

## **AGENDA**

**A meeting of the Council of the Corporation  
of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands  
to be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026  
at 7:00pm**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof**
- 4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**
  - i. Confirming By-Law 2026-11
- 5. New Business**
  - i. Institutional, Commercial and Industrial Recycling rates
  - ii. Tender results – Building Department ½ ton
  - iii. Motion of Support - NOHFC funding application
  - iv. Request for donation – Little Current & District Fish and Game Club
  - v. Request for donation – Girl Guides
  - vi. Motion of Support – FONOM re Highways 11 & 17
  - vii. Motion of Support – FONOM re The Birth of Change
- 6. Minutes and Reports**
  - i. OPP Detachment Board – October to December
  - ii. Manitoulin Centennial Manor – December
- 7. Correspondence**
  - i. Bridge Swing Frequency – Barb Baker
- 8. Adjournment**

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF  
NORTHEASTERN MANITOULIN AND THE ISLANDS**

**BY-LAW NO. 2026-11**

Being a by-law of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands to adopt the minutes of Council for the term commencing November 15, 2022 and authorizing the taking of any action authorized therein and thereby.

WHEREAS the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c. 25. s. 5 (3) requires a Municipal Council to exercise its powers by by-law, except where otherwise provided;

AND WHEREAS in many cases, action which is taken or authorized to be taken by a Council or a Committee of Council does not lend itself to an individual by-law;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF NORTHEASTERN MANITOULIN AND THE ISLANDS ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT the minutes of the meetings of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands for the term commencing November 15, 2022

January 6, 2026

January 8, 2026

January 22, 2026

are hereby adopted.

2. THAT the taking of any action authorized in or by the minutes mentioned in Section 1 hereof and the exercise of any powers by the Council or Committees by the said minutes are hereby ratified, authorized and confirmed.
3. THAT, where no individual by-law has been or is passed with respect to the taking of any action authorized in or by the minutes mentioned in Section 1 hereof or with respect to the exercise of any powers by the Council or Committees in the above-mentioned minutes, then this by-law shall be deemed for all purposes to be the by-law required for approving and authorizing the taking of any action authorized therein or thereby or required for the exercise of any power therein by the Council or Committees.
4. THAT the Mayor and proper Officers of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the recommendations, motions, resolutions, reports, action and other decisions of the Council or Committees as evidenced by the above-mentioned minutes in Section 1 and the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute all necessary documents in the name of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands and to affix the seal of the Corporation thereto.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS  
3rd day of February 2026

**The Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands**  
**Minutes of a meeting of Council held Tuesday, January 6, 2025**  
**at 7:00p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Al MacNevin, Councillors: Patti Aelick, Al Boyd, Mike Erskine, and George Williamson, Dawn Orr, William Koehler, Laurie Cook, Bruce Wood

**STAFF PRESENT:** David Williamson, CAO  
Pam Myers, Clerk

Mayor MacNevin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Resolution No.01-01-2026**

Moved by: A. Boyd  
Seconded by: G. Williamson

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands approves the amended agenda as presented.

Carried

**Resolution No. 02-01-2026**

Moved by: W. Koehler  
Seconded by: P. Aelick

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands now reads a first, second and third time and finally passes By-law 2026-01 being a by-law to adopt the minutes of Council for the term commencing November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and authorizing the taking of any action therein and thereby.

Carried

**Resolution No. 03-01-2026**

Moved by: M. Erskine  
Seconded by: W. Koehler

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands now reads a first, second and third time and finally passes by-law 2026-02 being a by-law to amend by-law 2018-41 by rezoning 46 and 48 Vankoughnet Street east to Residential from Industrial.

Carried

**Resolution No. 04-01-2026**

Moved by: B. Wood  
Seconded by: A. Boyd

RESOLVED THAT the Planning Authority of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands conditionally approves the application for consent as applied for by 1924471 Ontario Inc, File Number 2025-13, subject to the following conditions;

1. Transfer of land form prepared by a solicitor and a schedule to the transfer of land form on which is set out the entire legal description of the parcel,
2. The applicant must deposit a Reference Plan of Survey in the Land Registry Office clearly delineating the parcels of land approved by The Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands in this decision and provide the Town Office with a copy.
3. Prior to final approval by the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands, the owner provide confirmation of payment of all outstanding taxes.
4. All outstanding fees associated with this application including a fee of \$130 for each transfer of land and advertising cost.

Carried

**The Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands**  
**Minutes of Council**

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**Resolution No. 05-01-2026**

Moved by: M. Erskine

Seconded by: W. Koehler

RESOLVED THAT the Planning Authority of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands conditionally approves the application for consent as applied for by Jordan Stephens Personal Real Estate Corp, File Number 2025-14, subject to the following conditions;

1. Transfer of landform prepared by a solicitor and a schedule to the transfer of landform on which is set out the entire legal description of the parcel,
2. The applicant must deposit a Reference Plan of Survey in the Land Registry Office clearly delineating the parcels of land approved by The Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands in this decision and provide the Town Office with a copy.
3. Prior to final approval by the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands, the owner provide confirmation of payment of all outstanding taxes.
4. All outstanding fees associated with this application including a fee of \$130 for each transfer of land and advertising cost.

Carried

**Resolution No. 06-01-2026**

Moved by: P. Aelick

Seconded by: B. Wood

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands now reads a first, second and third time and finally passes by-law 2026-03 being a by-law to amend by-law 2018-41 by rezoning 22 Vankoughnet Street east to General Commercial from Institutional.

Carried

**Resolution No. 07-01-2026**

Moved by: L. Cook

Seconded by: D. Orr

RESOLVED THAT the Planning Authority of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands conditionally approves the application for consent as applied for by The 833 Island Corp, File Number 2025-15, subject to the following conditions;

1. Transfer of land form prepared by a solicitor and a schedule to the transfer of land form on which is set out the entire legal description of the parcel,
2. The applicant must deposit a Reference Plan of Survey in the Land Registry Office clearly delineating the parcels of land approved by The Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands in this decision and provide the Town Office with a copy.
3. Prior to final approval by the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands, the owner provide confirmation of payment of all outstanding taxes.
4. All outstanding fees associated with this application including a fee of \$130 for each transfer of land and advertising cost.

Carried

**The Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands  
Minutes of Council**

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**Resolution No. 08-01-2026**

Moved by: A. Boyd  
Seconded by: G. Williamson

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands now reads a first, second and third time and finally passes by-law 2026-04 being a by-law for the borrowing of funds from TD Canda Trust.

Carried

**Resolution No. 09-01-2026**

Moved by: P. Aelick  
Seconded by: M. Erskine

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands now reads a first, second and third time and finally passes by-law 2026-05 being a by-law to provide for an interim tax levy and to provide for penalty and interest at a rate of 1.25 percent per month.

Carried

**Resolution No. 10-01-2026**

Moved by: B. Wood  
Seconded by: A. Boyd

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands now reads a first, second and third time and finally passes by-law 2026-06 being a by-law to establish rules and procedures with respect to the use of municipal resources during the election campaign period.

Carried

**Resolution No. 11-01-2026**

Moved by: D. Orr  
Seconded by: G. Williamson

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands now reads a first, second and third time and finally passes by-law 2026-07 being a by-law to authorize voting by mail for the 2026 municipal election.

Carried

**Resolution No. 12-01-2026**

Moved by: M. Erskine  
Seconded by: P. Aelick

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands donates up to \$145.00 to Manitoulin Family Resources to help cover the cost of an ice rental for a family event.

Carried

**Resolution No. 13-01-2026**

Moved by: W. Koehler  
Seconded by: B. Wood

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands proceeds In Camera in order to address a matter pertaining to personal matters about identifiable individual, including municipal or local employees.

Carried

**Resolution No. 14-01-2026**

Moved by: P. Aelick  
Seconded by: W. Koehler

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands renews David Williamson's employment contract as per the agreement attached.

Carried

**Ayes: Mayor MacNevin, Councillors Aelick, Boyd, Cook Erskine, Koehler, Orr, Wood and Williamson**

**The Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands  
Minutes of Council**

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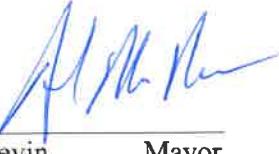
**Resolution No. 15-01-2026**

Moved by: D. Orr

Seconded by: G. Williamson

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands now adjourns at 8:27 pm.

Carried



Al MacNevin Mayor



Pam Myers Clerk

**The Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands**  
**Minutes of a meeting of Council held Thursday, January 8, 2026**  
**at 7:00p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Al MacNevin, Councillors: Patti Aelick, Al Boyd, Laurie Cook, Mike Erskine, and George Williamson, Dawn Orr, William Koehler and Bruce Wood

**STAFF PRESENT:** David Williamson, CAO  
Pam Myers, Clerk  
Sheryl Wilkin, Treasurer

Mayor MacNevin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Resolution No. 16-01-2026**

Moved by: M. Erskine

Seconded by: B. Wood

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands

approves the agenda as presented.

Carried

**Resolution No. 17-01-2026**

Moved by: W. Koehler

Seconded by: G. Williamson

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands

approves the financial reports as presented.

Carried

**Resolution No. 18-01-2026**

Moved by: M. Erskine

Seconded by: L. Cook

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands authorizes the Mayor and CAO to enter into an agreement with the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities for fuel electrification and solar net metering at the NEMI Library and FURTHERMORE authorizes the amount of \$52 522.98 to be withdrawn from the working capital reserve account to fund our share.

Carried

**Resolution No. 19-01-2026**

Moved by: M. Erskine

Seconded by: P. Aelick

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands authorizes the placement of a 20' seacan at 1271 Cosby Subdivision as per the site plan attached.

Carried

**Resolution No. 20-01-2026**

Moved by: B. Wood

Seconded by: D. Orr

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands accepts the Drinking Water Management Review Report..

Carried

**Resolution No. 21-01-2026**

Moved by: L. Cook

Seconded by: M. Erskine

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands accepts the resignation of Rosemary Burnett for the Library Board with regret.

Carried

**Resolution No. 22-01-2026**

Moved by: W. Koehler

Seconded by: D. Orr

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands does now adjourn at 7:49 pm.

Carried

**The Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands**  
**Minutes of a meeting of Council held Thursday, January 22, 2025**  
**at 7:00p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Al MacNevin, Councillors: Patti Aelick, Al Boyd, Laurie Cook, Mike Erskine, and George Williamson, Dawn Orr, William Koehler and Bruce Wood

**STAFF PRESENT:** David Williamson, CAO  
Pam Myers, Clerk  
Wayne Williamson, Manager of Public Works  
Reid Taylor, Manager of Community Services

Mayor MacNevin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Resolution No. 12-01-2025**

Moved by: G. Williamson

Seconded by: P. Aelick

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands approves the agenda as presented.

Carried

**Resolution No. 13-01-2025**

Moved by: M. Erskine

Seconded by: W. Koehler

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands approves the 2026 Marina Rates as presented and attached.

Carried

**Resolution No. 14-01-2025**

Moved by: P. Aelick

Seconded by: D. Orr

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands accepts the 2025/26 Inspection report for the Little Current Drinking Water System.

Carried

**Resolution No. 15-01-2025**

Moved by: M. Erskine

Seconded by: A. Boyd

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands authorizes the Mayor and CAO to enter into an agreement with the Ministry of Infrastructure for the Rehabilitation of Blake Street Cast Iron Watermains, with the Ministry of Infrastructure contributing up to \$1 535 463.00 and FURTHERMORE that Council authorizes the withdrawal of \$546 877.23 from the Little Current Water reserve.

Carried

**Resolution No. 16-01-2025**

Moved by: G. Williamson

Seconded by: B. Wood

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands authorizes the Mayor and CAO to enter into an agreement with the Solicitor General for the purchase of 15 sets of turnout gear in the amount of \$16 000.00.

Carried

**Resolution No. 17-01-2025**

Moved by: W. Koehler

Seconded by: B. Wood

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands does now adjourn at 7:50 pm.

Carried



Box 608, Little Current, POP 1K0  
705-368-3500

With the changes that have been brought into force by the Provincial Government regarding recycling we are faced with some challenges as to Institutional, Commercial and Industrial businesses and costing.

With the revised recycling plan the provincial government takes over the cost of residential recycling only. That leaves the municipality with the challenge of how to cover the expenses of transportation of the Institutional, Commercial and Industrial recycling which we always want to encourage as recycling is a huge benifactor as to the number of years of life left available at our landfill site.

As we see it, we have a number of options however the following are options we feel Council could consider.

1. GFL, the current service provider has quoted a price of \$187.14 per bin plus 26% fuel charge and 13% HST annually. If we only have two bins a week picked up this price comes to \$27 710.49 and it is very unlikely that we would only have two bins a week.
2. GFL has stated that they are prepared to work individually with the business to arrange for pick up at the following prices
  - a. \$25.00 per month for 4 blue boxes per week
  - b. \$46.78 per pick up for a 2 yard bin
  - c. \$93.58 per pick up for a 4 yard bin
  - d. \$140.36 per pick up for a 6 yard bin
  - e. \$187.14 per pick up for a 8 yard bin
3. The last option would allow for businesses to bring their recycling to the landfill and pay the town directly for the product deposited at the following rates
  - a. \$266.44 for a ½ ton truck load or trailer load
  - b. \$133.22 for a partial load

These are the options considered by administration, Council may have others



Box 608, Little Current, Ontario, P0P 1K0  
705-368-3500

Tender Opening

Opened at The Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands

Opened by Rick Armstrong  
Pam Myers

Project 2026 1/2 Ton

Date Jan 30, 2026

Company Name	Bid	HST	Total	Cert chq included
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McQuarrie Motors - Silverado 1500 Crew 38791.88

Manitoulin Chrysler - 1500 Express Crew 163567.00

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF  
NORTHEASTERN MANITOULIN AND THE ISLANDS  
MEETING OF COUNCIL**

MOVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands supports a funding application to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund in support of the Manitoulin Trade Show in the amount of \$10 500.00 and

FURTHERMORE commits to the town share of the application of \$24 500 and any cost overruns from the working capital reserve

**CARRIED** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFERRED** \_\_\_\_\_

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**MAYOR'S SIGNATURE**

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**Division Vote**

	For	Against
Councillor Aelick	—	—
Councillor Boyd	—	—
Councillor Cook	—	—
Councillor Erskine	—	—
Councillor Koehler	—	—

	For	Against
Councillor Orr	—	—
Councillor Wood	—	—
Councillor Williamson	—	—
Mayor MacNevin	—	—

**Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

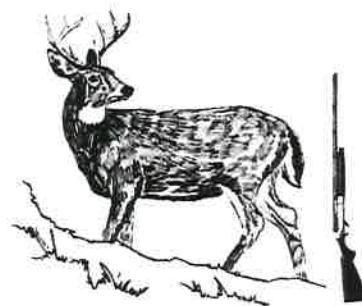
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Disclosed his/her (their) interest(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.**

CLERK: \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED  
JAN 22 2026



Little Current & District Fish & Game Club  
PO Box 305  
Little Current, Ontario  
POP 1W0

January 15, 2026

Dear supporter,

Once again the Little Current and District Fish & Game Club will be hosting, in late April, Grade 4 students from all Manitoulin Island public schools and Birch Island.

