



COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

AGENDA

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call.
3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof.
4. Adoption of minutes of previous meeting held on March 6, 2024. Page
2
5. Delegations: None at time of mailing.
6. Community Services Department
 - a) Department Report 4
 - b) Ontario Works Division Report 10
 - c) Child Care and Early Years Division Report 22
7. New Business.
8. Closed Meeting: None at time of mailing.
9. Date of next meeting (Wednesday, May 15, 2024) and adjournment.

NOTE: a) **County Council: Wednesday, April 24, 2024.**
b) Submissions received from the public, either orally or in writing may become part of the public record.



COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

A meeting of the Community Services Committee was held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 1:43 p.m., at the County of Renfrew Administration Building, Pembroke, Ontario.

Present were: Chair Anne Giardini
Warden Peter Emon
Vice-Chair Debbi Grills
Councillor David Mayville
Councillor Neil Nicholson
Councillor Gary Serviss
Councillor Ed Jacyno (City of Pembroke Rep)

Regrets: Councillor Neil Nicholson

Staff Present: Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk
Andrea Patrick, Director of Community Services
Jason Davis, Director of Development and Property
Mike Blackmore, Director of Long-Term Care
Lee Perkins, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Jennifer Dombroskie, Manager of Housing and Homelessness
Margo Smith, Manager of Child Care & Early Years Services
Kevin Raddatz, Manager of Real Estate
Gwen Dombroski, Clerk
Tina Peplinskie, Media Relations and Social Media Coordinator
Evelyn VanStarkenburg, Administrative Assistant

Chair Giardini called the meeting to order at 1:43 p.m. The roll was called and no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-24-03-10

Moved by Councillor Serviss

Seconded by Councillor Jacyno

THAT the minutes of the February 14, 2024 meeting be adopted. CARRIED.

The Director of Community Services overviewed the Community Services Department Report, which is attached as Appendix A.

The Director of Community Services advised that Councillor Nicholson has requested staff to invite the Eganville and District Seniors as a delegation to this Committee to speak about the

Age Well at Home Grant and the gaps that they face with supporting seniors in their own homes, and how they will be expanding their programs to try to fill some of the gaps.

Ontario Works

The Director of Community Services overviewed the Ontario Works Division Report, which is part of the Community Services Department Report.

Child Care and Early Years

The Manager of Child Care and Early Years overviewed the Child Care and Early Years Division Report, which is part of the Community Services Department Report.

Warden Emon requested a breakdown of the administrative reductions for those members of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus in order to present this information to the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO).

RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-24-03-11

Moved by Councillor Mayville

Seconded by Councillor Grills

THAT the Community Services Department Report attached as Appendix A be approved.
CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-24-03-12

Moved by Warden Emon

Seconded by Councillor Serviss

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Community Services Committee move into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 239 (c) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended to discuss a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board. Time: 2:04 p.m.
CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-24-03-15

Moved by Councillor Grills

Seconded by Councillor Serviss

THAT this meeting resume as an open meeting. Time: 2:44 p.m. CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-24-03-16

Moved by Councillor Jacyno

Seconded by Councillor Mayville

THAT this meeting adjourn and the next regular meeting be held on April 10, 2024. Time – 2:46 p.m. CARRIED.

COUNTY OF RENFREW
COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Andrea Patrick, Director of Community Services
DATE: April 10, 2024
SUBJECT: Department Report

INFORMATION

1. 2023 Unaudited Financial Statements

Attached as Appendix I are the 2023 Unaudited Financial Statements for the Community Services Department as of December 31, 2023, and an overview will be provided at the meeting.

2. Directors and Administrators Reference Group

The Directors and Administrators Reference Group (DARG) meets quarterly with representatives from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) to discuss social assistance program changes, service manager funding, and issues experienced throughout the sector. During the last DARG meeting held on February 14, 2024, MCCSS provided an overview of the provincial Intake and Benefits Administration Unit (IBAU) and an update on the Province's work around centralized intake. Demand for social assistance increased significantly during 2023 and continues to progress at this new level. Data indicates that 47% of all applications received by the IBAU are directed back to municipalities for processing. The Ministry continues to work toward full state centralized intake, in which the Province makes initial eligibility decisions for Ontario Works through a model that is fast, accurate, positive for clients, and ensures program integrity. Further details regarding centralized intake are outlined in the slide deck attached as Appendix II.

During the DARG meeting, MCCSS advised that work is underway to create a new Ontario Works funding formula, which will be implemented in 2025. The Ministry is working to reconfirm the Province's vision for social assistance transformation and ensure municipalities have the right resources to meet business needs in 2025.

3. Ontario Works Division Report

Attached as Appendix III is the Ontario Works Division Report prepared by Ms. Andrea Patrick, Community Services Director, providing an update on activities.

