

UPDATE

from the Ministry of Municipal
Affairs and Housing



April 2008

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Feedback](#)

**Greening
Communities Across
Ontario: McGuinty
Government
Encourages Municipal
Retrofits**

**Ontario Invests in
Infrastructure, Jobs:
McGuinty Government
Building Stronger
Communities**

**Recognizing Long-
Standing Service**

**The ROOF deadline is
fast approaching.
Applications must be
submitted before
June 30, 2008**

**Budget Invests in
Skills Training and
Infrastructure to
Strengthen the
Economy**

MESSAGE FROM MINISTER JIM WATSON

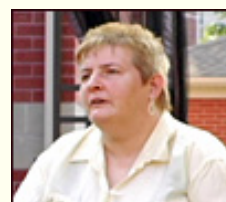
In my address earlier this month to the 2008 Central Ontario Municipal Conference, I announced the Municipal Eco Challenge Fund is fully underway. This \$20-million grant program is dedicated to municipal infrastructure projects that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

[Read more](#)



AFFORDABLE HOUSING VIDEO

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing recently completed a new video production on the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program. It provides an overview of the program, including rental and supportive, Northern and homeownership components, and brownfields housing initiatives. [Read more and see video](#)



MUNICIPALITIES CHALLENGED TO GREEN THEIR BUILDINGS

Earlier this month, Minister Jim Watson announced the second part of the McGuinty government's Go Green action plan on Climate Change - the Municipal Eco Challenge Fund. [Read more](#)



PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES

Emergency Preparedness Week will soon be once more upon us. Next week, individually and as a community, we need to remind ourselves that we have to always be prepared for emergencies. [Read more](#)



[Français](#)

Update is published by the [Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

[Privacy](#) | [External Links Disclaimer](#)

© [Queen's Printer for Ontario](#), 2008

> [Home](#) > [About the Ministry](#) > [UPDATE — E-Newsletter](#) > [Articles](#) > [Update - April 2008](#) > Minister's Message

Minister's Message



At the 2008 Central Ontario Municipal Conference earlier this month, Minister Jim Watson presented 25-year long standing service awards to Halton Hills Mayor Richard Bonnette, Georgina Deputy Mayor Danny Wheeler and Oakville Councillor Ralph Robinson.

Welcome again to UPDATE, the e-newsletter of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Keeping you informed on progress in the housing and municipal sectors is our goal.

This issue of UPDATE provides [details on a new video](#) on affordable housing that has just been posted on our ministry website. The new production features profiles of program projects and participants, alongside testimonials from residents, Service Managers, developers and non-profit housing providers.

In my address earlier this month to the 2008 Central Ontario Municipal Conference, I announced the Municipal Eco Challenge Fund is fully underway. Administered by the Ministry of Energy, this \$20-million grant program is dedicated to municipal infrastructure projects that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

This issue of UPDATE has a feature on the Municipal Eco Challenge Fund, which will support municipalities through two important components: municipal capacity building programs worth \$6 million and infrastructure grants worth \$14 million.

Emergency Preparedness Week is our annual reminder that we always have to be prepared for emergencies. This issue of UPDATE carries an article on Emergency Preparedness Week, which begins next Sunday.

I encourage you to provide us with [your feedback](#) on UPDATE. If this issue has been forwarded to you and you would like to continue receiving

our e-newsletter, please take the time to [subscribe](#).

Jim Watson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

[Back to UPDATE - April 2008](#)

Top

[| central site](#) | [feedback](#) | [search](#) | [site map](#) | [français](#)

[Home](#) | [Front and Centre](#) | [Resources for Municipalities](#) | [About the Ministry](#) | [Related Links](#) | [Reference Centre](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Site Updates](#) |



This site is maintained by the Government of Ontario, Canada.

[Privacy](#) | [Important Notices](#)

Copyright information: © [Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2002](#)

Last Modified: April 29, 2008

> [Home](#) > [About the Ministry](#) > [UPDATE — E-Newsletter](#) > [Articles](#) > [Update - April 2008](#) > Affordable Housing Video

Affordable Housing Video

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing recently completed a new [video production on the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program](#).

The video provides an overview of the program, including rental and supportive, Northern and homeownership components, and brownfields housing initiatives.

The production also features profiles of occupied projects and Affordable Housing Program participants across the province, alongside testimonials from residents, Service Managers, developers and non-profit housing providers.

"This video celebrates the hard work and dedication of the many people in the community who have helped make this program a success," says Minister Jim Watson. "I congratulate them on the work they have done and look forward to the progress they continue to make."

Carol, a tenant of Genesis Court in Niagara, praises the affordable housing program for giving her a new outlook on life. She says, "It's a whole different new life for me today. I just love it here. I wouldn't change it for the world."

The video production will be used to raise awareness of the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program and to encourage further participation in affordable housing projects.



The new video profiles Carol, a tenant of Genesis Court in St. Catharines, who discusses how access to safe and affordable housing changed her life.

