

Mayor Meed Ward's Weekly Public Update



This update contains key events, media engagements and communications taking place in the Office of the Mayor for the week ahead and a recap of key activities that took place in the prior week. While not representative of the Mayor's full schedule, this update is meant to provide a high-level overview for public awareness. Dates & details for future items are subject to change as needed.

November 21 – 27, 2022

High Level News

- **The Provincial government announced on Nov. 16 it is looking to review regional governments in Peel, York, Halton, Durham, Niagara and Waterloo – [Government of Ontario News Release](#) / [Backgrounder](#) / [News article](#)**
 - The Province introduced the [Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022](#), that, if passed, would take decisive action to address the housing supply crisis by assessing how best to extend strong mayor powers and reduce municipal duplication to help in the building of 1.5 million new homes over the next 10 years.
- **Ontario's Big City Mayors release statement on presenting to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure & Cultural Policy on Bill 23, *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* – [OBCM Statement](#) / [OBCM Chair Mayor Cam Guthrie's Presentation](#)**
 - From OBCM Chair & Guelph Mayor Cam Guthrie: "The impacts of proposed changes to development charges (DCs) on municipal revenues have not been fully considered. This revenue is critical to supporting the infrastructure required when building new homes. We are asking the Province to activate the Housing Supply Action Plan Implementation Team, first announced in spring 2022, and that a review of the proposed changes to DCs and Parkland Dedication Rates are the first on their agenda."
- **Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health announced on Nov. 14 that he is "strongly recommending" masking in indoor public spaces, including in schools and childcare settings – [News article](#)**
 - Some pediatric Ontario hospitals say they've been overwhelmed by an influx of sick patients in recent weeks due to early arrival of the flu season, a resurgence in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and the continued spread of COVID-19.
 - Last week, Ontario physicians, at a news conference hosted by the Ontario Medical Association, were also advising people to mask indoors and keep up with their vaccinations -- [News article](#).
- **Ontario Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy released the 2022 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review on Nov. 14 – [News Release](#) / [Fall Economic Statement](#)**
 - It includes the provincial government's first-ever progress report on its plan to build Ontario, as well as new targeted measures to advance its plan to build the economy, address Ontario's labour shortage and help families and businesses keep costs down.

Prior Week Overview of Community Feedback/Mayor's Inbox:

- **Hydro Outage**
 - The Mayor's Office received several emails regarding planned and unplanned outages that affected homes and businesses. These concerns were brought to the attention of Burlington

Hydro, who let us know they are working to keep their customers updated through their social media channels.

- **Bill 23, *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022***

- In response to the provincial government's announcement on Bill 23 "*More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*," residents have been reaching out to the Mayor's Office asking what the Mayor's and City's position is on this Bill and how it will impact the City of Burlington. Those who reach out are being directed to several posts published on the Mayor's website that: note her concerns; working with [Conservation Halton](#) and the [Ontario's Big City Mayors caucus](#) to share their concerns with the Province; [City Council recently unanimously passing a resolution](#) asking the Province for extended commenting periods and more fulsome consultations with municipalities; and [Halton Regional Council recently approving a staff recommendation](#) to forward the Region's comments and recommendations on Bill 23 to the Province, as well as a motion to direct Chair Gary Carr to write a letter to the Province on behalf of Halton's municipalities regarding the changes proposed in the Bill.

Monday November 21

- Staff Meeting Regarding Community Assets
- Meeting with Whitby Mayor Elizabeth Roy
- Community Safety Meeting with Halton Regional Police Service & Constituents

Tuesday November 22

- 1:1 with City Manager
- Meeting with Field and Stream Rescue Team
- Preliminary Budget Overview with City staff and Deputy Mayor for Strategy and Budgets
- Meeting with Burlington Hydro President & CEO
- Hampton Inn by Hilton Grand Opening in Burlington
- Ontario Clear Air Alliance Free Webinar on the Benefits of Heat Pumps (7-8 p.m.) – [LINK](#) to event details and RSVP

Wednesday November 23

- CHCH *Morning Live* – 'Meet the Mayor' segment
- Meeting with Halton Regional Police Services Burlington Superintendent and Burlington Inspector
- Burlington Economic Development Strategic Plan Meeting
- *YourTV Halton News* Mayor's Weekly Update
- 2022 City of Burlington Service Awards Virtual Staff Recognition Event
- Halton Region's Proposed Vacant Homes Tax Virtual Public Information Session (6:30-7:30 p.m.) – [Join session via Zoom](#) – Meeting ID: 974 0458 8694 – [LINK](#) for more details
- 100 Women Who Care Meeting

Thursday November 24

- Mayor's Office Team Meeting
- Meeting with Constituent Regarding Mental Health Initiatives
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Committee of the Whole Meeting

Friday November 25

- NOTE: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Board of Directors Meeting
- 2022 Burlington Volunteer Firefighters' Recognition and Appreciation Dinner
- Burlington Downtown Business Association's Candlelit Stroll & Lighting of the Tree of Hope starting at Civic Square, 426 Brant St. (6-9 p.m.) – [LINK](#) to event details
- Festival of Lights begins and runs until Jan. 8, 2023 at Spencer Smith Park (4 p.m. to midnight, daily) – [LINK](#) to event details

Saturday Nov. 26 / Sunday Nov. 27

- **Saturday, Nov. 26**
 - [Survivor Advocates for Empowerment](#) (SAFE) Halton's Walk & Heal – An Indigenous Healing Circle for Woman Abuse Prevention Month with Special Guest WhiteEagle at the Tyandaga Golf Course, 1265 Tyandaga Park Dr. (12-2 p.m.) – open to all female-identified, non-binary and two-spirited persons; kids of all genders are welcome – [LINK](#) to event details and RSVP
- **Sunday, Nov. 27**
 - TBC

Coming Up Soon

- Giving Tuesday Flag-Raising at Burlington City Hall – Nov. 28
- NOTE: [Giving Tuesday](#) – Nov. 29 (The World's Largest Generosity Movement)
- Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) Caucus Meeting – Dec. 2
- NOTE: United Nations' International Day for the Abolition of Slavery – Dec. 2
- First Committee & Council Cycle of Meetings for 2022-2026 Term Begins – Week of Dec. 5