4. Child Care and Early Years Division Report

Attached as Appendix IV is the Child Care and Early Years Division Report, prepared by Ms. Margo Smith, Manager of Children's Services, providing an update on activities.

COUNTY OF RENFREW
TREASURER'S REPORT - Community Services Committee
DECEMBER 2023


over / (under)

	<u>YTD ACTUAL</u>	<u>YTD BUDGET</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
<u>ONTARIO WORKS</u>	<u>1,402,730</u>	<u>1,347,203</u>	<u>55,527</u>
Depreciation	18,238	9,500	8,738
Homelessness	0	0	0
Municipal Contribution - City of Pembroke	(409,511)	(487,293)	77,782
Ontario Works Program Administration	4,074,191	4,101,566	(27,375)
Other Revenue	(2,404)	0	(2,404)
Provincial Subsidy - Ontario Works Program Admin	(2,275,400)	(2,275,400)	0
Provincial Subsidy - Social Assistance - Benefits	(11,545,330)	(12,620,000)	1,074,670
Social Assistance - Benefits	11,561,185	12,628,330	(1,067,145)
Surplus Adjustment - Depreciation	(18,238)	(9,500)	(8,738)
SURPLUS ADJ - CAPITAL	0	0	0
Surplus Adjustment - TRF From Reserve	0	0	0
<u>CHILD CARE</u>	<u>403,523</u>	<u>448,793</u>	<u>(45,270)</u>
Administration	185,710	183,695	2,015
Core Programs	(26,238)	314,966	(341,205)
Special Needs Resourcing	0	0	0
Special Purpose	288,416	0	288,416
EarlyON Centres	(0)	0	(0)
Licensed Family Home Day Care	0	0	0
CWELCC (\$10/day Child Care)	0	0	0
Municipal Contribution - City of Pembroke	(44,365)	(49,868)	5,503
<u>COMMUNITY HOUSING</u>	<u>5,284,156</u>	<u>5,183,055</u>	<u>101,101</u>
Admin Charges	211,105	211,105	0
Affordable Housing - Tax Rebate	17,843	12,500	5,343
HR Charges	79,080	79,080	0
IT Charges	35,622	35,622	0
Legal	0	0	0
Municipal Contribution - City of Pembroke	(580,963)	(552,687)	(28,276)
Non Profit Housing	1,417,531	1,336,574	80,957
Office Supplies	46,000	1,000	45,000
PROV (FED) SUBSIDY -SOCIAL HOUSING	(1,234,012)	(1,234,012)	(0)
PROV REV - IAH	(39,250)	(68,000)	28,750
PROV REV - OPHI	(412,538)	(601,100)	188,562
PROV REV - SRF-COVID	0	0	0
PROV REV - SSRF-COVID	(1,294,984)	(2,000,000)	705,016
PROV REV - HPP	(2,811,788)	(1,785,700)	(1,026,088)
PROV SUBS HOUSING - COHB	(17,750)	0	(17,750)
RCHC TRANSFER - BASE	5,526,873	5,526,873	0
RCHC TRANSFER - IAH	39,250	68,000	(28,750)
RCHC TRANSFER - OPHI	412,538	601,100	(188,562)
OPHI Direct	0	0	0
HOUSING-INTERNAL CHG-RCHC COHB	17,750	0	17,750

RCHC TRANSFER - COVID	1,294,984	2,000,000	(705,016)
RCHC TRANSFER - HPP	2,811,788	1,785,700	1,026,088
Recoveries - Outside	(235,000)	(235,000)	0
Surplus Adjustment - Capital	0	0	0
Surplus Adjustment - TRF from Reserves	0	0	0
Surplus Adjustment - TRF To Reserves	0	0	0
Travel	77	2,000	(1,923)
Total Community Services	7,090,409	6,979,051	111,358

Centralized Intake Update - DARG

February 14, 2024



Centralized Intake - Update

404,140 applications received since November 2020 (includes reapplications)

- **43,735** SADA applications processed for TESS since TESS Phone Upload on June 1 2023 (approximately 5,000 per month).
- **47%** of SADA applications are referred to local office*
- **40%** of all SADA applications are auto-granted through RBED*
- The average time it is taking IBAU to process SADA applications over the past 7 days is approximately **5.6 days**

Demand for Social Assistance increased significantly during 2023 and continues to progress at this new higher level. January 2024 has surpassed January 2023 by over 1,000 applications.

Centralized Intake continues to receive approximately 90% of all OW applications either online or by phone.