Link

- [Link to video](#)

[Back to UPDATE - April 2008](#) >>

Top

| [central site](#) | [feedback](#) | [search](#) | [site map](#) |
[français](#)

| [Home](#) | [Front and Centre](#) | [Resources for Municipalities](#) | [About the Ministry](#) | [Related Links](#) | [Reference Centre](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Site Updates](#) |



This site is maintained by the Government of Ontario, Canada.

[Privacy](#) | [Important Notices](#)

Copyright information: © [Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2002](#)

Last Modified: April 29, 2008

> [Home](#) > [About the Ministry](#) > [UPDATE — E-Newsletter](#) > [Articles](#) > [Update - April 2008](#) > Municipalities Challenged to Green Their Buildings

Municipalities Challenged to Green Their Buildings

Earlier this month, Minister Jim Watson announced the second part of the McGuinty government's [Go Green](#) action plan on Climate Change - the [Municipal Eco Challenge Fund](#).

The Municipal Eco Challenge Fund now provides \$20 million to municipalities to "green" their buildings.

The Go Green climate change plan calls for greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions of six per cent below 1990 levels by 2014; 15 per cent below 1990 by 2020; 80 per cent below 1990 by 2050. To help reach these targets, the Municipal Eco Challenge Fund will support municipal infrastructure projects that reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions.

Significant Environmental Impact

Electricity consumption, from municipal operations alone, causes at least 1.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions a year – a significant environmental impact that also costs municipalities about \$680 million a year. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) estimates total annual energy costs for electricity and natural gas are \$955 million (\$680 million for electricity and \$275 million for natural gas.)

The Municipal Eco Challenge Fund includes \$14 million to make municipal buildings more energy efficient. The remaining \$6 million will provide municipalities with training, tools and technical support, in collaboration with AMO and the Canada Green Building Council.

Application Deadline: May 23, 2008

Municipalities can now apply for a grant to cover up to 25 per cent of retrofit costs, up to a maximum of \$100,000. The application deadline is May 23, 2008.

Application guidelines and forms are available on the [Ministry of Energy's website](#).

Links

- [Association of Municipalities of Ontario Sustainable Municipalities](#)
- [Canada Green Building Council](#)

[Back to UPDATE - April 2008](#) >>

[Top](#)



Minister Watson announced the Municipal Eco Challenge Fund at the 2008 Central Ontario Municipal Conference.

| [central site](#) | [feedback](#) | [search](#) | [site map](#) |
[français](#)

| [Home](#) | [Front and Centre](#) | [Resources for Municipalities](#) | [About the Ministry](#) | [Related Links](#) | [Reference Centre](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Site Updates](#) |



This site is maintained by the Government of Ontario, Canada.

[Privacy](#) | [Important Notices](#)

Copyright information: © [Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2002](#)

Last Modified: April 29, 2008

> [Home](#) > [About the Ministry](#) > [UPDATE — E-Newsletter](#) > [Articles](#) > [Update - April 2008](#) > Preparing for Emergencies

Preparing for Emergencies

Emergency Preparedness Week will soon be upon us once more.

During the week of May 4th, individually and as a community, we need to remind ourselves that we always have to be prepared for emergencies.

An emergency could be anything:

- A natural disaster, such as the ice storm a decade ago that ravaged eastern Ontario and other regions. The storm felled hydro lines and kept communities without power, some for as long as a month.
- Seasonal flooding, driven by melting snow and rain.
- A crisis, like SARS.

All were unexpected.

And all came at a price.

Today, all Ontario ministries and municipalities are required by legislation to have an emergency management program. It is to include a contingency plan, staff trained to handle emergencies, an annual exercise and public education.

We All Have A Responsibility

For example, all Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff will participate in Exercise GO-GO, a table top application on business continuity planning in an emergency situation. The Red Cross and the Institute of Catastrophic Loss Reduction will make presentations to ministry staff on individual preparedness and understanding insurance coverage.

Ministry regional offices will join other government agencies and industry groups in Emergency Preparedness Week activities. For example, in the foyer of the government building in Thunder Bay, the ministry's regional office will be putting up a display entitled Emergencies Happen...We All Have A Responsibility.

Being prepared for an emergency is truly an individual and shared responsibility.

Link

- [Emergency preparedness information](#)

[Back to UPDATE - April 2008](#) >>

Top



Seasonal flooding, driven by melting snow and rain, has impacted eastern Ontario and other regions this spring. This picture was taken in Belleville earlier this month.

| [central site](#) | [feedback](#) | [search](#) | [site map](#) |
[français](#)

|
[Home](#) | [Front and Centre](#) | [Resources for Municipalities](#) | [About the Ministry](#) | [Related Links](#) | [Reference Centre](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Site Updates](#) |



This site is maintained by the Government of Ontario, Canada.

[Privacy](#) | [Important Notices](#)

Copyright information: © [Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2002](#)

Last Modified: April 29, 2008