While the students are at the walleye hatchery in Sheguiandah, they will observe fish being removed from the trap net, the fertilization process, building a bass nest, Manitoulin birds, fish and animal mounts, aquatic life forms, archeological artifacts and much more.

Each year all students receive a fishing rod and reel from the club. These are high quality rods that we buy from a supplier at cost. This year we will have approximately 180 students take part in the program.

It would be appreciated if your organization or business would consider financially supporting our program.

Thank you for considering the aforementioned request.

Sincerely,

The Directors of,

Little Current and District Fish & Game Club  
PO Box 305  
Little Current, Ontario  
POP 1K0

**Monday, January 26th, 2026**

**Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands Council  
14 Water St East  
P.O. Box 608  
Little Current ON P0P 1K0**



**Dear Mayor and Councillors of NEMI,**

We are reaching out today on behalf of the 1st Manitowaning Girl Guides Unit. Our mission is to empower girls to be confident, resourceful and courageous, and to make a difference in the world.

Our unit is a multibranch unit with Sparks, Embers, and Guides, currently at capacity with 16 youth members, about 40% of those members living in NEMI, and the rest split between the Municipalities of Assiginack and Central Manitoulin. We meet weekly at Assiginack Public School, but also participate in other events and activities. In the fall we hosted a PD Day Camp at the Sheguiandah Museum and Twin Peaks Hiking Trail.

Members of our unit were in attendance to lay wreaths at Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Little Current Public School, the Little Current Cenotaph, and the Centennial Manor. This winter we are planning to mark 100 years of World Thinking Day, a Global Girl Guide and Girl Scout tradition, by volunteering in the community and with a special event we are planning for our members at the Sheguiandah Senior's Hall. In the spring we are participating in an overnight trip to Science North and as well as our annual camping trip, graciously hosted by Manitoulin Resort.

During our weekly meetings, we do science and art based activities, play games and build and navigate friendships and group dynamics. We take time to discuss topics

important to our members, and facilitate activities in areas of their interest as best we can. We strive to create a place where all belong and are accepted for who they are, while also exposing them to a variety of topics and ideas.

We are seeking a \$200 donation to help us cover the costs of meetings and events for our members. Our unit is primarily funded by cookie sales. Your contribution would support the work we do for youth in our community.

Please feel free to contact us at [ameliacthompson@gmail.com](mailto:ameliacthompson@gmail.com) or if you have any questions or wish to discuss this further.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important request. With your help, we can continue to make a significant difference in the lives of the youth in our community.

Sincerely,

**Amelia Wood & Gloria Goodwill-Aelick  
Guiders  
1st Manitowaning Girl Guides  
[ameliacthompson@gmail.com](mailto:ameliacthompson@gmail.com)**

January 27, 2026

**The Right Honourable Mark Carney**  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

SENT BY EMAIL: [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

**Subject: A Nation-Building Opportunity for Highways 11 & 17; and a Clear Federal Signal**

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), I am writing to follow up on our delegation meetings in Ottawa earlier this winter, where representatives from Northern Ontario municipalities met with members of your team, including Zachary Nixon, to discuss the growing challenges facing our 110 member municipalities.

Chief among those challenges is the urgent need to modernize Highways 11 and 17, Ontario's northern Trans-Canada corridors, through a combination of four-laning and the proven 2+1 highway model.

During our Ottawa meetings, we heard a consistent and encouraging message: **if the Province of Ontario were to formally advance this project as a priority, the Government of Canada would be prepared to participate at a 50-per-cent funding level.** That clarity matters deeply to Northern communities.

At present, however, a trust gap remains. The Province has indicated hesitation to proceed without a clear, public federal commitment. In short, Ontario needs to hear plainly and publicly that Ottawa is ready to be an equal partner.

We are therefore respectfully urging you to make that commitment explicit.

This is not an abstract policy discussion. People are dying on these highways. Families, truck drivers, and first responders face unacceptable risk every day on corridors that carry **more than \$200 million in goods daily**, serve as the primary access route to the Ring of Fire, and are critical infrastructure for national defence, emergency response, and continental supply chains.

Highway 11, in particular, is increasingly indispensable: a more reliable east-west trade corridor, less vulnerable to weather disruptions, and central to Canada's critical minerals, forestry, agriculture, and energy future. It is also essential to Canada's internal resilience at a time when secure domestic trade routes matter more than ever.

Your government's Building Canada Act and nation-building criteria speak directly to this moment.

Upgrading Highways 11 and 17 meets every test: safety, economic growth, national security, Indigenous participation, climate resilience, and shovel-ready execution. Ontario has already taken important steps with its planned 2+1 pilot. What is now required is a clear federal signal to unlock full provincial participation.

Prime Minister, if you were to publicly state that the Government of Canada is prepared to invest 50-cent dollars in this corridor once Ontario brings it forward, it would be heard loudly and clearly at Queen's Park and across Northern Ontario.

Should you wish to do so, FONOM would welcome the opportunity to make that announcement at our 2026 FONOM Conference in Timmins, alongside Premier Doug Ford and in the heart of the region most directly affected. It would be a powerful nation-building moment, rooted in partnership, safety, and confidence in Canada's future.

Northern Ontarians are not asking for special treatment; we are asking for equal treatment on a national highway that has always been vital to this country's cohesion and prosperity.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further at your convenience and remain ready to work with your office, the Province of Ontario, and federal partners to advance this critical project.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued attention to the needs of Northern communities.

Respectfully,



Dave Plourde  
President, FONOM

Cc'd Premier Doug Ford  
Honourable Steven MacKinnon  
Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria  
Honourable Patty Hajdu

**Support for the Prescription Diversion Partnership and Collaboration Project**  
**“The Birth of Change”**

\_\_\_\_\_ moved, **SECONDED** by \_\_\_\_\_, that

**WHEREAS** prescription drug diversion, particularly involving regulated opioids and other controlled medications, presents a serious and growing risk to public health, community safety, and vulnerable populations across Ontario, including Northern and rural communities; and

**WHEREAS** evidence from law enforcement, health professionals, and community drug strategy partners demonstrates that diverted prescription medications are contributing to substance misuse, criminal activity, and increased strain on health, social, and enforcement systems throughout Northern Ontario

**WHEREAS** the **Partnership and Collaboration Project, “The Birth of Change”** (written by the North Bay Police Services and Community Drug Strategy of North Bay & Area), brings together law enforcement, addiction medicine specialists, pharmacists, public health partners, and community organizations to address prescription diversion through a collaborative, evidence-based, and multi-sector approach

**WHEREAS** the project identifies practical regulatory, prescribing, dispensing, and prevention measures intended to reduce diversion while maintaining appropriate access to medically necessary pain management and addiction treatment services; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities across Northern Ontario are experiencing the downstream impacts of prescription diversion, including pressures on emergency services, policing, housing stability, and community well-being;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands formally supports the **Partnership and Collaboration Project, “The Birth of Change”** and its objectives to reduce prescription drug diversion through coordinated, evidence-based action; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands calls on the **Province of Ontario**, including the **Ministry of Health** and the **Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions**, to review and give serious consideration to the project’s recommendations, including regulatory, prescribing, dispensing, and prevention strategies aimed at mitigating prescription diversion while protecting patient care; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands encourage continued provincial engagement with municipalities, law enforcement, health professionals, pharmacists, and community partners to ensure that solutions are practical, regionally appropriate, and responsive to the realities faced by Northern Ontario communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the **Minister of Health**, the **Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions**, **Sgt. Brad Reaume**, **Northern Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament**, **NOMA**, **AMO** and **ROMA**.



District of Nipissing

## Partnership and Collaboration “the birth of change”



COMMUNITY  
DRUG STRATEGY  
NORTH BAY & AREA

Det. B. Reaume  
Co-Chair

Prescription Diversion Project  
November 2025

Ms. P. Cliche, R.N.  
Co-Chair

**Partnership and Collaboration**  
*"the birth of change"*

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**Location of Project:**

The Prescription Diversion project is underway in the Nipissing District, located in Northeastern Ontario, established in 1858. The district seat is North Bay. North Bay is a diverse community with a population of 52,662 and a regional trading area of 112,000, covering the districts of Nipissing, Parry Sound, Timmins, Temiskaming Shores, and Cobalt.

The North Bay Census Agglomeration includes the Municipalities of East Ferris, Callander, and the Townships of Bonfield and Chisholm. Unorganized townships include Nipissing North and the Municipality of Powassan. As of the 2021 Census, the total population of North Bay, CA is 71,736.

English is the primary language, with a smaller French-speaking community. Indigenous people comprise 10.7% of the population, with the majority identifying as First Nations.

Three general hospitals operate in the Nipissing District: North Bay Regional Health Centre, West Nipissing General Hospital, and Mattawa General Hospital.

The region receives policing services from the North Bay Police Service, Ontario Provincial Police, both municipal and regional offices, and the Anishinabek Police Service.

**Definition of Prescription Diversion:**

Diversion occurs when a prescription holder receives medication from a pharmacist/dispenser and is then traded or sold. This may come in many forms, as low-impactful as a benefit holder assisting a family member with costs or non-narcotic medication.

Diversion is the illegal distribution or abuse of prescription drugs, or their use is not intended by the prescriber. The vast majority of diversion includes the sale or trade of prescribed narcotics for currency or a more desired narcotic like fentanyl and analogs of fentanyl.

**Background:**

In February 2025, the Street Crime Unit of the North Bay Police Service recognized that Prescription Diversion within the community was continuing to increase. Detective Brad Reaume reported that he had been informed by a dealer that he had arrested "that everyone diverts their medication". This person continued to relay statements such as they are like "candy on the streets, kids are buying them," and "you're doing the same thing you did with oxy's all over again."

During the execution of several search warrants, 8mg Dilaudid pills and prescription bottles were found routinely, and during one search warrant, over 1000 pills were discovered.

Hydromorphone is being sold and traded for a preferred narcotic- Fentanyl (Analogs). The pills are then sold for a profit to low-tolerance individuals and introduction to substance abusers. A concerning factor is that young people are seeking out dealers to purchase these pills.

Methadone, a Schedule II narcotic used to treat Opioid use disorder, is also sold and traded for the preferred drug of choice. (See Appendix A: **Slide deck Diversion North Bay.ppt**)

In February 2025, a series of meetings took place with various stakeholders and partners to begin addressing the issue strategically. Detective Brad Reaume and Patricia Cliche from the

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Community Drug Strategy – North Bay & Area assumed the roles of Chairs for the Prescription Diversion Project.

A series of meetings from February through to March 10, 2025, were hosted with addiction physicians presenting the issue and soliciting input and recommendations from the prescribers. Also in February, an awareness letter, "Withdraw Management & Opiate Prescribing Issue," was sent to all addiction physicians as well as to the Department of General & Family Practice at the North Bay Regional Hospital.

On May 2, 2025, Detective Brad Reaume and Pat Cliche met with our local MPP, Vic Fedeli, to communicate the issue of diversion and address some regulatory changes. MPP Fedeli advised us to speak directly to the staff at the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, and that at the first opportunity, he would pass on information to the Associate Minister Honourable Vijay Thanigasalam.

On May 27, 2025, a Media Release was posted to communicate and raise awareness around the issue of diversion and the types of medications that are a risk to individuals who are not regulated consumers. (**See Appendix B: Media Release**)

During July 2025, we had the opportunity to discuss the issue of Prescription Diversion via a virtual platform with three staff members from the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss future steps and plans regarding the North Bay project, ensuring to share and keep the Ministry up to date on plans and progress.

In our past experiences with our development of Bill 33 – Safeguarding our Communities Act, it was realized that the pharmacists were Gatekeepers to assist in the success of projects. We scheduled two meetings with all our local pharmacy outlets to seek their recommendations to address this concern.

First meeting was held on April 10 with some suggested recommendations, and on August 28, 2025, a large symposium with pharmacists, enforcement, addiction physician from Sudbury, partners from the local Mental Health & Addiction Committee and a Lived experience person who stated she had lost two partners to overdose but that she had "trafficked her prescriptions over 10,000 times." The participants revealed crucial facts relating to actual diversion, indicating that prescription holders quickly (within 24 hours) divert their prescriptions for sale or trade. This key fact is supported by police investigations, where diverted medications were discovered and supports the regulatory changes recommended.

This issue of diversion is also not isolated to one community; it is widespread across the province. In Timmins, Police seized \$1.26 million in drugs and arrested 22 people, the result of a major drug operation in Timmins and Attawapiskat First Nation. Project Albion was conducted in conjunction with the Timmins Police Service, the Ontario Provincial Police, and it began in September 2024. They also seized \$100,000 in cash. Among the drugs seized were: fentanyl, crystal methamphetamine, methamphetamine pills, cocaine, oxycodone (Percocet and

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OxyContin pills), hydromorphone pills, morphine pills, psilocybin, lorazepam, Ritalin, MDMA, two motor vehicles, a rifle, a conducted energy weapon, and various paraphernalia consistent with drug trafficking.