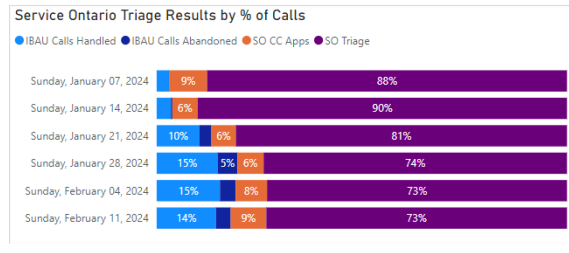
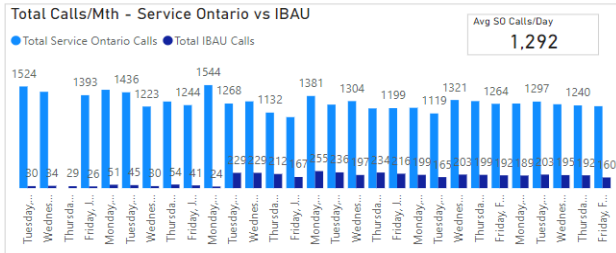


IBAU and its ministry partners continue to implement process changes and technology improvements to manage the increasing number of applications. Recent strategies including the support received by staff across the division have reduced the ageing of applications pending by over 2 days.

Centralized Intake – IBAU Contact Centre Update

203,140 calls received by the IBAU Contact Centre since November 2020
 The average number of calls to the IBAU Contact Centre per day is currently **196**

- IBAU continues to develop and enhance the relationship with MPBSD and ServiceOntario to deliver improved client experience. As of November 2023, ServiceOntario began managing calls from applicants inquiring about the status of their applications.



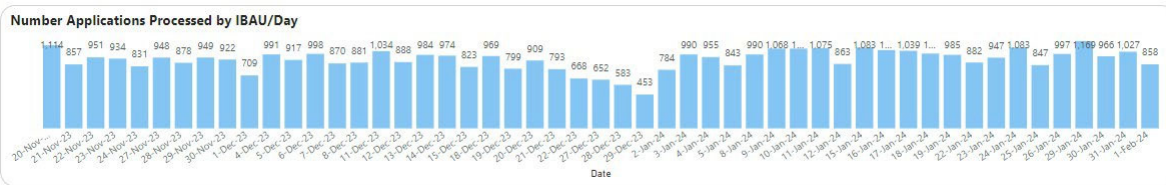
- ServiceOntario Triages into IBAU via the main Contact Centre to support application and intake inquiries and also directly to assigned Caseworkers to manage Reapplications (2-6 months) where an application has not been created.
- Following feedback from staff, some technical enhancements and an opportunity to improve operational planning, all IBAU Caseworkers will be assigned to the ICEBar Call management system on February 27, 2024, allowing all calls transferred to the IBAU Contact Centre to be connected directly with a Caseworker.

3



Centralized Intake – Application Management

Demand for Social Assistance has been significantly higher in 2023 and continues to increase. Centralized Intake is receiving approximately 90% of all OW applications either online or by phone.



IBAU communicates regularly with our municipal partners as we manage the increased volume, advising of our internal strategies and opportunities for local offices to support with applications pending.

SAMS is available Monday to Friday 7am to 7pm with the occasional Saturday. IBAU will continue to offer overtime as an option to our staff to support the increased demand for social assistance. SAMS availability is communicated by the ministry monthly through the OPS Service Centre.

The CST (full) between Ministry and municipal partners continues to meet, with the next meeting planned for February 15, 2024

4 Presentation Name



Centralized Intake Expansion – What’s Happening?

The ministry is taking steps toward full state centralized intake in which the province makes initial eligibility decisions for Ontario Works through a model that is fast, accurate, positive for clients, and that ensures program integrity.



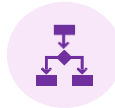
In 2023, the government proclaimed changes to the Ontario Works Act enable the ministry to make regulatory amendments to become a delivery agent for the program.



Regulatory amendments to implement this change will be proposed to the government in 2024, after which time the ministry will take on the role of Delivery Agent in selected municipalities.



The ministry is working with 3 municipal sites (Muskoka, Peterborough, and York) to develop and implement new processes for the expanded provincial role at intake. Meetings have been taking place regularly since September 2023 and will continue.



IBAU and municipal partners will begin by testing new processes that will result in higher-quality applications.



Once regulatory approvals are in place, IBAU will begin managing all low, medium, and ineligible decisions along with managing appeals related to those decisions with the aim of reducing the administrative burden on local Ontario Works offices.



This work has been informed by collaboration with municipal partners at several tables, and we continue to work closely with partners as the work proceeds.

ONTARIO WORKS REPORT

Prepared by: Andrea Patrick, Director of Community Services

Prepared for: Community Services Committee

April 10, 2024

INFORMATION**1. Mesa Stakeholder Engagement Meeting**

On March 20, 2024, a mesa stakeholder engagement session was held at the Carefor Centre in Pembroke. Representatives from the County of Renfrew's Community Services, Development and Property, and Emergency Services Departments participated in the meeting, along with local addictions and mental health service providers. The aim of the session was to exchange information on services and obtain feedback from stakeholders on strategies to better meet the needs of individuals experiencing mental health, addictions, and homelessness. All stakeholders present expressed their commitment to collaboration and working together to bridge existing service gaps.

