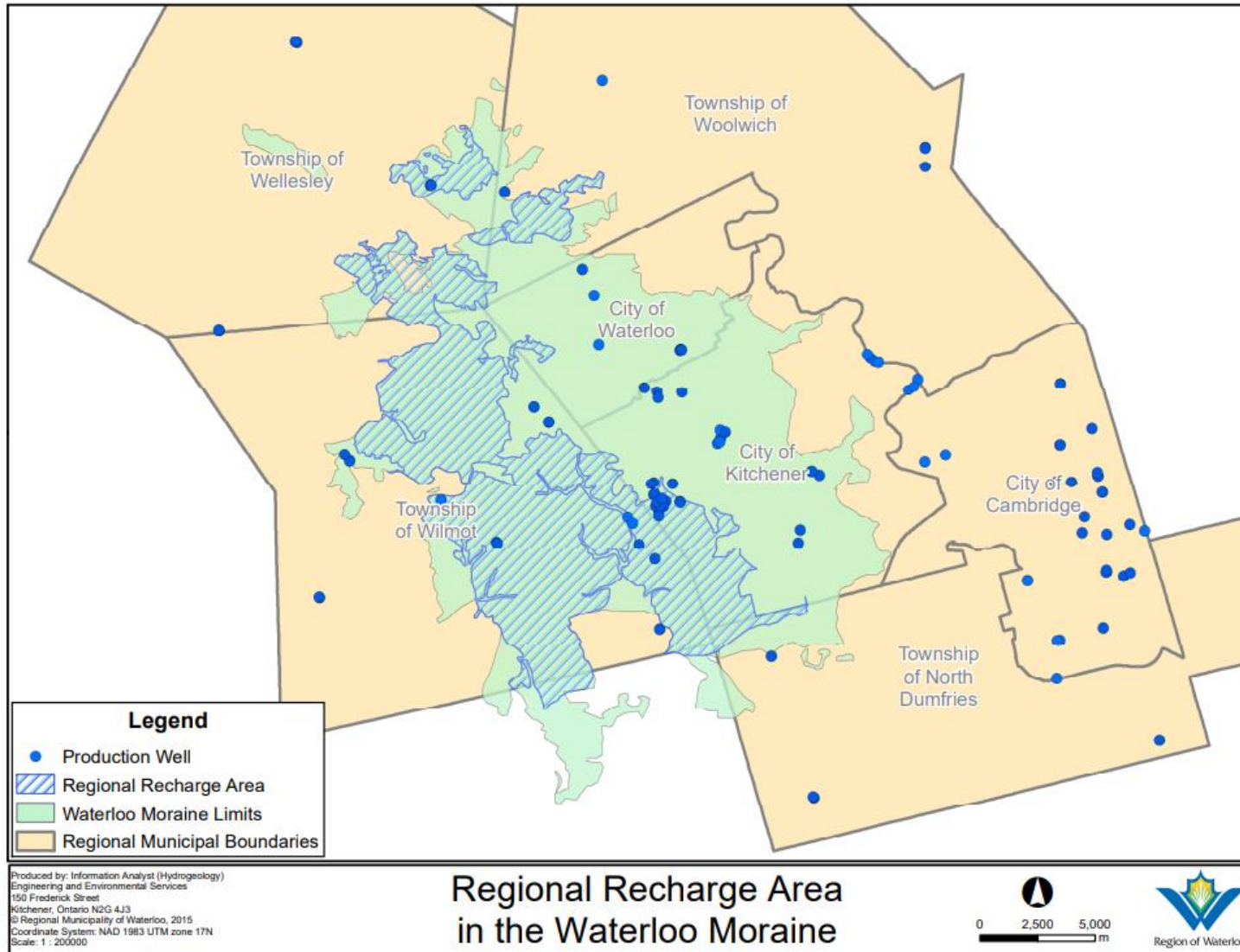
**Prepared By:** Geoff Moroz, Manager, Hydrogeology and Water Programs