Finally, in London, Ontario, CBC news reported on July 8, 2024, that about half of the opioids seized by London, Ont., police last year were prescribed Dilaudids.

Dilaudids made up roughly 15,000 of the hydromorphone pills seized in 2023.

**Goal for Prescription Diversion:**

To work with various community pharmacists, prescribers and committee members to explore potential best practices/strategies and regulatory options that may mitigate the impact of prescription diversion.

**Objective for Prescription Diversion:**

To convene working forums with identified pharmacists, prescribers and committee members under one umbrella to focus on the issues surrounding prescription diversion and then to develop multiple strategies aimed at reducing or eliminating the issue.

**Deliverables: (Strategies-Recommendations)**

**(A) Recommendations: Addiction Physicians on March 10, 2025**

1. Utilization of screening tool by all prescribing physicians in our area to ensure consistent screening of all clients.
2. Prescribing physicians will schedule and document a call-back screening program as a pilot.
3. The NBPS will notify the individual physician via a private text with a photo of all and any identified prescription bottles discovered during a search. It is the responsibility of the physician to then notify and speak to the client. (A legal discussion currently ongoing to determine if this contravenes privacy regulation)
4. Future meetings will be arranged with the community pharmacy outlets.
5. Suggestions that we re-initiate the return of Methadone bottles to the pharmacy or clinics used.

**(B) Recommendations: Pharmacy Outlets on April 30, 2025**

1. Return of Methadone Bottles to the pharmacy or clinic, but must be consistent across all pharmacy outlets. Develop a Best Practice regulation so that all outlets are compliant.
2. **Call-back** process for a pre-determined time period. Zero tolerance policy for clients if not compliant; they will be obligated to speak to their physician and be subject to a quantitative urine sampling investigation. The pharmacy will do if funding is available for consultation fees, which will sufficiently interfere with hydromorphone diversion.
3. Investigate the feasibility of a written, signed contract between the patient and physician. Violation of regulations will result in the immediate termination of the prescription.
4. Remove Dilaudid 8 mg (Hydromorphone) from provincial pharmacy coverage, **OR** develop a standard and accepted callback regulation requiring prescribers to call back

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patients on a random basis to demonstrate the medication has not been diverted. This will be done on a no less than 4 times per year, and there shall be no announcement of this regulation.

5. Physicians, when prescribing, observe the client taking Kadian. This will eliminate Kadian in our communities.

**(C) Recommendations: August 28, 2025**

**Regulatory Recommendations for Prescription Diversion**

Opioid diversion poses a significant risk to both public health and community safety. Our committee believes that these recommendations strike a balance between ensuring appropriate access to necessary pain medications and safeguarding our communities from the risks associated with diversion. A multifaceted approach will also provide patients with safer, evidence-based alternatives for managing pain and addictions.

All pharmacy outlets in Ontario must remain consistent and compliant with all approved regulations regarding prescription diversion.

**1. Formulary Adjustments**

- **Delist from the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Formulary**
  - Dilauidid (hydromorphone) 8mg tablets: DIN 00786543 and all its generic interchangeables
  - Hydromoroph Contin 24mg (DIN 02125382) and 30mg (DIN 02125390), and 4.5 mg (DIN 02359502) capsules with all their generic interchangeables
- **Restrict access to higher-strength formulations from General Benefits to Limited Use (LU) or Exceptional Access Program (EAP)**
  - Dilauidid 4 mg tabs (DIN 00125121) and all its generic interchangeables
  - Hydromoroph Contin 18mg caps (DIN 02243562) and all its generic interchangeables

**2. Dispensing Regulations**

- If Kadian is to be provided, the administration **must be observed**. There is to be no take-home prescription. Exceptions under certain circumstances, such as when the provider is closed for the weekend.
- Implement legislation limiting opioid dispensing to a **maximum 14-day supply**
- Establish a **random "call-back" program**, allowing pharmacists/physicians to request that patients return their dispensed opioid medications in their original containers for verification and count
- A **nominal \$5:00 fee** would be reimbursed under ODB for each callback, limited to four (4) callbacks per client per year
- Require that all **methadone carry bottles be returned** with their original label intact for patients to receive their next carry supply.

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**3. Enhanced Pain Management Options**

- Expand provincial coverage to support a multifaceted approach to acute pain management to include:
- Addition of non-opioid options to the ODB formulary, muscle relaxants, tramadol, and tramacet, anti-inflammatories such as ketorolac
- Short-term coverage for physiotherapy, chiropractic care, massage therapy, and psychotherapy

**4. Alternatives to Opioid Detoxification**

- Explore and implement non-opioid-based approaches to detoxification, reducing reliance on opioids in the recovery pathway.

**(D) Other recommendations and suggested prevention strategies**

- Legislative changes are needed, such as delisting higher strengths of opioids and limiting prescription quantities to reduce diversion and encourage reflection on dosage choices.
- Improve regulations and reporting mechanisms to address prescription diversion and trafficking.
- Review concerns around the lack of coverage for alternative pain management treatments, suggesting this contributes to addiction issues and the need to consider broader healthcare system reforms.
- Potential strategies to detect and prevent prescription diversion, including the use of technology for remote medication monitoring.
- Reporting of physicians if it is known that they are aware their client is diverting their medication and ignore the issue. Should they be reported to their college for them to review their practice?
- A creation of a clear reporting channel for pharmacists and physicians that can be implemented quickly.
- The need to address this issue proactively to avoid legal challenges, similar to a Class Action suit with Oxycodone.

**Actions to Address Prescription Diversion**

1. Seek approval from the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions for our submitted Proposal of September 18, 2025. and presently the latest format Partnership and Collaboration – “the birth of change”
2. Increase public education and awareness not only in schools but also among the general public.
3. The need to review and recommend some mandatory guidelines for the use of Methadone, such as the actual consulting during treatment and determining the length of time that a client remains on Methadone.
4. Seek approval and letters of support from various partnerships throughout our Province.

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**Appendices:**

- Appendix A: Slide Deck – Diversion North Bay ppt.
- Appendix B: Media Release
- Appendix C: Prescription Diversion Membership
- Appendix D: Sample Motion to approve Prescription Diversion Submission



## Diversion Trends – North Bay April 30 2022

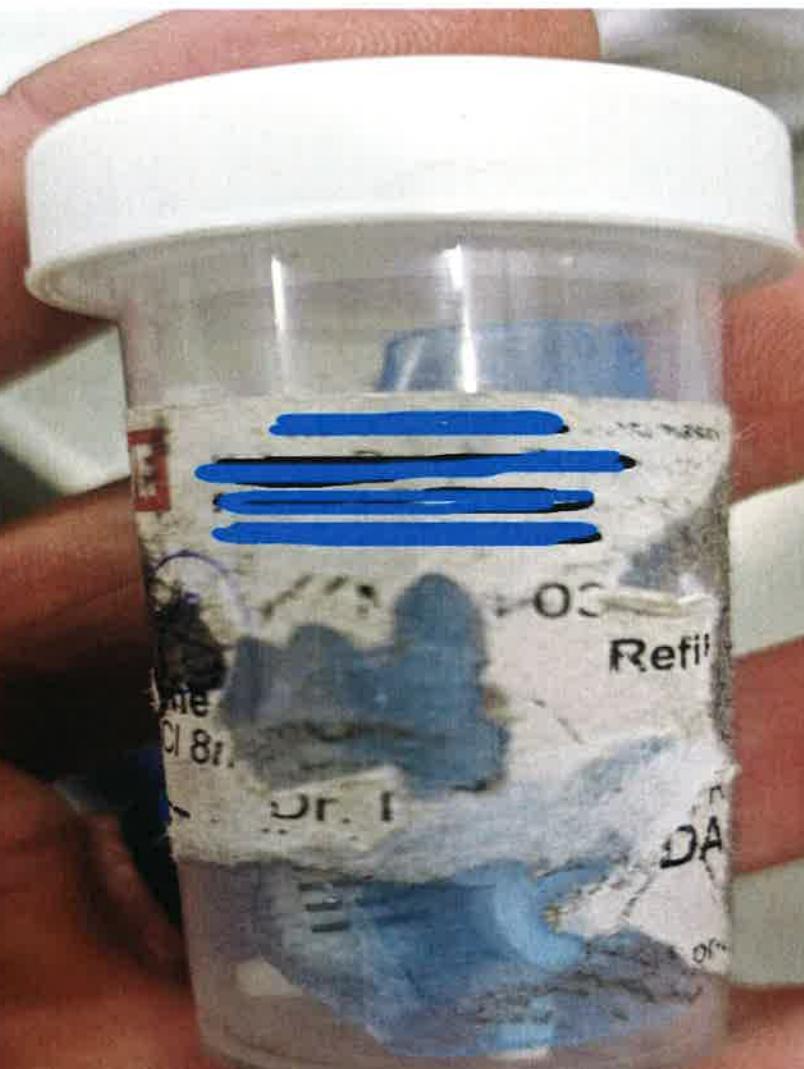


Diversion – is the trade/sale of prescription medications

Alarming conversations with traffickers will have expressed concerns “They’re flooding the streets like candy” “Kids are asking them”

“You’re doing the same thing you did with o





D6



D7



2008-08-29 A-2005



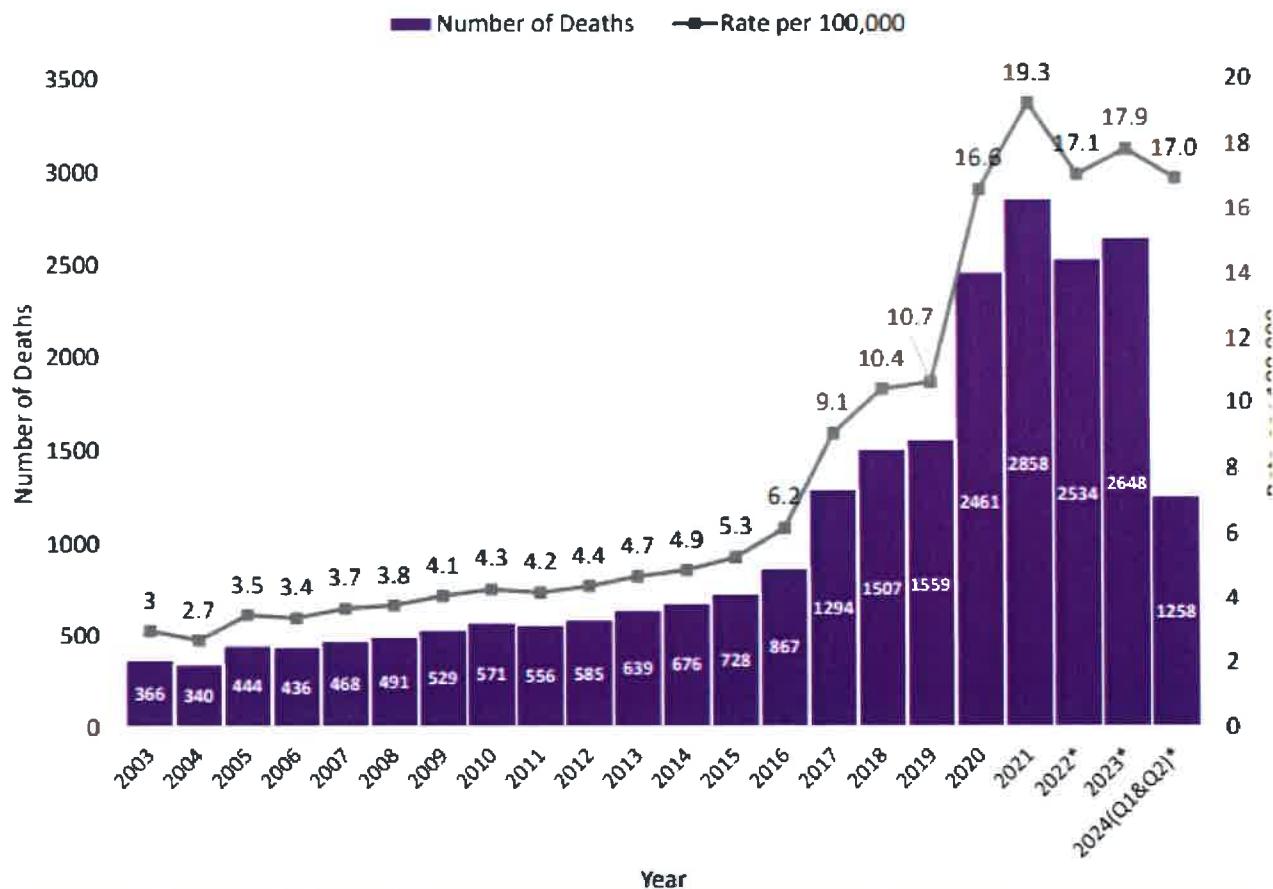


**BUPRENORPH/NALOX 8MG TAB**  
TEVA BUPRENORPH/NALOXONE 8/2 MG  
90 TAB

DISSOLVE 1 TABLET  
UNDER THE TONGUE 3  
TIMES DAILY (90 TABLETS  
EVERY 30 DAYS)