2. Social Assistance Digital Application

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) has been exploring ways to improve the user experience for applicants through all stages of their social assistance journey. A new version of the Social Assistance Digital Application (SADA) was implemented on April 6, 2024 to streamline the intake process. In the new iteration, applicants will receive more information about their options and a program recommendation page will give them the choice to apply for both Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program simultaneously. These changes will improve the user experience by providing a faster and more convenient intake process and will reduce staff time spent completing referrals to other programs. A slide deck is attached as Appendix OW-I, providing further details regarding these changes.

3. Food Affordability Report

Attached as Appendix OW-II is the Food Affordability in Renfrew County and District, 2023 Report prepared by the Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU). Public Health units in Ontario are directed by the Ministry of Health to monitor local food affordability, and food insecurity rates annually. The report identifies that nearly one in six (17%) households in Renfrew County are food insecure. The RCDHU website [Eating and Nutrition | Renfrew County and District Health Unit \(rcdhu.com\)](https://www.rcdhu.com/Eating-and-Nutrition) contains further information on the negative health impacts of food insecurity and how the public can take action to advocate for change.

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

What's Changing in the Social Assistance Digital Application (SADA) & MyBenefits - April 2024

Business Innovation and Implementation Branch

Ontario 

Overview

Purpose

Provide an overview of the changes that will be implemented on April 6, 2024 (as part of release 24.2):

- Simplified Applications Approach (SAA) - onboarding ODSP to SADA
- Updates to Applications Status Checker
- New MyBenefits Applications Status Checker feature

Background

The Digital Services & Operation Unit (DSO) has been exploring how to improve the user experience for applicants through all stages of their social assistance journey.

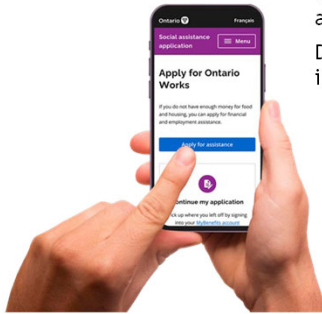
The Simplified Applications Approach (SAA) was developed to streamline the intake process for applicants and staff making it easier, faster and more equitable.

What is SADA? (Social Assistance Digital Application)

Online service that supports a user-friendly way for citizens to apply for social assistance, verify their identity, and e-sign their application.

Fully integrated with a back-end case management system including semi-automation (e.g., match & merge, risk-based eligibility determination, granting)

Developed in an agile approach, new enhancements are continually introduced via iterative releases



Goals/Benefits

Improves the user experience for applicants by offering an online intake process that is faster and more convenient

Reduces the reliance on in-person processes and paper documentation

Increases online identity assurance levels and reduces the need for manual identity verification

Product Features

Web and mobile responsive

Fully accessible in English and French
 • 94.7% AODA compliance as of January 2024

Developed in alignment with the Ontario Design System

User-centered design focused
 • Content is developed based on user insights and user tested prior to implementation

Simplified Applications Approach

Case for change

Applicants often do not understand that they can transition from Ontario Works to ODSP, resulting in an administrative burden to staff and delays to access support



Overview of approach

- Applicants complete a single dynamic questionnaire
- SADA recommends appropriate program(s) based on the applicant's situation
- Applicant makes an informed decision and chooses program(s) to apply to



Benefits



- **Improves outcomes** by helping applicants make an informed choice about which program(s) to apply for, helping them to access the support they need the first time they apply reducing time spent helping applicants decide
- **Improves user experience** by enabling ODSP applicants to confirm their identity and sign their application online reducing the need for in-person meetings
- **Reduces staff time** spent on processing duplicate applications, including making ODSP to Ontario Works referrals, etc.
- Enhancing existing digital solutions through SADA's streamlined application process can help to **reduce call volumes**
- SADA application **simpler to fill out** than OASA



Considerations

- If applicants choose to apply to ODSP only, they may still require referral to OW
- Screening by location is not possible as applicants will not select a program up front. **SADA for ODSP will be program wide, and not limited to a pilot**, requiring general change management for initial implementation.

Simplified Applications Approach: Overview of Changes



Current SADA Pages

- Updates to Ontario.ca website to redirect ODSP applicants to SADA, instead of OASA.
- Redesigned landing page to enable applications for Ontario Works, ODSP, or both, through one application.
- Some new questions or changes to existing questions to support ODSP and Multiple program applications, e.g.:
 - 'Does anyone included in the application have a disability that will impact their daily activities or ability to work for a year or more?'
 - 'Does anyone included in the application need money to pay for their immediate needs including food and housing for the next 6 months?'
- New help text



New: Program Recommendation Page

New program recommendation page based on the applicant's responses in SADA, including:

- Ontario Works recommendation **with** the option to apply for ODSP or Multiple programs
- ODSP recommendation **with** the option to apply for Ontario Works or Multiple programs.
 - **Note:** For some situations, the recommendation to apply for Ontario Works or ODSP will be displayed **without** the option to select alternate program options.
- Multiple programs recommendation (both Ontario Works -ODSP) **with** the option to apply for Ontario Works or ODSP independently.