**Reviewed By:** Mari MacNeil, Director, Water and Wastewater Services

**Approved By:** Jennifer Rose, Commissioner, Engineering and Environmental Services

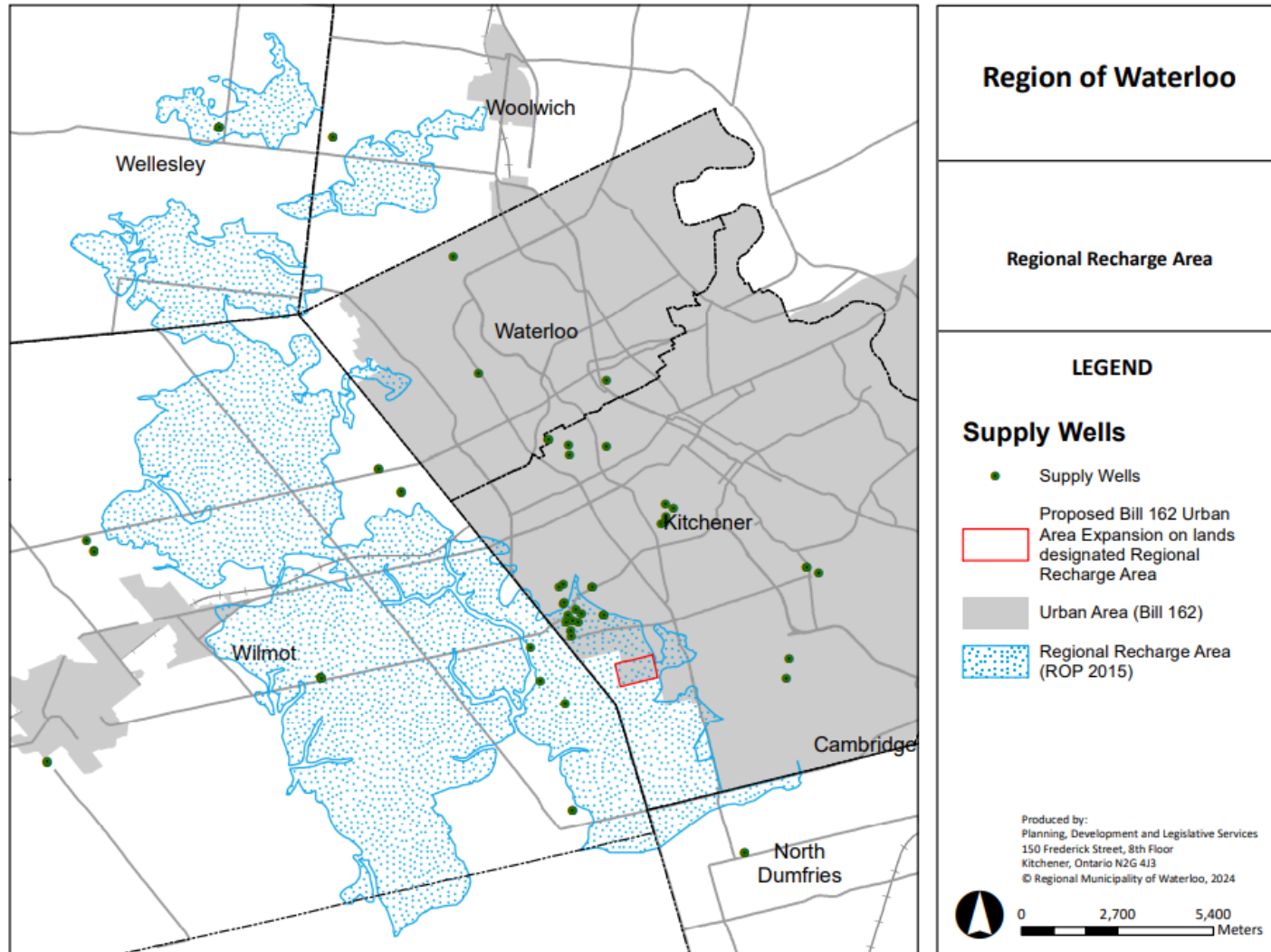
Rod Regier, Commissioner, Planning, Development and Legislative Services