L.W. Graham

# Opioid toxicity deaths in Ontario by year, 2003-2024 Q2



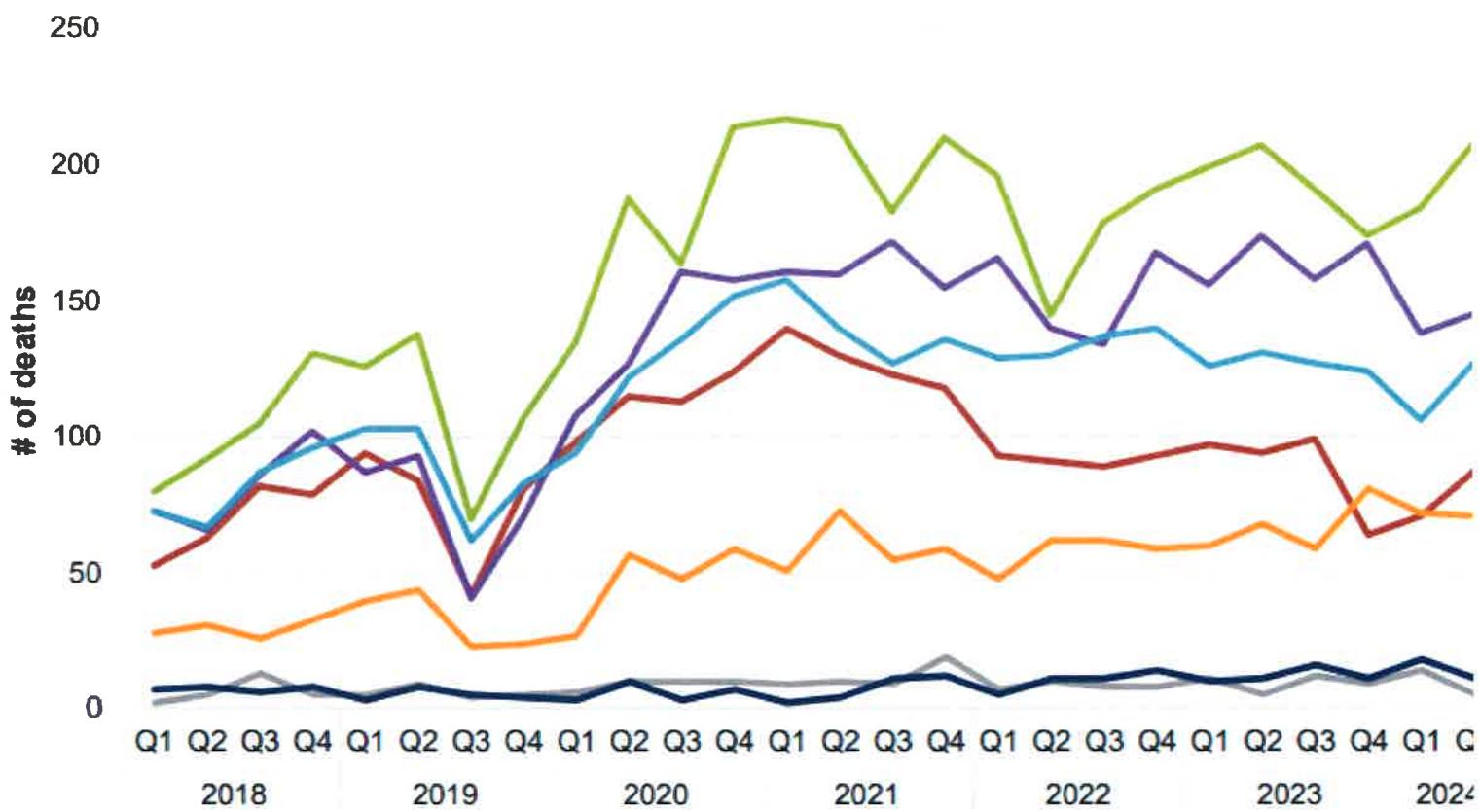
In 2021, the mortality rate for opioid toxicity in Ontario was 19.3 per 100,000 population, more than double the rate in 2017 (9.1).

In 2024(Q1&Q2), the mortality rate has decreased by 12% compared to 2021, however remains 59% higher than in 2019.

Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective October 28, 2024

Includes confirmed and probable opioid toxicity deaths and ongoing investigations where information may be pending. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

# Opioid toxicity deaths in Ontario by age group 2018-2024 Q2

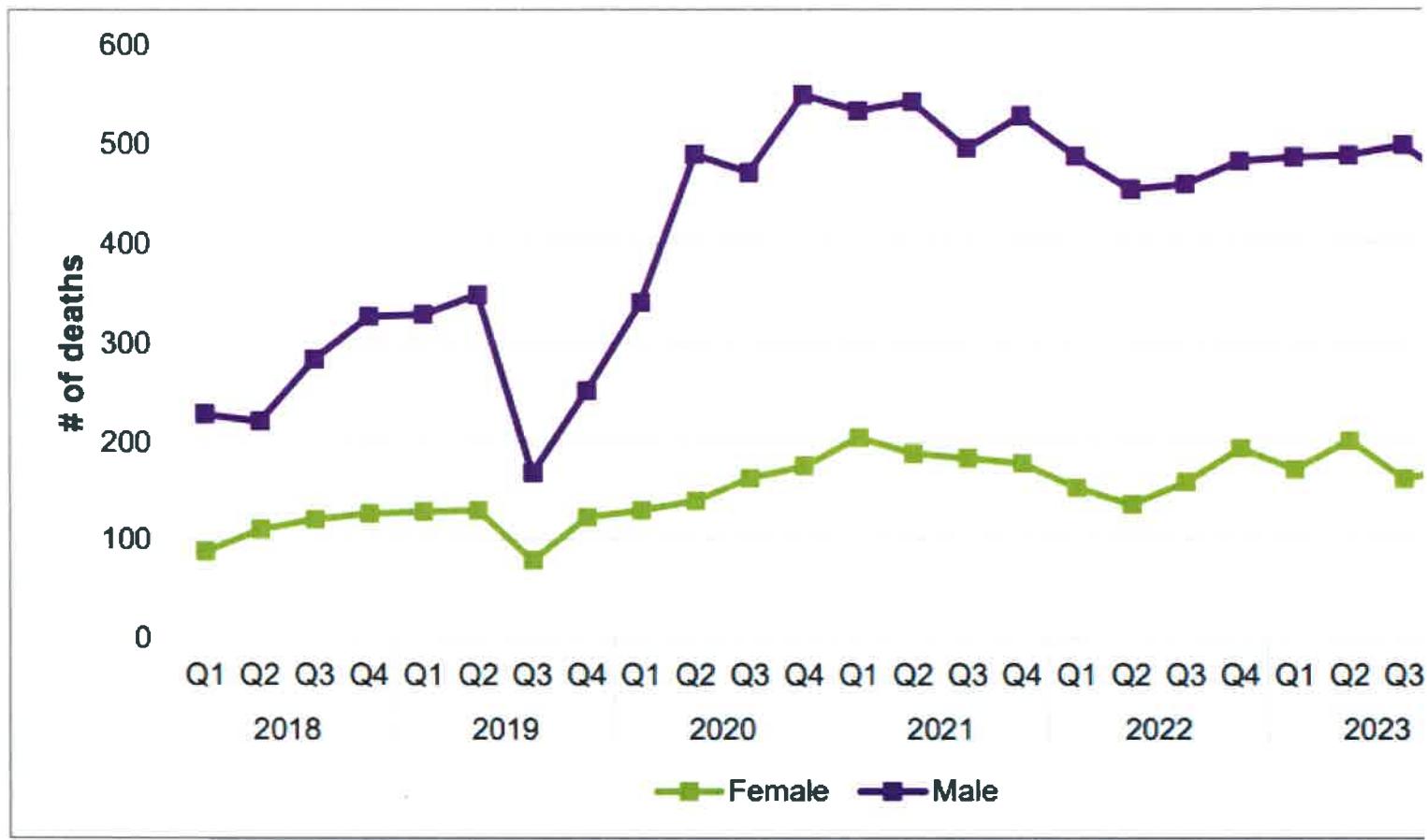


Age groups 30-59 continue to be most impacted, accounting for 73% of deaths in Q2

Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective October 28, 2024.

Includes confirmed and probable opioid toxicity deaths and ongoing investigations where information may be pending. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

# Opioid toxicity deaths in Ontario by sex, 2018-2024 Q2

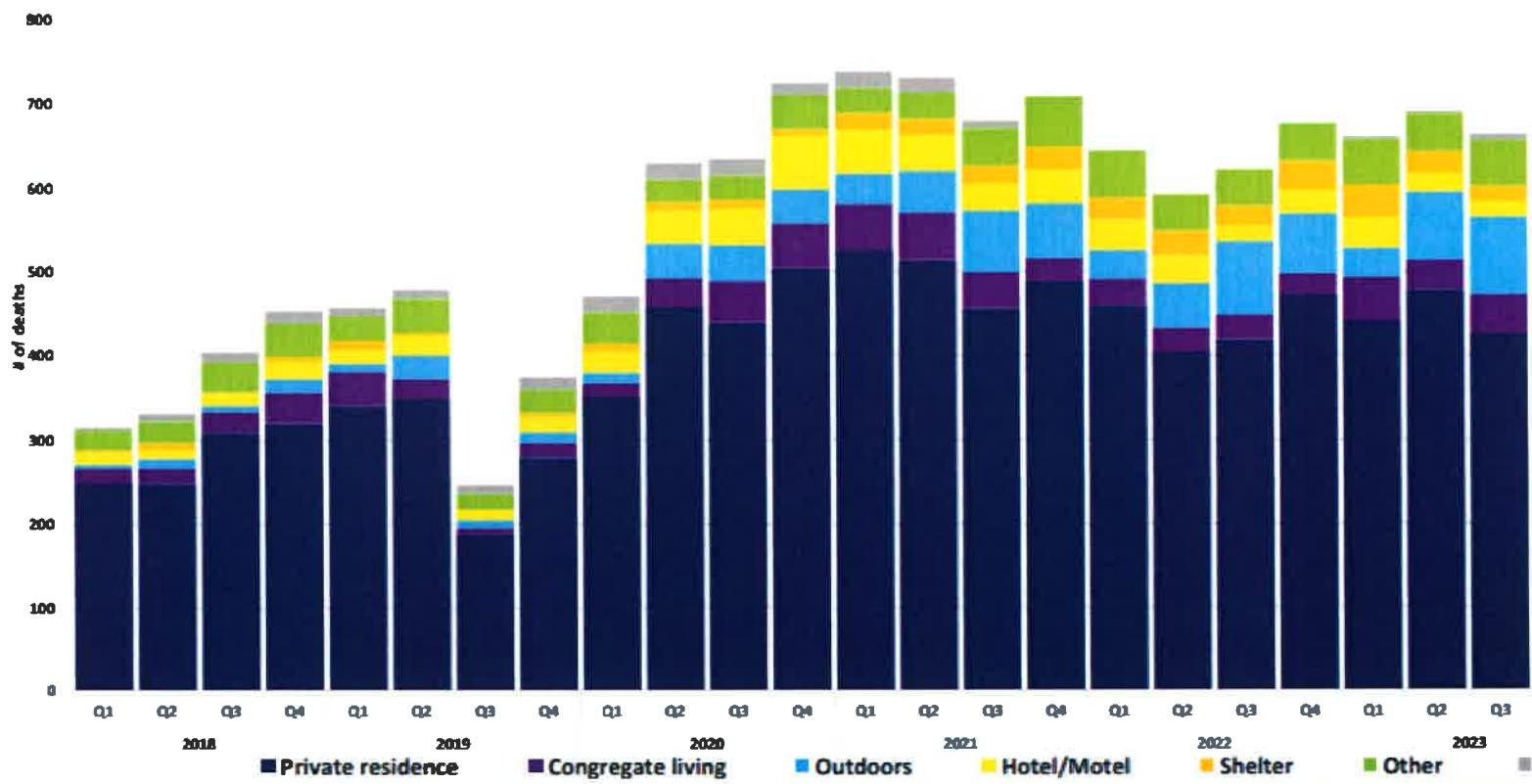


**3 in 4 deaths have been among males since the start of the pandemic.**

Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective October 28, 2024.

Includes confirmed and probable opioid toxicity deaths and ongoing investigations where information may be pending. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

# Locations of Incident among Opioid Toxicity Death Ontario, 2018-2024 Q2



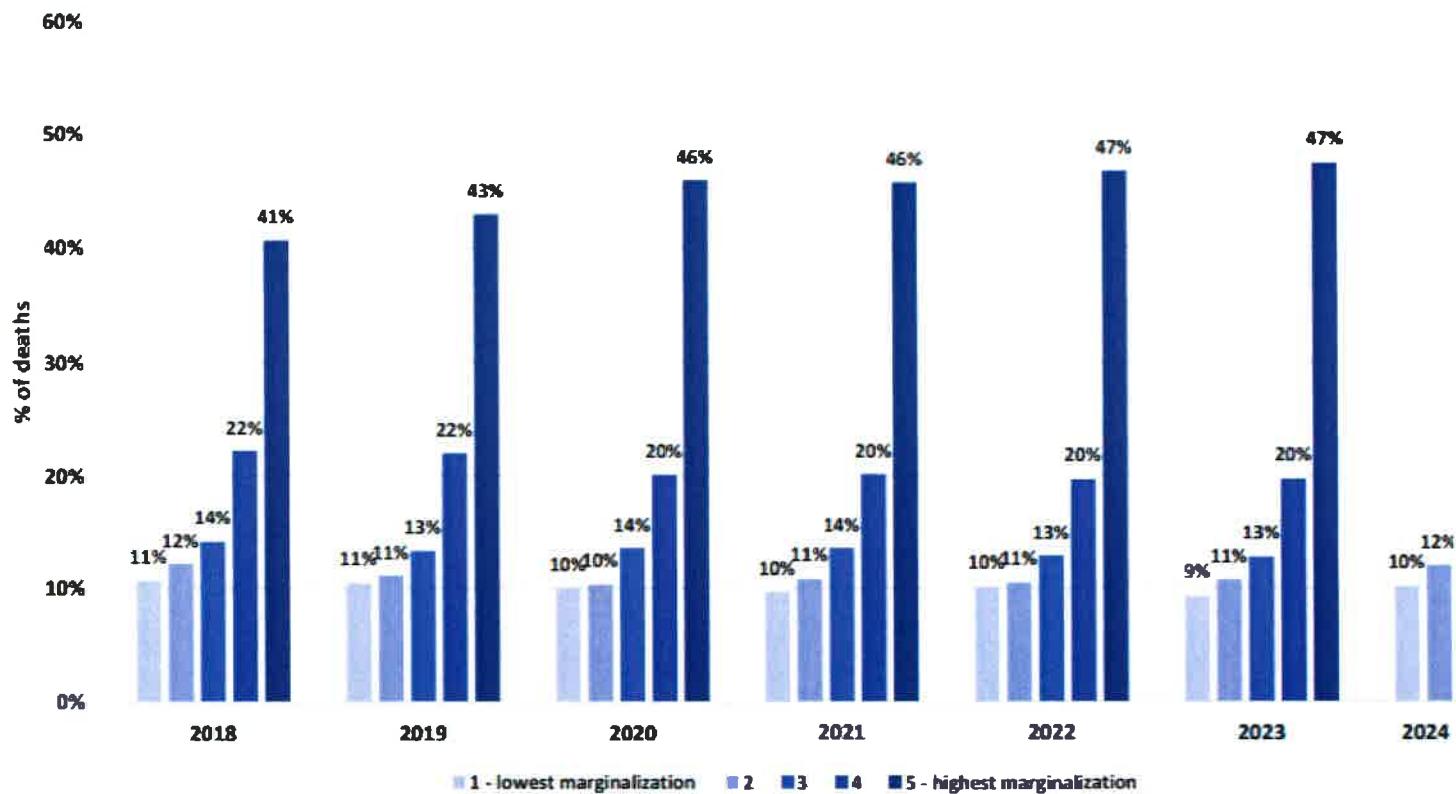
**The majority of fatal opioid toxicity events (nearly 7 in 10) occur in private residence.**

Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective October 28, 2024.