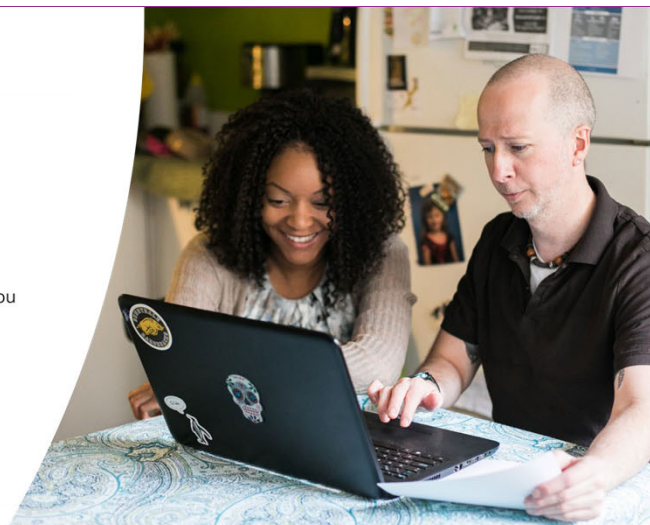
SADA Simplified Applications Approach Designs

Revised Landing Page

Apply for Ontario Works or ODSP

If you need support with money for food and housing and/or if you have a disability and are in financial need you can apply for **Ontario Works** or **ODSP** through one simple application.

Start a new application



SADA Simplified Applications Approach Designs

Additional/Family Information - New question highlights

Do you have a disability that will impact your daily activities or ability to work for a year or more? (required)

Yes

No

[^ What does this mean?](#)

Being a person with a disability means:

- you have a mental or physical health issue that is continuous or recurrent, and is expected to last one year or more
- your mental or physical health issue restricts your ability to work, care for yourself, or take part in community life
- your health issue, and the likely duration and restrictions of the health issue have been verified by a health care professional

Do you need money to pay for your immediate needs including food and housing for the next 6 months? (required)

Yes

No

7

Note: Draft – content subject to change

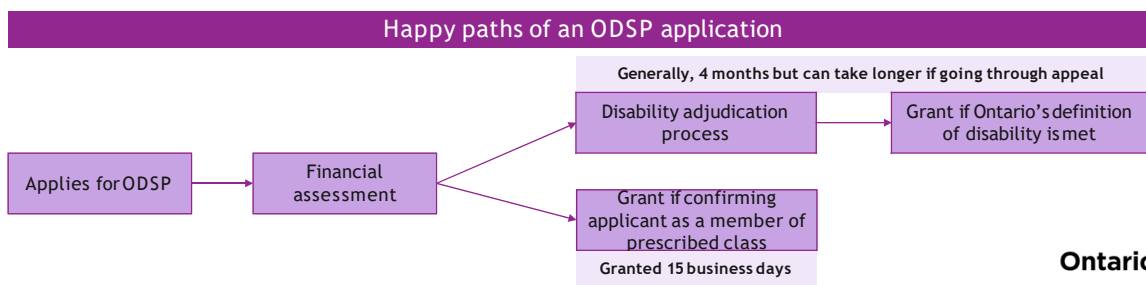


ODSP application context

To be eligible for ODSP an applicant must be financially eligible and meet the provinces definition of disabled through the Disability Adjudication process or qualify as prescribed class. [Learn more about the application of this policy.](#)

Members of a Prescribed Class are exempt from the Disability Adjudication process and are granted if found financially eligible. [Learn more about the exemptions from the Disability Adjudication Process.](#)

For this reason, the ODSP SADA Status Checker has been designed with a slightly different template that captures both financial (SADA) and medical (DAU / Prescribed Class) application milestones.



Simplified Applications Approach - Program(s)

- After filling out the application, SADA would recommend the appropriate programs based on the applicant's situation:

Applicant Situation	Result
Without a disability	Ontario Works application only
With a disability, immediate financial need indicated (no prescribed class)	Ontario Works application and ODSP application
With a disability, immediate financial need not indicated	ODSP application only
Prescribed class indicated (with disability indicated and not in immediate financial need)	ODSP application only
ACSD recipient turning 18	ODSP application only

9



MyBenefits Applications feature: Table view

The screenshot displays the 'MyBenefits Applications' interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Ontario' and 'Français' options. Below that, the 'MyBenefits' header includes 'Help' and 'Menu' icons. The main content area is titled 'Applications' and shows a list of social assistance applications submitted in the last 12 months. The table below has columns for Application type, Applicant, Application number, Start date, Decision date, and Status. Two rows are visible: one for Ontario Works and one for ODSP. A detailed view of an ODSP application decision is overlaid on the bottom right, showing the status (Approved, Not approved, or Withdrawn) and the date of the decision.

