



Council Highlights are intended to provide a summary of Council proceedings only. The information contained within the Highlights is based on approved material from within the associated agenda package, linked at the bottom. These reports were part of the agenda from the **Joint Council and Committee Meeting on January 9, 2024**. For more information on any item covered in the Highlights, each article is hyperlinked to the appropriate report, which can be accessed by clicking on the title. Images are also linked to relevant resources.

A recording of this session is also available for public viewing on the [County's YouTube channel](#).

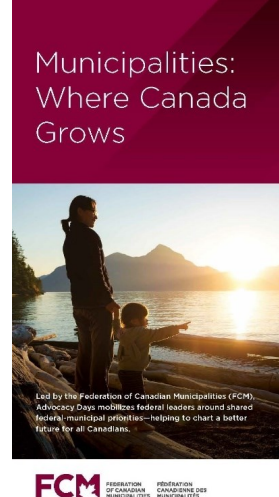
- Service Simcoe

Federation of Canadian Municipalities report

Where Canada Grows

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has released its report, *Where Canada Grows*, which outlines their proposed new Municipal Growth Framework. In their report, they state that:

"To turn Canada's historic growth into the success it needs to be, we must reimagine how we fund the core pillars that support a good quality of life for Canadians—from having an affordable and safe place to live and raise a family, to having access to diverse economic opportunities, to enjoying stronger links with neighbours and community. FCM is calling for a national discussion on a new Municipal Growth Framework to unlock municipal capacity and a better quality of life for all Canadians."



They are calling on the federal government to work with other levels of government to negotiate a Municipal Growth Framework that improves affordability and quality of life by enabling municipalities to take action on housing affordability, homelessness and climate change.

Read more about their priorities and requests [here](#).

Regional Government Review

County of Simcoe Submission to Provincial Standing Committee

Throughout the past year, the Provincial government has been pursuing a variety of legislative and policy changes related to municipalities and land use planning. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has tasked the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy (i.e. "the Standing Committee") to conduct a review on regional governance. The Standing Committee is scheduled to meet in various locations throughout the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) in January 2024. Those parties, including municipalities, who wish to provide comments to the Standing Committee may do so either in writing or by making an oral presentation in person to the Committee. In consideration of County Council's past positions in support of a continuance of two-tiered governance, it is recommended that the Warden and staff make an oral and/or written presentation to the Standing Committee.

View the County of Simcoe's proposed submission to the Standing Committee [here](#).

Warden Basil Clarke, on behalf of County Council, will also be requesting a Standing Committee hearing within the County of Simcoe to hear from local municipal representatives from all 16 member municipalities and both separated cities.

On January 9, 2024, the Warden issued a media statement following the ratification of the report by County Council. View the statement [here](#).

SIMCOE COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS



Third largest County by geography in Ontario

Only Renfrew and Hastings are larger

Fastest Growing and largest upper-tier municipality in the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2016-2021)

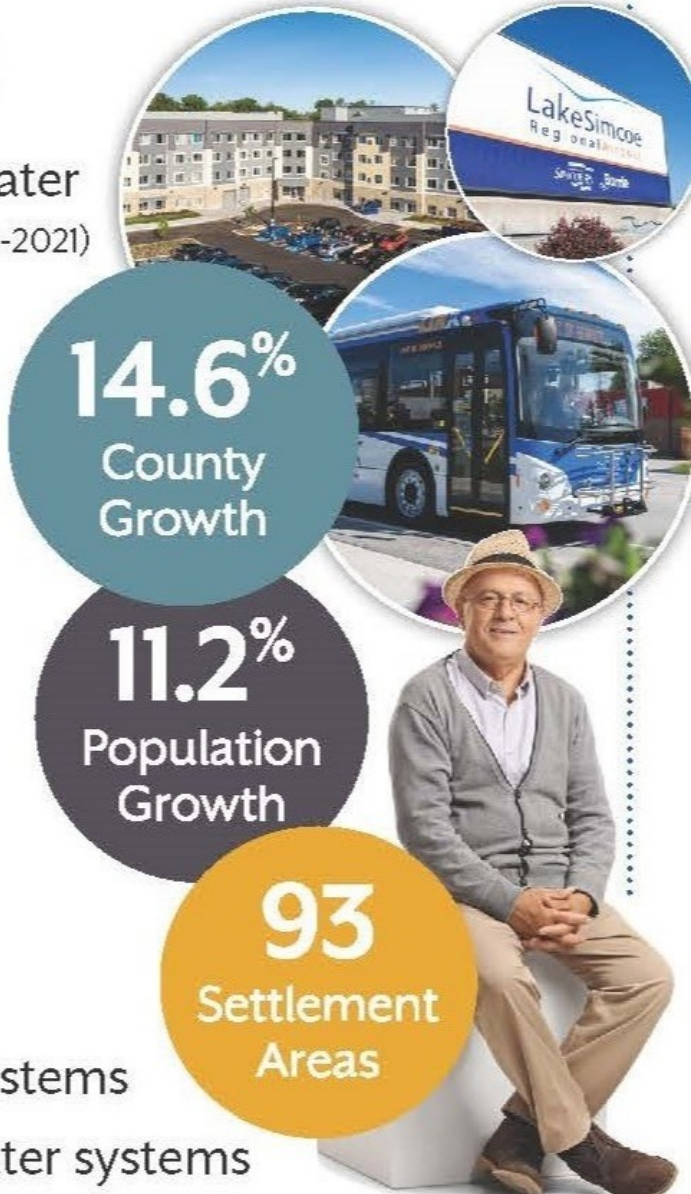
902,000 people will be living in Simcoe County in the **next 30 years**

City of Hamilton = 820,000
Niagara Region = 674,000

250,000+ new residents expected to move to Simcoe County **by 2051**

79 municipal water systems

27 municipal wastewater systems



Agricultural Liaison Committee Report

Committee appoints leadership positions

At the Agricultural Liaison Committee in mid-December, members selected for their leadership, Chair Dave Ritchie and Vice-Chair Donna Jebb to represent them. This committee is comprised of representatives from both County Council and the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture.

The Committee discussed farm tax ratios and their impact to the agricultural industry, forest conservation, agricultural waste disposal, partnership opportunities, and feedback that roundabouts should be built with sufficient size to accommodate agriculture and larger vehicles.

Joint Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda - January 9, 2024

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