Includes confirmed and probable opioid toxicity deaths and ongoing investigations where information may be pending. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

Other locations of incident include: Correctional Facility, in Custody, Hospital/Clinic, in a Vehicle, Public building, and Industrial (Construction Site, Factory, Plant, Warehouse, Mine).

# Material Resources Marginalization Index among opioid t deaths in Ontario, 2018-2024 Q2



**Nearly half of all opioid toxicity deaths occur among people living in areas experiencing the highest level of material resource marginalization (i.e., extreme difficulty attaining basic material needs).**

Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective October 28, 2024. Includes confirmed and probable opioid toxicity deaths and ongoing investigations where information may be pending. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

Based on postal code of residence where available; if missing, then postal code of incident is used. The [2021 Ontario Marginalization \(ON-MARG\) Index](#) uses dissemination area (defined as a "relatively stable geographic unit with average population of 400 to 700 persons") and material resources quintiles. The material resources dimension is related to poverty and the inability to attain basic material needs such as housing, food, clothing, and education. It is a known limitation that ON-MARG may not be able to accurately represent Indigenous reserves, Indigenous people living off reserve or institutionalized populations (nursing homes, penitentiaries etc.) due to how the information is collected in the census.

# Substances involved in opioid toxicity death in Ontario, 2018-2024 Q2

	% of Opioid Toxicity Deaths by Year						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (Q1 & Q2)
<b>Non-Pharmaceutical Opioids</b>							
Total fentanyl/Fentanyl analogues	67.9	75	85.7	88.8	83.4	86.2	
Fentanyl	64.4	53.4	85.5	87.9	81.8	82.3	
Carfentanil	6.3	31.4	0.5	4.3	7.6	3.1	
Other Fentanyl Analogues**	1.4	1.3	1.2	0.6	1.7	2.2	
Detection of Fluorofentanyl*	0	0	0	0.8	6.4	42.5	
Detection of Butyryl/Isobutyryl/Methyl-fentanyl*	0	0	0	0	0	1.3	
Nitazenes*	0	0	0	0.2	0.8	0.6	
Heroin	7.2	4.1	1.7	0.8	0.4	0.7	
<b>Opioids Indicated for Pain</b>							
Codeine	4.6	2.6	1.9	1.4	1.5	1.4	
Oxycodone	11.1	9.1	4.9	3.8	5.7	4.6	
Hydromorphone	10.8	10.1	6.1	5.9	6.9	7.5	
Tramadol	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.4	
Morphine	10.7	8	5.2	4	5.7	5.4	
<b>Opioid Agonist Treatment</b>							
Methadone	12.9	12.9	10.4	10.3	9.5	8.7	
Buprenorphine	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.4	
<b>Other Substances</b>							
Total Stimulant(s)	43.5	48.3	56.9	59.3	59.9	67.3	
Methamphetamine	16.3	20.5	25.8	30.2	32.1	34.9	
Cocaine	32.2	34.4	41.6	40	39.6	47.9	
Other Stimulants	2.4	1.4	1.7	1.2	1.3	2.2	
Alcohol	13.7	12.6	12.8	10.6	12.2	11.6	
Benzodiazepines	11.9	8.4	9.1	11.1	11.2	31.8	
Detection of nonpharmaceutical benzodiazepines*	32.7	29.8	45	63.8	48.8	64.7	
Detection of xylazine*	0	0	0.2	2.1	2.5	3.1	

**Fentanyl continues to contribute to the majority (76.2%) of opioid toxicity deaths**  
**Stimulants are involved in nearly 7 in 10 opioid toxicity deaths.**

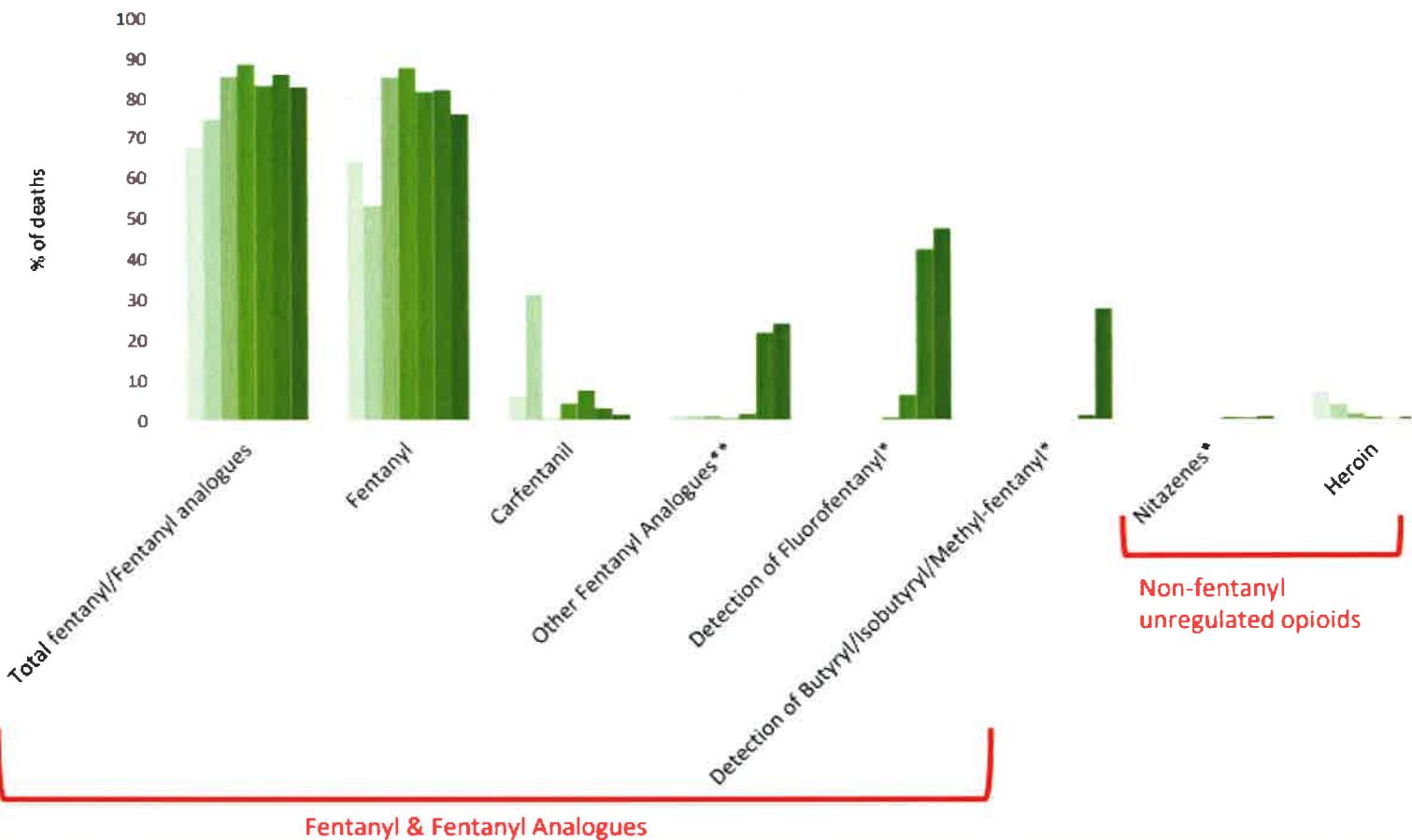
Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective October 28, 2024.

*Includes confirmed opioid toxicity deaths only. Data are preliminary and subject to change. Data reflect substances attributed to cause of death unless otherwise indicated.*

*\*Due to evolving toxicology methods and best practices around quantifying and defining toxic levels of novel fentanyl analogues, nitazenes, non-pharmaceutical benzodiazepines, and xylazine, these substances may not be consistently characterized in the cause of death.*

*\*\*Includes Para-fluorobutyryl Fentanyl, Cyclopropylfentanyl, Furanyl fentanyl, Despropionyl Fentanyl, Furanyl UF 17, Butyryl/Isobutyryl/Methyl-fentanyl, Fluorofentanyl, and Acetyl fentanyl.*

# Unregulated Opioids Involved in Opioid Toxicity Deaths in Ontario, 2018-2024 Q2



## Fentanyl & Fentanyl Analogues

**In 2024 to date (Q1&Q2):**

**Fentanyl/Fentanyl Analogues** are attributed to over 4 in 5 opioid toxicity deaths.

**Fluorofentanyl** is detected in nearly half of opioid toxicity deaths.

**Butyryl/Isobutryl/Methyl-fentanyl** is detected in nearly 3 in 10 opioid toxicity dea

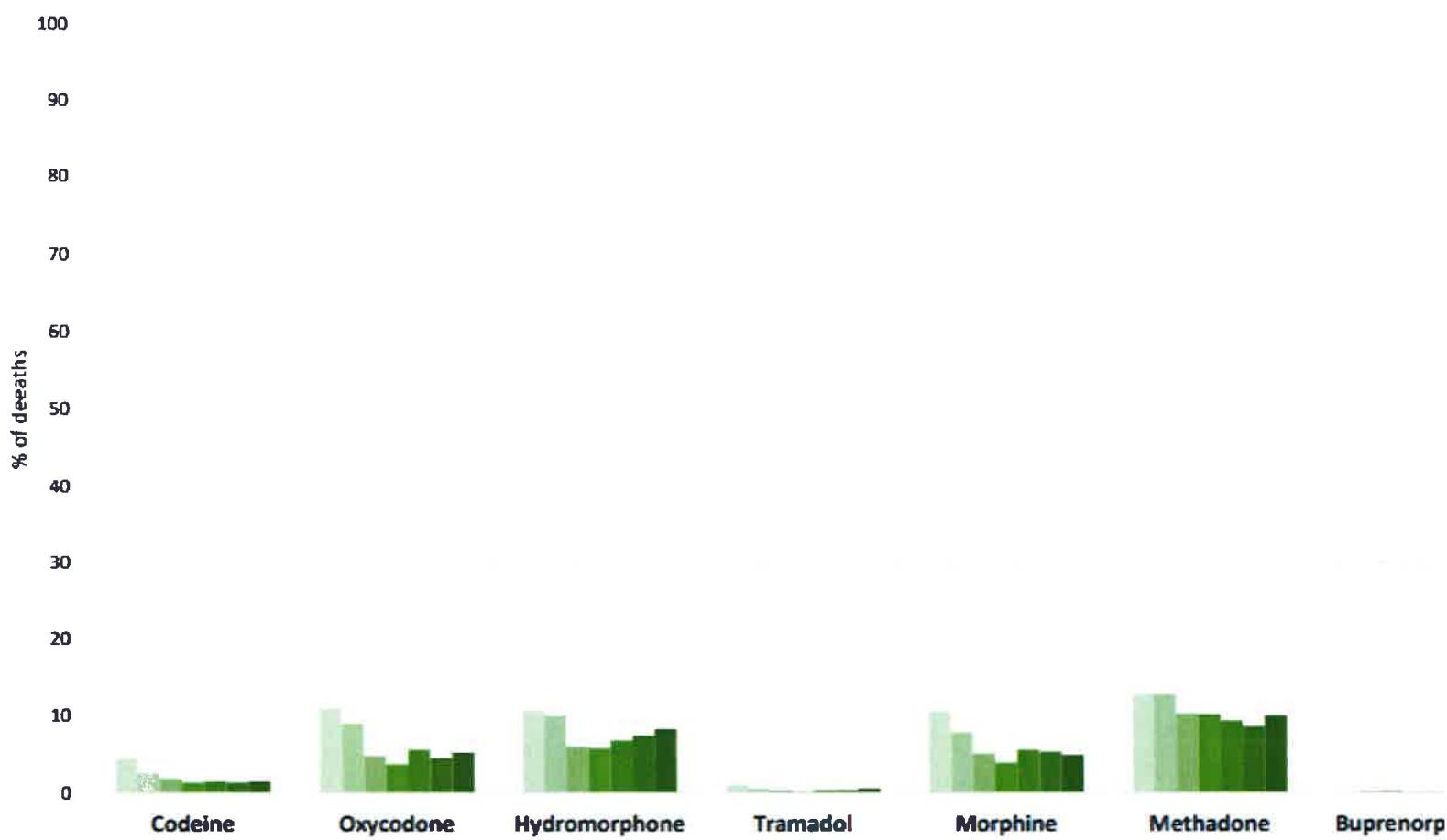
Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective October 28, 2024.