Users will have quick visibility into critical application information

- Program applied for
- Who applied (only primary applicants in scope at this time)
- Application number for SADA and non-SADA applications
- Date application was submitted or started
- Date application was processed
- Status of application (more info available on the application details page)
- Multiple program SADA applications will display as two applications with same application number
- Non-SADA applications (i.e., ODSP applications created by Ontario Works) will show Integrated Case Application number from SAMS.
- Application details will be structured the same as SADA but with increased level of detail.

Vision: wraparound cohesive service

Sarah is a single parent of two children. She is having trouble finding work as a result of her disability. Her savings have run out and she needs support.



SADA + MyBenefits Integration enables Sarah to save and resume her application making the application process easier



Simplified Application Approach allows Sarah to apply for Ontario Works and ODSP with a single application



MyBenefits for Applicants allows Sarah to:

- send messages to intake staff
- submit documents to support her application
- independently update case information (phone number, etc.)
- access digital letters
- complete DDP forms digitally (e.g. self report form)



Self-serve Application Status Checker & My Applications feature enables her to independently access the status of her application through all stages of the process (OW & ODSP, including DDP).



When Sarah is granted, she has immediate access to **MyBenefits for Clients**; no need to re-register.

11

Ontario 

Thank You

If you have any questions or feedback, please contact:

SADA:

Steven Hughes: Steven.Hughes2@ontario.ca

Mary-Anne Lee: Mary-Anne.Lee@ontario.ca

MyBenefits:

Jade Welsh: Jade.Welsh@ontario.ca

12

FOOD AFFORDABILITY

in Renfrew County and District, 2023



Some people are unable to consistently access food due to financial constraints, resulting in a condition known as **food insecurity**. When incomes are low, people may have to choose between paying for food or paying for other basic necessities, like housing and utilities. **This is a significant public health problem.**

Each year, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) monitors local food affordability and food insecurity rates in Renfrew County and District (RCD).



1 in 6 households
are food insecure in Renfrew County
and District¹



1 in 4 children
are food insecure in
Ontario²

Monitoring Food Affordability

RCDHU used the **Ontario Nutritious Food Basket** (ONFB) tool to monitor food affordability across RCD. In May 2023, staff went to nine local grocery stores and collected prices for the same 61 food items. Food costs were then combined with housing rental rates and compared to various income situations to determine the local affordability of food.



The ONFB is a list of food items that make up a hypothetical grocery basket based on Canada's Food Guide. It is intended to model what a family might buy while following nutritional guidelines.



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

www.rcdhu.com • 1.800.267.1097 • @RCDHealthUnit



Housing rental rates were calculated using the 2021 Canadian Rental Housing Index (CRHI), adjusting for inflation. RCDHU conducted additional research to assess how well this data represents the current rental market in RCD. Findings suggest that the CRHI rental prices may be as much as **70% below** prices for new rentals in the current market. RCDHU recommends caution when evaluating the following income scenarios.

Identifying Food Insecurity in RCD

As seen below, local income scenarios show the difficulties low-income households experience when paying for housing and food. After paying for food and rent, the **remaining monthly income** is available for necessities like utilities (like heating and electricity), childcare, medical and dental bills, phone and internet services, transportation costs, clothing, pets, etc.

What's Left each month for...

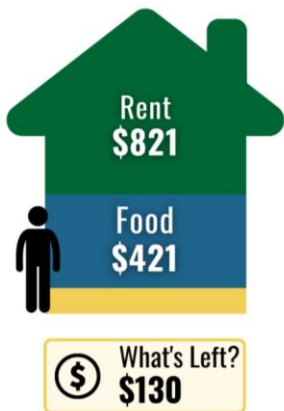


Results indicate that families with lower incomes struggle to afford food. This is due not only to high food prices, but also to incomes that are **too low** to cover basic necessities.

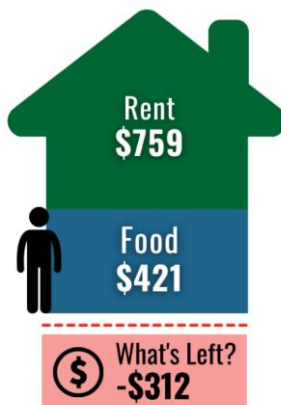
Income Scenarios in Renfrew County and District

Note: Food and rental costing methodologies were changed in 2023. As a result, the data described in this report should not be compared to previous reports.