Figure 1: Extent of the Waterloo Moraine and Regional Recharge Area



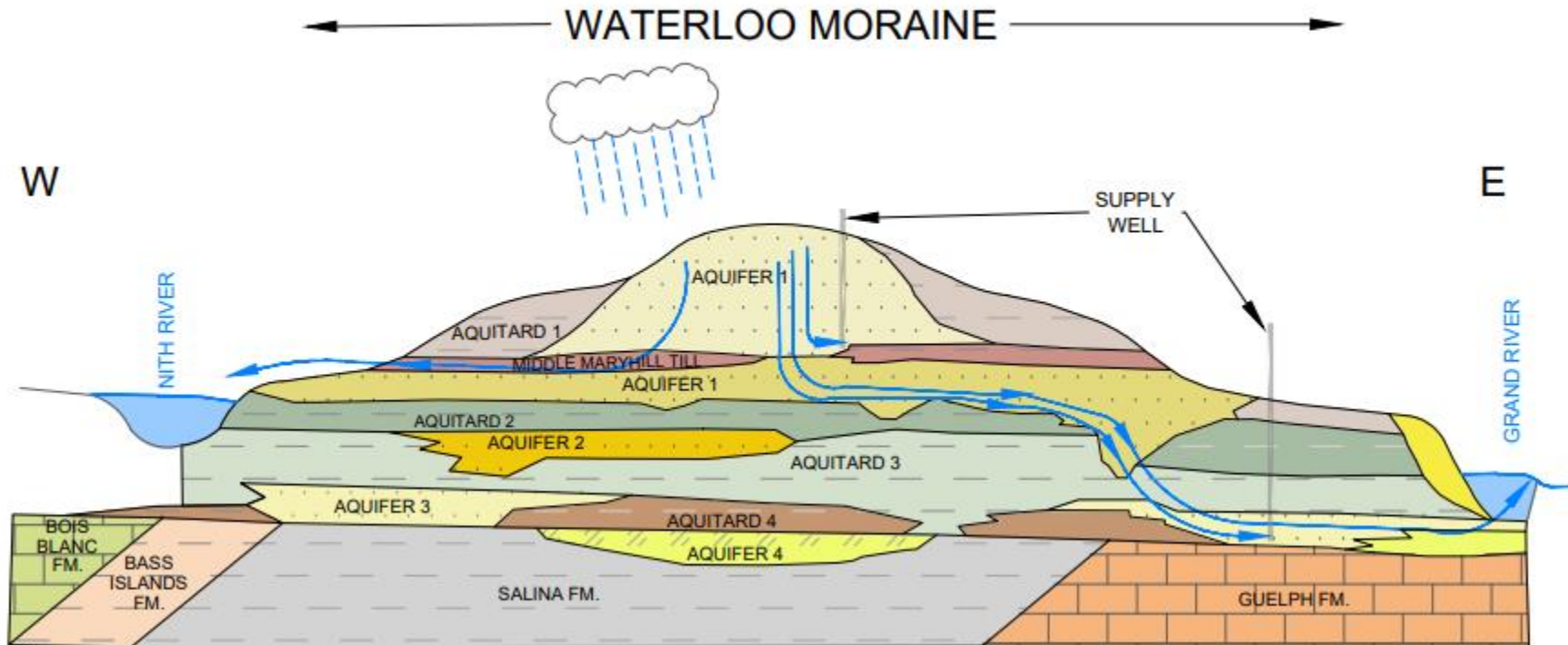
The image above shows blue dots where Production Wells are located within Regional boundaries. Wells are located throughout the Region, in every area municipality with a concentration along the City of Kitchener and Township of Wilmot border, and a heavier than average amount within the City of Cambridge boundary. The image also shows the Regional Recharge Area which is chiefly located in the Townships of Wilmot and Wellesley with some spilling into Kitchener west. Finally, the image shows the Waterloo Moraine Limits which extend east beyond the recharge area, covering a good portion of the cities of Waterloo and Kitchener.

Figure 2: Regional Recharge Area and Proposed Urban Area under Bill 162



The image above shows the urban area under Bill 162 and how it will impact the Region’s Recharge area. The largest impact is in the southwest part of Kitchener where the expanded urban area under Bill 162 is shown to overlap with the recharge area close to a cluster of supply wells that form the Mannheim Well Field. The image shows the lands designated Regional Recharge Area that are proposed to be included in the Bill 162 Urban Area.

Figure 3: Cross-Section of the Waterloo Moraine



The image above shows a cross section of the Waterloo Moraine bordered by the Nith and Grand Rivers. It shows how precipitation soaks into the ground, moves downward into shallow and deep aquifers, travels through the Waterloo Moraine, and is captured by municipal supply wells or by surface water features as groundwater baseflow. .