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*\*\*Includes Para-fluorobutyryl Fentanyl, Cyclopropylfentanyl, Furanyl fentanyl, Despropionyl Fentanyl, Furanyl UF 17, Butyryl/Isobutryl/Methyl-fentanyl, Fluorofentanyl, and Acetyl/fen*

## Regulated Opioids Involved in Opioid Toxicity Death in Ontario, 2018-2024 Q2

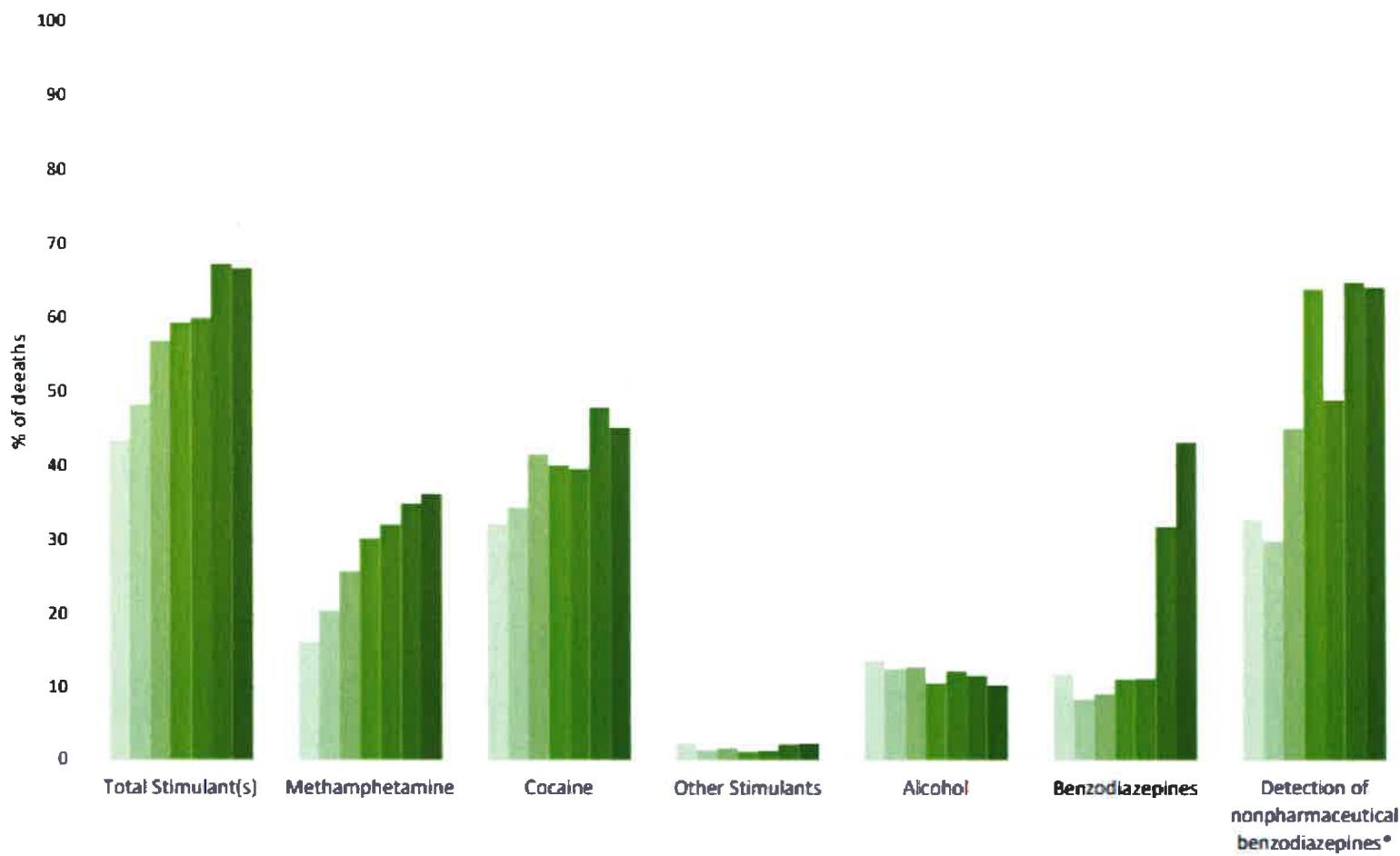


**Regulated Opioids** in the absence of fentanyl are attributed to death in less than 1 in 6 in opioid deaths (Q1&Q2 2024).

Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective October 28, 2024.

*Includes confirmed opioid toxicity deaths only. Data are preliminary and subject to change. Data reflect substances attributed to cause of death unless otherwise indicated.*

# Other Substances Involved in Opioid Toxicity Death in Ontario, 2018-2024 Q2



**Benzodiazepines** are involved in over 3 in 5 opioid toxicity deaths (Q1&Q2 2024).  
**Cocaine** is involved in over 2 in 5 opioid toxicity deaths (Q1&Q2 2024).

Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective October 28, 2024.

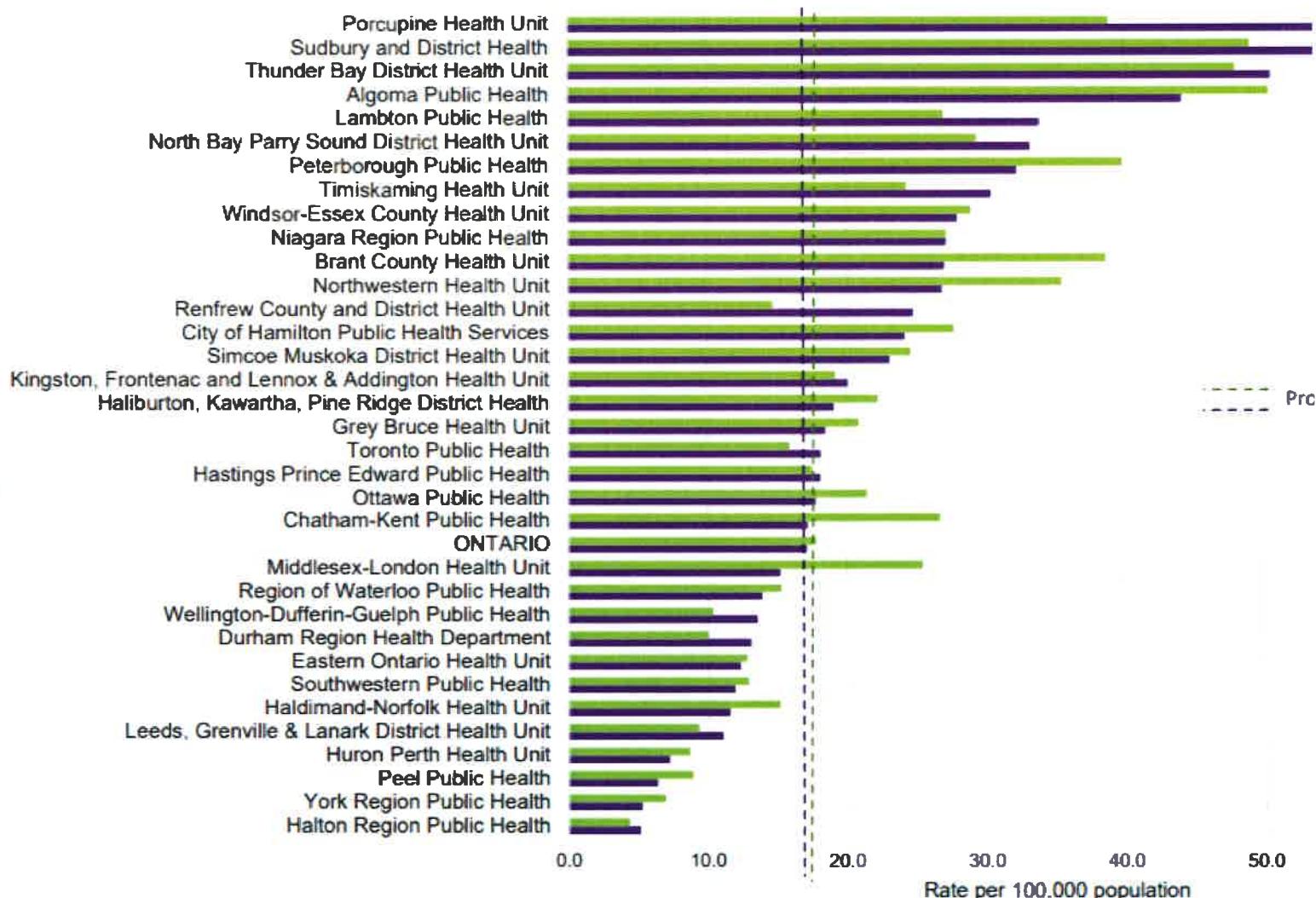
*Includes confirmed opioid toxicity deaths only. Data are preliminary and subject to change. Data reflect substances attributed to cause of death unless otherwise indicated.*

*\*Due to evolving toxicology methods and best practices around quantifying and defining toxic levels of novel fentanyl analogues, nitazenes, non-pharmaceutical benzodiazepines, and xylazine, these substances may not be consistently characterized in the cause of death.*

## Opioid toxicity mortality rate by PHU region - Annual

*Most recent two years of data available\**

■ Previous Year (July 2022 to June 2023) ■ Most Recent Year (July 2023 to June 2024)



Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective October 28, 2024.

\*includes both confirmed and probable opioid-related deaths, preliminary and subject to change

\*\*based on location of incident

# Opioid Toxicity Mortality Rate by Census Subdivision (CSD)

Ten (10) CSDs with the highest mortality rates in 2024 Q1&Q2

Census Subdivision**	Opioid toxicity* mortality rate per 100,000 population (annualized)	Number of Opioid toxic deaths
SAULT STE. MARIE	64.2	24
THUNDER BAY	59.6	33
SARNIA	56.7	21
TIMMINS	52.4	11
PETERBOROUGH	51.5	22
NORTH BAY	47.8	13
ORILLIA	46.3	8
GREATER SUDBURY	45.0	38
WINDSOR	41.7	48
BRANTFORD	40.8	22
<i>Ontario (for reference)</i>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>1258</b>

Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective October 28, 2024.

\*Includes both confirmed and probable opioid-related deaths; **preliminary and subject to change**.

\*\*Based on location of incident. Among CSDs with >30,000 population.



## Contact Information

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# MEDIA RELEASE

North Bay Police Service

**COMMUNITY  
DRUG STRATEGY**  
NORTH BAY & AREA

For immediate release

on May 27, 2025

## Media Release “Prescription Diversion”

The North Bay Police Service has identified an increased presence of diverted prescription opioids within the North Bay community. Prescribed substances such as hydromorphone, morphine sulphate, and medications for Opiate Agonist Treatment are frequently encountered in drug investigations, and there have recently been significant quantities showing up in police investigations revealing evidence of diversion. Diversion occurs when an individual, who is prescribed medication, sells, trades, or gives their narcotics to someone else. Once these narcotics enter the community, they pose a risk to individuals who are not regulated consumers.

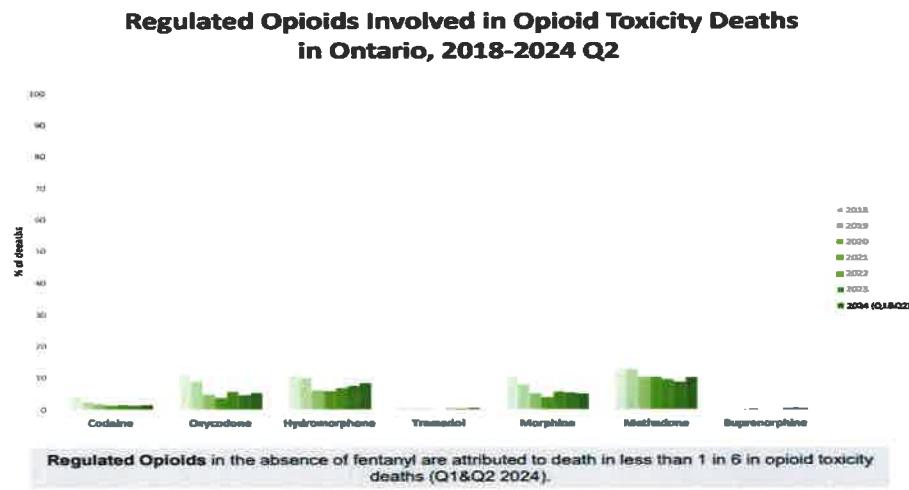
To address this growing concern, the Community Drug Strategy and North Bay Police have been working with local prescribers and pharmacists, to explore potential prevention strategies and regulatory options that may mitigate the impact of prescription diversion in both the community and surrounding areas. Everyone involved has expressed a strong willingness to partner in identifying and implementing solutions.

Medications are a vital part of our lives and are essential for effectively treating various conditions and diseases. When medications are no longer needed or have expired, it is imperative that you dispose of them safely and properly.

Proper disposal is crucial to prevent the accidental or intentional misuse of medications. Take action by dropping off your unused or expired medications at participating pharmacies where this service is available free of charge any day of the week.

Remember, selling your prescription medications is not just discouraged; it is illegal under the Control Drugs and Substance Act (CDSA) and carries serious penalties. Make the responsible choice and dispose of medications correctly.

**According to the Office of the Chief Coroner, Regulated Opioid use is involved in just under one in 6 deaths**



Source: Office of Chief Coroner (OCC) - Data effective October 28, 2024.  
Includes unadjusted opioid toxicity deaths only. Data are preliminary and subject to change. Data reflect substances attributed to cause of death unless otherwise indicated.

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**For further inquiries please contact:**

Patricia Cliche: Chairperson, Community Drug Strategy, North Bay & Area

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Det. Sgt. Brad Reaume: Street Crime Unit, North Bay Police Service

Email: [breaume@northbaypolice.on.ca](mailto:breaume@northbaypolice.on.ca)

Phone: 705-497-5555 ext. 7441

## Prescription Diversion Project Membership

Name	Agency	Contact Information
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<b>Constable Tyeler Commanda</b>	Anishinabek Police Services	<a href="mailto:tcommanda@apcops.org">tcommanda@apcops.org</a> 705-472-0270
<b>Shelley Ortepi</b>	Callander IDA 93 Main St. #412	<a href="mailto:Shelley.ortepi@gmail.com">Shelley.ortepi@gmail.com</a> 705-752-3388. Work 705- 471-7190. Mobile
<b>Mary Genevieve Godreau</b> <b>Kmith</b>	Shoppers Drug Mart Associate 1247 Josephine Street and 664 276 Lakeshore Drive	<a href="mailto:mgodreau@shoppersdrugmart.ca">mgodreau@shoppersdrugmart.ca</a> 705-497-8542 and 705-476-3244. ext.33. work 705-471-4911. Mobile
<b>Pam Simpson</b>	Pharmasave Robinson's 2547 Trout Lake Road	<a href="mailto:Pam.simpson@robpharm.ca">Pam.simpson@robpharm.ca</a> 705- 495-4515 705- 493-1515
<b>Dr. Michael Franklyn</b>	Addiction Medicine Physician From Sudbury – works in addictions, Corrections, mental health, COMPASS youth hub and teaches at NOSM	<a href="mailto:mfranklyn@nosm.ca">mfranklyn@nosm.ca</a> 705-626-8833

**Prescription Diversion Motion**

We, the undersigned, formally support the motion for "Partnership and

Collaboration – the birth of change" passed on the date of  
November 21, 2025, in North Bay, Ontario.