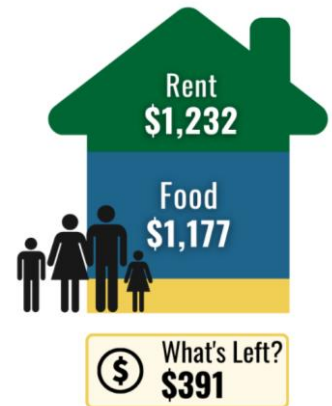
One Person, ODSP*
Monthly income: **\$1,372**



One Person, Ontario Works
Monthly income: **\$868**



Family of Four, Ontario Works
Monthly income: **\$2800**



* Ontario Disability Support Program



Income scenarios in RCD

	Monthly Income ^a	Estimated Monthly Rent ^b	Monthly Cost of Food	What's Left
Households with Children				
Family of Four, Ontario works	\$2,800	\$1,232	\$1,177	\$391
Family of Four, One Full-Time Minimum Wage Earner	\$4,166	\$1,232	\$1,177	\$1,757
Family of Four, Median Income (after tax, in Ontario)	\$9,290	\$1,232	\$1,177	\$6,881
Single Parent Household with 2 Children, Ontario Works	\$2,566	\$1,132	\$868	\$566
Single Parent Household with 2 Children, Full-Time Minimum Wage Earner	\$4,308	\$1,132	\$719	\$2,457
Households without Children				
One Person Household, Ontario Works	\$868	\$759 ^c	\$421	-\$312
One Person Household, Ontario Disability Support Program	\$1,372	\$821	\$421	\$130
One Person Household, Old Age Security/ Guaranteed Income Supplement	\$1,996	\$821	\$306	\$869
Married Couple, Ontario Disability Support Program	\$2,437	\$821	\$702	\$914
Single Pregnant Person Household, Ontario Disability Support Program	\$1,412	\$821	\$401	\$190

^a Includes benefits and credits

^b May or may not include utilities

^c This scenario uses rental rates for a bachelor apartment



Note: The ONFB tool used to calculate the monthly cost of food assumes that people have the time, skills, and equipment to make meals from scratch. Also, the Canada Food Guide and ONFB may not cover the dietary needs of all religious and cultural groups. They do not include traditional Indigenous foods and food acquisition practices. Additionally, the ONFB excludes certain items like pre-packaged foods, baby foods, special dietary products (like gluten-free), or cleaning and personal hygiene products. RCDHU recognizes these significant limitations to the ONFB.



Food Insecurity is a Public Health Concern

The widespread nature of food insecurity is a serious public health concern.

In RCD, nearly 1 in 6 (17%) households are food insecure.¹

This includes those who are marginally, moderately, and severely food insecure. **In Ontario, 1 in 4 children** (24.6%) live in food-insecure households, affecting nearly 700,000 children.²



Food insecurity has **long-lasting health impacts** for children and adults. Read more at: [Food Insecurity](#).



Food insecurity can affect anyone:

Being employed, receiving wages, or having a salary does not guarantee protection from food insecurity. More than half (**60.2%**) of food-insecure households in Canada indicated wages, salaries, or self-employment as their main source of income.²

Besides income, individuals may experience a **disproportionately high rate of food insecurity** if they: ²⁻⁴

- live in rental housing
- are a single female parent
- are a member of a racialized group
- identify as Indigenous

Individuals receiving **social assistance** are at higher risk of experiencing food insecurity. In Canada, **69.9%** of households receiving social assistance report experiencing food insecurity.²

Food insecurity is a result of poverty.

POVERTY

To solve the problem, we need to **take action against poverty** and implement income-based solutions.

You too can take a stance against food insecurity and advocate for change. Find out how you can take action by visiting: [Food Insecurity](#).

We all deserve to have our basic needs met and live with dignity.



References

1. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Household food insecurity estimates from the Canadian Income Survey: Ontario 2019-2022. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; 2023.
2. Tarasuk V, Li T, Fafard St-Germain AA. Household food insecurity in Canada, 2022. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF). 2023. Available from: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Household-Food-Insecurity-in-Canada-2022-PROOF.pdf>
3. PROOF. Who are most at risk of household food insecurity [Internet]? Toronto, ON: University of Toronto; 2023 [cited 2023 Nov 23]. Available from: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/who-are-most-at-risk-of-household-food-insecurity/>
4. Ontario Dietitians in Public Health. Position Statement and Recommendations on Responses to Food Insecurity. 2020. Available from: <https://www.odph.ca/odph-position-statement-on-responses-to-food-insecurity-1>



CHILD CARE AND EARLY YEARS REPORT

Prepared by: Margo Smith, Manager of Children's Services

Prepared for: Community Services Committee

April 10, 2024

INFORMATION**1. 2023 Licensed Child Care Annual Report**

Attached as Appendix CC-I is a memorandum dated March 8, 2024, from Holly Moran, Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Years and Child Care Division for the Ministry of Education, regarding the 2023 Early Years and Child Care Annual Report. This report contains detailed information about the child care and early years system, as well as Ontario's progress in line with its commitments to Canada. This data has been collected from the Child Care Licensing System (CCLS) and annual data collection from licensed child care centres and home child care agencies. The memorandum includes the direct link to the Ministry of Education's website to review the report.