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Agency/Organization

---

**Partnership and Collaboration**  
*"the birth of change"*



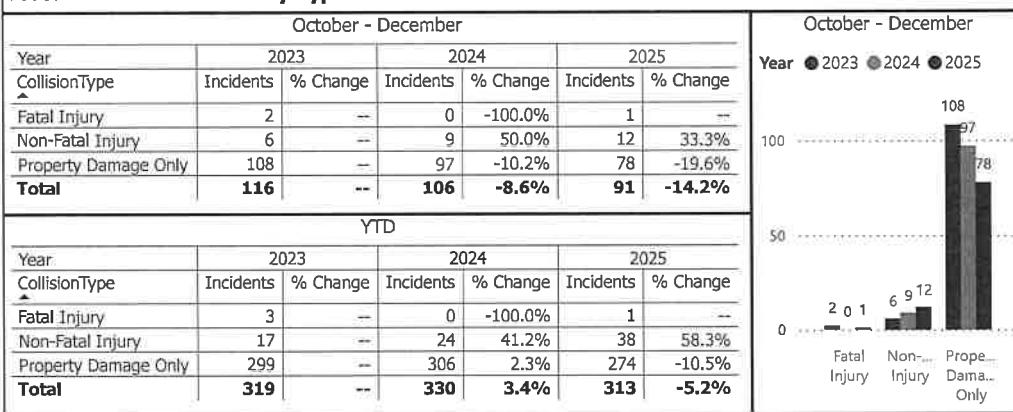
Detective Brad Reaume  
North Bay City Police  
705- 497-5555 ext. 7441  
[breaume@northbaypolice.on.ca](mailto:breaume@northbaypolice.on.ca)

**COMMON**ITY  
**DRUG** STRATEGY  
NORTH BAY & AREA

Ms. Patricia Cliche – RN  
Community Drug Strategy Committee  
705-840-7272 – Mobile  
[pat17@sympatico.ca](mailto:pat17@sympatico.ca)

**OPP Detachment Board Report**  
**Collision Reporting System**  
**October - December 2025**

**Motor Vehicle Collisions by Type**



Data source (Collision Reporting System) date:

14-Jan-2026

Detachment: 4H - MANITOULIN (Little Current)

Location code(s): 4H00 - MANITOULIN (Little Current), 4H30 - GORE BAY

Area(s): ALL

Data source date:

14-Jan-2026

Report Generated on:

14-Jan-2026 4:51:06 PM

**OPP Detachment Board Report**  
**Collision Reporting System**  
**October - December 2025**

**Fatalities in Detachment Area - Incidents**

October - December									
Type	Motor Vehicle			Motorized Snow Vehicle			Off-Road Vehicle		
Year	Alcohol/Drugs	Incidents	% Change	Alcohol/Drugs	Incidents	% Change	Alcohol/Drugs	Incidents	% Change
2023	0	1	--	0	0	--	1	1	--
2024	0	0	-100.0%	0	0	--	0	0	-100.0%
2025	0	1	--	0	0	--	0	0	--

YTD

YTD									
Type	Motor Vehicle			Motorized Snow Vehicle			Off-Road Vehicle		
Year	Alcohol/Drugs	Incidents	% Change	Alcohol/Drugs	Incidents	% Change	Alcohol/Drugs	Incidents	% Change
2023	1	2	--	0	0	--	1	1	--
2024	0	0	-100.0%	0	0	--	0	0	-100.0%
2025	0	1	--	0	0	--	0	0	--

**Fatalities in Detachment Area - Persons Killed**

October - December						
Type	Motor Vehicle		Motorized Snow Vehicle		Off-Road Vehicle	
Year	Persons Killed	% Change	Persons Killed	% Change	Persons Killed	% Change
2023	1	--	0	--	1	--
2024	0	-100.0%	0	--	0	-100.0%
2025	1	--	0	--	0	--

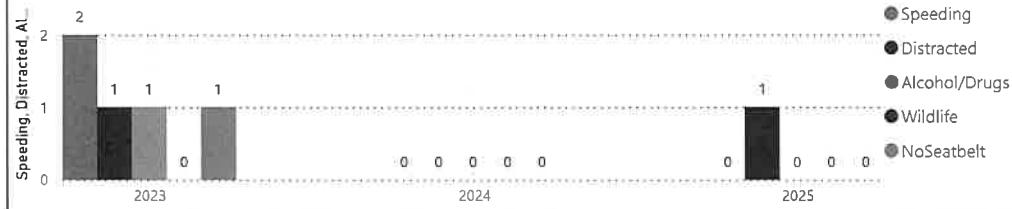
YTD

Type	Motor Vehicle			Motorized Snow Vehicle			Off-Road Vehicle		
Year	Persons Killed	% Change	Persons Killed	% Change	Persons Killed	% Change	Persons Killed	% Change	
2023	2	--	0	--	1	--			
2024	0	-100.0%	0	--	0	-100.0%			
2025	1	--	0	--	0	--			

**Primary Causal Factors in Fatal Motor Vehicle Collisions**

October - December				YTD			
	2023	2024	2025		2023	2024	2025
Speeding	2	0	0	Speeding	2	0	0
Speeding % Change	--	-100.0%	--	Speeding % Change	--	-100.0%	--
Distracted	1	0	1	Distracted	1	0	1
Distracted % Change	--	-100.0%	--	Distracted % Change	--	-100.0%	--
Alcohol/Drugs	1	0	0	Alcohol/Drugs	2	0	0
Alcohol/Drugs % Change	--	-100.0%	--	Alcohol/Drugs % Change	--	-100.0%	--
Wildlife	0	0	0	Wildlife	0	0	0
Wildlife % Change	--	--	--	Wildlife % Change	--	--	--
NoSeatbelt	1	0	0	NoSeatbelt	1	0	0
NoSeatbelt YoY%	--	-100.0%	--	NoSeatbelt YTD YoY%	--	-100.0%	--

October - December



Data source (Collision Reporting System) date:

14-Jan-2026

Detachment: 4H - MANITOULIN (Little Current)

Location code(s): 4H00 - MANITOULIN (Little Current), 4H30 - GORE BAY

Area(s): ALL

Data source date:

14-Jan-2026

Report Generated on:

14-Jan-2026 4:51:06 PM

**OPP Detachment Board Report**  
**Records Management System**  
**October - December 2025**

**eTicketing Warnings**

October - December				
Year	2024		2025	
Type	Total	% Change	Total	% Change
Warning	223	-48.0%	219	-1.8%

YTD				
Year	2024		2025	
Type	Total	% Change	Total	% Change
Warning	1,661	4.9%	1,128	-32.1%

October - December				
Type	Warning			
	223			219

2024       2025

*Note: The eTicketing system was not fully implemented until the end of 2022, therefore data is only available beginning in 2023. % Change in 2023 may appear higher in this report due to the incomplete 2022 data.*

**Detachment: 4H - MANITOULIN (Little Current)**

Location code(s): 4H00 - MANITOULIN (Little Current), 4H30 - GORE BAY

Area(s): ALL

Data source date:

14-Jan-26

Report Generated on:

14-Jan-2026 4:52:10 PM

**OPP Detachment Board Report**  
**Records Management System**  
**October - December 2025**

<b>Violent Crime</b>						
October-December						
Year	2023		2024		2025	
ViolationGrp	Actual	% Change	Actual	% Change	Actual	% Change
Homicides	0	--	1	--	0	-100.0%
Other Offences Causing Death	0	--	0	--	0	--
Attempted Murder	0	--	0	--	0	--
Sexual Offences	3	--	2	-33.3%	7	250.0%
Assaults/Firearm Related Offences	10	--	23	130.0%	13	-43.5%
Offences Resulting in the Deprivation of Freedom	0	--	0	--	1	--
Robbery	0	--	0	--	0	--
Other Offences Involving Violence or the Threat of Violence	15	--	16	6.7%	18	12.5%
Offences in Relation to Sexual Services	0	--	0	--	0	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	--	<b>42</b>	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>-7.1%</b>
YTD						
Year	2023		2024		2025	
ViolationGrp	Actual	% Change	Actual	% Change	Actual	% Change
Homicides	1	--	1	0.0%	0	-100.0%
Other Offences Causing Death	0	--	0	--	0	--
Attempted Murder	0	--	0	--	0	--
Sexual Offences	24	--	14	-41.7%	23	64.3%
Assaults/Firearm Related Offences	50	--	76	52.0%	85	11.8%
Offences Resulting in the Deprivation of Freedom	1	--	1	0.0%	3	200.0%
Robbery	0	--	0	--	0	--
Other Offences Involving Violence or the Threat of Violence	56	--	57	1.8%	55	-3.5%
Offences in Relation to Sexual Services	0	--	0	--	0	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	--	<b>149</b>	<b>12.9%</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>11.4%</b>

October - December						
Actual						
Homicides	1					
Sexual Offences	3	2	7			
Assaults/Firearm Related Offences	10		18	13		
Offences Resulting in the Deprivation of Freedom	1					
Other Offences Involving Violence or the Threat of Violence	15	16	18			

Year ● 2023 ● 2024 ● 2025

Detachment: 4H - MANITOULIN (Little Current)

Location code(s): 4H00 - MANITOULIN (Little Current), 4H30 - GORE BAY

Area(s): ALL

Data source date:

14-Jan-2026

Report Generated on:

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**OPP Detachment Board Report**  
**Records Management System**  
**October - December 2025**

Criminal Code and Provincial Statute Charges Laid						
October - December						
Year	2023		2024		2025	
ChargeCategory1	Offence Count	% Change	Offence Count	% Change	Offence Count	% Change
Criminal Code Non-Traffic	71	--	168	136.6%	139	-17.3%
Criminal Code Traffic	30	--	47	56.7%	32	-31.9%
Highway Traffic Act	443	--	257	-42.0%	205	-20.2%
Liquor Licence Act	7	--	28	300.0%	10	-64.3%
Other Violations	32	--	74	131.3%	35	-52.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>583</b>	--	<b>574</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>-26.7%</b>
YTD						
Year	2023		2024		2025	
ChargeCategory1	Offence Count	% Change	Offence Count	% Change	Offence Count	% Change
Criminal Code Non-Traffic	341	--	488	43.1%	698	43.0%
Criminal Code Traffic	95	--	141	48.4%	148	5.0%
Highway Traffic Act	1,102	--	1,619	46.9%	1,192	-26.4%
Liquor Licence Act	34	--	76	123.5%	63	-17.1%
Other Violations	122	--	238	95.1%	287	20.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,694</b>	--	<b>2,562</b>	<b>51.2%</b>	<b>2,388</b>	<b>-6.8%</b>

October - December						
Year	● 2023	● 2024	● 2025			
CC Charges	443	257	205			
Highway Traffic Act				71	168	139
Criminal Code Non-Traffic					32	74
Other Violations					35	
Criminal Code Traffic					30	47
Liquor Licence Act					7	28
						10

Traffic Related Charges						
October - December						
Year	2023		2024		2025	
ChargeCategory2	Offence Count	% Change	Offence Count	% Change	Offence Count	% Change
Speeding	327	--	95	-70.9%	112	17.9%
Seatbelt	2	--	7	250.0%	3	-57.1%
Impaired	24	--	33	37.5%	23	-30.3%
Distracted	1	--	1	0.0%	1	0.0%

YTD						
Year	2023		2024		2025	
ChargeCategory2	Offence Count	% Change	Offence Count	% Change	Offence Count	% Change
Speeding	750	--	979	30.5%	583	-40.4%
Seatbelt	9	--	39	333.3%	31	-20.5%
Impaired	73	--	107	46.6%	107	0.0%
Distracted	3	--	6	100.0%	5	-16.7%

October - December						
Year	● 2023	● 2024	● 2025			
CC Charges	327					
Speeding		95	112			
Impaired		24	33	23		
Seatbelt			2	7	3	
Distracted				1	1	1

Detachment: 4H - MANITOULIN (Little Current)

Location code(s): 4H00 - MANITOULIN (Little Current), 4H30 - GORE BAY

Area(s): ALL

Data source date:

14-Jan-26

Report Generated on:

14-Jan-2026 4:51:06 PM

**OPP Detachment Board Report**  
**Records Management System**  
**October - December 2025**

**Property Crime**

October - December							
Year	2023		2024		2025		
	ViolationGrp	Actual	% Change	Actual	% Change	Actual	% Change
Arson		0	--	0	--	0	--
Break and Enter		4	--	4	0.0%	1	-75.0%
Theft Over \$5000		3	--	0	-100.0%	5	--
Theft Under \$5000		9	--	5	-44.4%	7	40.0%
Possession/Trafficking Stolen Goods		0	--	0	--	0	--
Fraud		18	--	14	-22.2%	4	-71.4%
Mischief		8	--	9	12.5%	9	0.0%
<b>Total</b>		<b>42</b>	--	<b>32</b>	<b>-23.8%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>-18.8%</b>

YTD							
Year	2023		2024		2025		
	ViolationGrp	Actual	% Change	Actual	% Change	Actual	% Change
Arson		0	--	0	--	0	--
Break and Enter		22	--	20	-9.1%	10	-50.0%
Theft Over \$5000		12	--	8	-33.3%	12	50.0%
Theft Under \$5000		59	--	34	-42.4%	32	-5.9%
Possession/Trafficking Stolen Goods		4	--	0	-100.0%	2	--
Fraud		58	--	53	-8.6%	53	0.0%
Mischief		45	--	37	-17.8%	42	13.5%
<b>Total</b>		<b>200</b>	--	<b>152</b>	<b>-24.0%</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>

October - December						
Actual						
Break and Enter	4	4	1			
Theft Over \$5000		3		5		
Theft Under \$5000			9	5	7	
Fraud				18	14	
Mischief					8	9
						9

Year ● 2023 ● 2024 ● 2025

Detachment: 4H - MANITOULIN (Little Current)

Location code(s): 4H00 - MANITOULIN (Little Current), 4H30 - GORE BAY

Area(s): ALL

Data source date:

14-Jan-2026

Report Generated on:

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**OPP Detachment Board Report**  
**Records Management System**  
**October - December 2025**

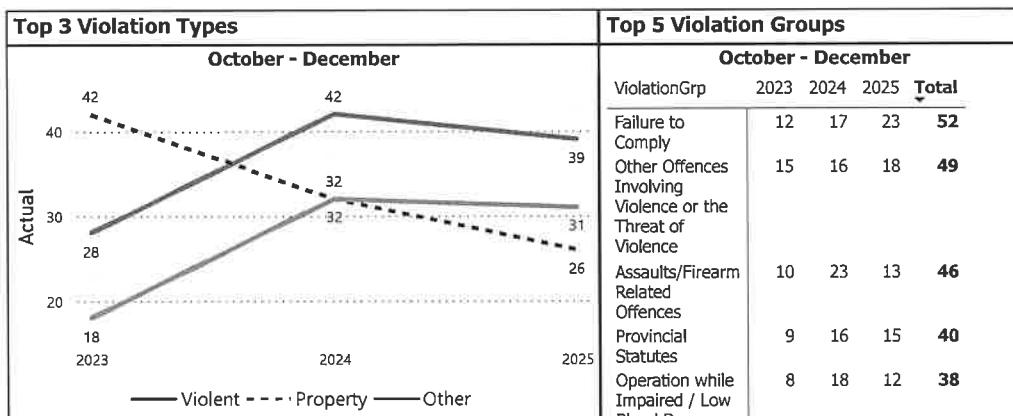
Drug Crime						
October - December						
Year	2023		2024		2025	
ViolationGrp	Actual	% Change	Actual	% Change	Actual	% Change
Possession	0	--	13	--	5	-61.5%
Trafficking	0	--	3	--	0	-100.0%
Importation & Production	0	--	0	--	0	--
Cannabis Possession	0	--	0	--	0	--
Cannabis Distribution	0	--	0	--	0	--
Cannabis Sale	0	--	0	--	0	--
Cannabis Importation & Exportation	0	--	0	--	0	--
Cannabis Production	0	--	0	--	0	--
Other Cannabis Violations	0	--	0	--	1	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	--	<b>16</b>	--	<b>6</b>	<b>-62.5%</b>

YTD						
Year	2023		2024		2025	
ViolationGrp	Actual	% Change	Actual	% Change	Actual	% Change
Possession	5	--	17	240.0%	18	5.9%
Trafficking	2	--	7	250.0%	13	85.7%
Importation & Production	0	--	0	--	1	--
Cannabis Possession	1	--	0	-100.0%	0	--
Cannabis Distribution	0	--	0	--	0	--
Cannabis Sale	0	--	0	--	0	--
Cannabis Importation & Exportation	0	--	0	--	0	--
Cannabis Production	0	--	0	--	0	--
Other Cannabis Violations	0	--	0	--	1	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	--	<b>24</b>	<b>200.0%</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>37.5%</b>

October - December						
Actual	10		5		3	
Possession	13		7		0	
Trafficking	5		0		3	
Other Cannabis Violations	0		0		1	
Year	2024	2025				



Detachment 4H - MANITOULIN (Little Current)

Location code(s): 4H00 - MANITOULIN (Little Current), 4H30 - GORE BAY

Area(s): ALL

Data source date:

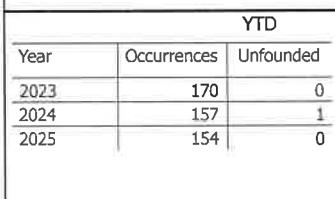
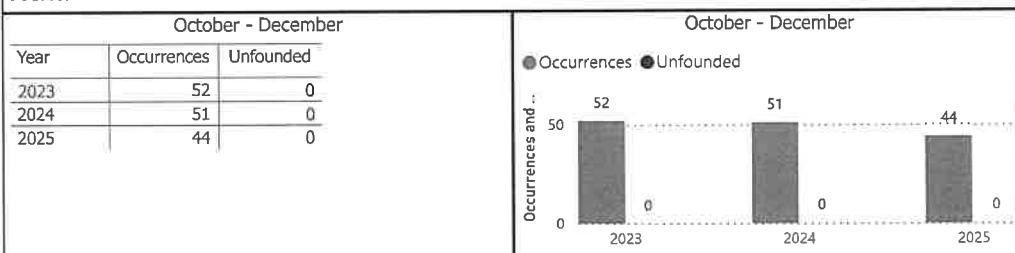
14-Jan-2026

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**OPP Detachment Board Report  
Records Management System  
October - December 2025**

**Mental Health Act Occurrences**



**Mental Health Act Occurrences by Occurrence Type**

October - December		
Year	2025	
OccurrenceType	Occurrences	Unfounded
Ambulance Assistance	1	0
Assault	1	0
Attempt or threat of suicide	8	0
Intimate Partner Violence	4	0
Mental health act	29	0
Threats	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>

Detachment 4H - MANITOULIN (Little Current)

Location code(s): 4H00 - MANITOULIN (Little Current), 4H30 - GORE BAY

Area(s): ALL

Data source date:

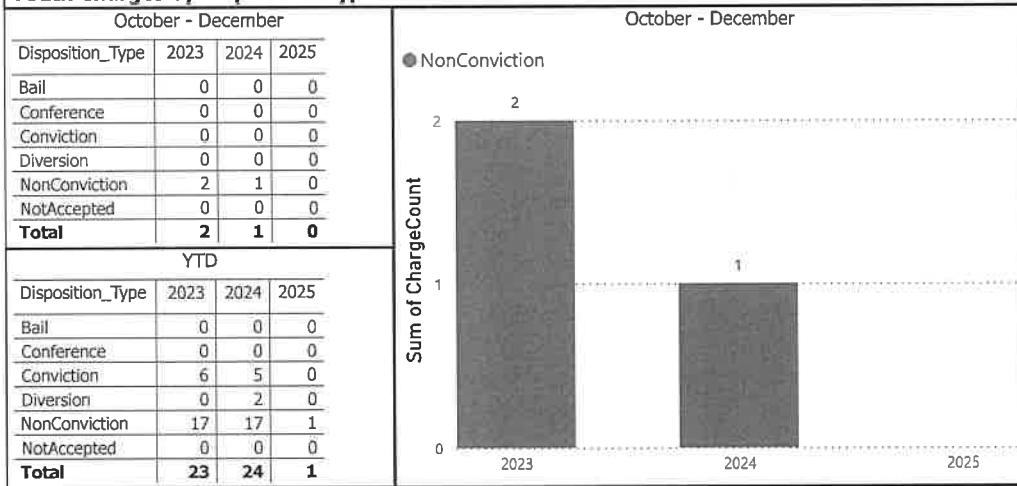
14-Jan-2026

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**OPP Detachment Board Report**  
**Records Management System**  
**October - December 2025**

**Youth Charges by Disposition Type**



**Youth Charges by Disposition and Occurrence Type**

October - December			
Year	2025	Total	
OccType			
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	

**YTD**

Year	2025				Total
	Conviction	Diversion	NonConviction	NotAccepted	
Threats	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

The tables and chart on this page present summarized youth charges by disposition and occurrence type that have been recorded in the OPP Niche RMS application. Of note... the Niche data sourced for this report page only lists youth charges that have had a disposition type entered against them. Therefore, please be aware that the counts of youth charges entries on this report page are under stating the potential sum of youth charges that are in OPP Niche RMS.

Detachment: 4H - MANITOULIN (Little Current)

Location code(s): 4H00 - MANITOULIN (Little Current), 4H30 - GORE BAY

Area(s): ALL

Data source date:

14-Jan-2026

Report Generated on:

14-Jan-2026 4:53:09 PM

**OPP Detachment Board Report**  
**Records Management System**  
**October - December 2025**

Overdose Occurrences							
October - December				YTD			
Fatal	2023	2024	2025	Fatal	2023	2024	2025
<input type="checkbox"/> Fatal	0	0	0	<input type="checkbox"/> Fatal	0	1	1
non-opioid overdose	0	0	0	non-opioid overdose	0	1	1
opioid overdose	0	0	0	opioid overdose	0	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> non-Fatal	0	0	0	<input type="checkbox"/> non-Fatal	1	0	3
non-opioid overdose	0	0	0	non-opioid overdose	0	0	1
opioid overdose	0	0	0	opioid overdose	1	0	2
Total	0	0	0	Total	1	1	4

Fatal Overdose Occurrences			Non-Fatal Overdose Occurrences		
October - December			October - December		
<span style="color: #800000;">●</span> non-opioid overdose <span style="color: #000080;">●</span> opioid overdose			<span style="color: #800000;">●</span> non-opioid overdose <span style="color: #000080;">●</span> opioid overdose		
1.0	.....	.....	1.0	.....	.....
0.5	.....	.....	0.5	.....	.....
0.0	.....	.....	0.0	.....	.....
2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025

Detachment 4H - MANITOULIN (Little Current)  
 Location code(s): 4H00 - MANITOULIN (Little Current), 4H30 - GORE BAY

Area(s): ALL  
 Data source date:  
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Report Generated on:  
 14-Jan-2026 4:51:06 PM

**Manitoulin Centennial Manor  
Board of Management Meeting  
Dec 18, 2025  
(unapproved)**

**Present:**

Mary Jane Lenihan, Art Hayden, Pat MacDonald, Connie Ferguson, Dawn Orr  
By Phone Brenda Reid  
Don Cook (Administrator),  
Mandeep Dhindsa (Extendicare)  
By Phone  
With regrets, Ian Anderson  
Meeting held in Manor boardroom.

**Call to order**

1.1 Meeting called to order at 10:10 AM by Pat MacDonald, chair of the board.

**2.0 Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda	.....	Carried
Moved by Art Hayden	Seconded by MJ Lenihan	

**3.0 Approval of Minutes**

3.1 Motion to approve Nov 2025 minutes.	.....	Carried
Moved by Brenda Reid	Seconded by MJ Lenihan	

**4.0 Extendicare Report**

4.1 Financial Statement for Nov. 2025	.....	Carried
Presented by Mandeep Dhindsa		

Motion to accept.	.....	Carried
Moved by Connie Furguson	Seconded by MJ Lenihan	

**5.0 New Business**

5.1 – 2026 Budget	.....	Carried
Presented by Mandeep Dhindsa		

Motion to accept.	.....	Carried
Moved by Connie Furguson	Seconded by Dawn Orr	

**6.0 Business Arising from Minutes**

5.1 – As asked by Art, Don checked on paying benefits to part-time vs OT to full-time staff in filling extra shifts and it is more cost effective to fill the shifts with part-time staff rather than OT to full-time staff.	.....	Carried
--	-------	---------

**7.0 Correspondence**  
6.1 - None

**8.0 Administrator's Report –**

8.1 Attached Report

Tree of lights campaign - \$24,270 to date

Motion to accept Administrators Report

Moved by Art Hayden

Seconded by Dawn Orr

.... Carried

**9.0 Date of Next Meeting: - Jan 22, 2026. At 10:00 a.m.**

In the Manor Board Room.

**11.0 Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn. At 11:45 a.m.

Moved by Art Hayden

*From the desk of Barbara Baker*

62 Water St. East, Little Current, Ontario P0P 1K0

January 28, 2026

To Mayor & Council

**Re: Consideration of changes to bridge swing frequency**

I am writing in anticipation of a discussion council will have related to an MMA letter from Lee Hayden regarding changes to the swing bridge turn frequency. I understand his letter is to be sent to all municipalities and First Nations for consideration in support of a change.

Living where I do I see the bridge every day, all day, from the windows of my home and I wanted to make a few corrections to Mr. Hayden's statements. First of all, the bridge does not swing 25% of the day every day from dawn until dusk, this is not at all accurate. It also does not swing every hour on the hour for 15 minutes. The bridge only swings when there is boat traffic that needs to go through, and at peak times in the summer it does indeed swing every hour. However, it does not stay open for 15 minutes each time. We have seen the bridge open, let boats pass through and close within a 6 minute window. As such the bridge stays open only as long as it is needed to let boat traffic pass through.

There is a bigger issue of training for boaters on where to hover waiting for the bridge, we see many boats staying well back of the bridge and only move forward once the bridge is fully opened, this indeed does mean the bridge will need to stay open longer waiting for the boats to move towards and through. Boaters need to be educated on the need to stay close to the bridge so they can move through once opened. Seasoned boaters clearly know how to do it, and we have seen many boats pass through in a very short period of time.

As to the comment re waiting in an ambulance in traffic waiting for the bridge. Although I am certain this has happened, the ambulance drivers do have access to call the bridge ahead of time to inform them they are coming and we have in fact seen the bridge delay a turn waiting for an ambulance or actually turn back to close to accommodate an ambulance.

Patience is a virtue and we understand that people hate waiting for the bridge to turn but it is not something new, those who live on Manitoulin Island understand that if they get to the bridge on the hour there is potential for a delay. Those on vacation, well as Mr. Hayden says re the boaters on vacation, "if they have to wait a little longer to allow vehicle traffic over the bridge it should be okay" should apply to the vacationing drivers as well re waiting a little longer to allow boaters through the bridge.

A new bridge will solve a lot of problems re wait times as traffic will be able to flow in both directions once it closes. However, it will still need to swing, and people will still have to wait. We are an Island that is known for the boating in this area, so I am not sure I agree with a change and wanted to provide my input as council decides on Mr. Hayden's proposal.

*Barbara Baker*