2. 2023 Early Years and Child Care Data Profiles

Attached as Appendix CC-II is a memorandum dated March 8, 2024, from Katie Williams, Early Years Branch Director for the Ministry of Education, regarding the 2023 Licensed Child Care Data Profiles, which provide detailed information from the provincial, service system manager, and First Nations community perspectives. This data has been collected from the CCLS as of March 31, 2023. Attached as Appendix CC-III are the details in the Licensed Child Care Data Profiles for the County of Renfrew.

3. Bill C-35 – An Act Respecting Early Learning and Child Care in Canada

On December 8, 2022, Bill C-35, an Act respecting early learning and child care in Canada, was introduced in the House of Commons with the intention of enshrining the principles of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system into federal law. The Bill received Royal Assent on March 19, 2024, therefore establishing a long-term commitment to federal funding for the early learning and child care system across Canada.

4. Administrative Funding Reductions

For 2024, the Ministry of Education has reduced the administrative funding for Service System Managers in the Province of Ontario by eliminating the one-time transitional grant that had been issued since 2022. As requested at the March 2024 Committee meeting, the amounts for each of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) member municipalities have been listed in the following chart:

Consolidated Municipal Service Manager	Administrative Reduction (One-time Transitional Grant)
City of Cornwall (includes United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry)	\$597,915
Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes (includes Haliburton)	\$374,924
Corporation of the City of Kingston (includes Frontenac)	\$691,338
Corporation of the City of Peterborough	\$672,252
Corporation of the County of Hastings	\$661,204
County of Lanark	\$337,569
County of Northumberland	\$341,633
County of Prince Edward, Lennox and Addington	\$286,856
County of Renfrew	\$448,954
United Counties of Leeds & Grenville	\$410,803
United Counties of Prescott & Russell	\$481,386
TOTAL	\$5,304,834

Ministry of Education

Early Years and Child Care Division
315 Front Street West, 11th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 08B

Ministère de l'Éducation

Division de la petite enfance et de la garde d'enfants
315, rue Front Ouest, 11^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 08B

Appendix CC-I

MEMORANDUM

TO: Child Care and Early Years Partners

FROM: Holly Moran
Assistant Deputy Minister
Early Years and Child Care Division

DATE: March 8, 2024

SUBJECT: **2023 Early Years and Child Care Annual Report**

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration as we continue to work together on ensuring that child care remains a healthy and welcoming place for children to learn and grow. A strong and accessible child care and early years system is a critical support for Ontario families.

We are also pleased to provide you with Ontario's 2023 Early Years and Child Care Annual Report. You can find the 2023 report on the [ministry's website](#). It contains valuable information about our child care and early years system as well as Ontario's progress in line with its commitments to Canada. I hope this report will help you to better understand the early years and child care system in which you play an important part. Much of the data in the report is captured through the Child Care Licensing System as well as through the Ministry of Education's annual data collection from licensed child care centres and home child care agencies. Thank you to all licensees who completed this data collection in 2023 – your efforts are much appreciated and significantly contribute to more informed decision-making in the province.

Should you have any questions about Ontario's 2023 Early Years and Child Care Annual Report, please feel free to contact your Early Years Advisor, Financial Advisor or Ministry Advisor.

Sincerely,



Holly Moran

cc: Karen Puhlmann, Director, Child Care Branch
Katie Williams, Director, Early Years Branch
Caroline Noakes, Manager, Planning and Reporting Unit
Matthew Desrosiers, Director, Funding Branch

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Appendix CC-II

MEMORANDUM

TO: Children's Service Managers, Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards

First Nations Administrators of Child Care and Child and Family Programs

FROM: Katie Williams
Director, Early Years Branch

DATE: March 8, 2024

SUBJECT: **2023 Licensed Child Care Data Profiles**

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and efforts during this past year. Further to the March 8, 2024, memo from Holly Moran regarding Ontario's 2023 Early Years and Child Care Annual Report, I am pleased to share with you the 2023 Licensed Child Care Data Profiles.

The 2023 Licensed Child Care Data Profiles provide detailed information at the provincial, service system manager and First Nations community level. The data is captured through the Child Care Licensing System as of March 31, 2023.

I trust you will find the 2023 Licensed Child Care Data Profiles useful in your service system planning. Should you have any questions about the profiles, please feel free to contact the Early Years Branch at EarlyYears.Branch@ontario.ca, or your Early Years Advisor or Financial Advisor.

Thank you for all your support and cooperation throughout this past year, as we work together to ensure a safe environment in child care and early years programs across the province.

Sincerely,



Katie Williams

cc: Caroline Noakes, Manager, Planning and Reporting Unit
Karen Puhmann, Director, Child Care Branch
Matthew Desrosiers, Director, Funding Branch



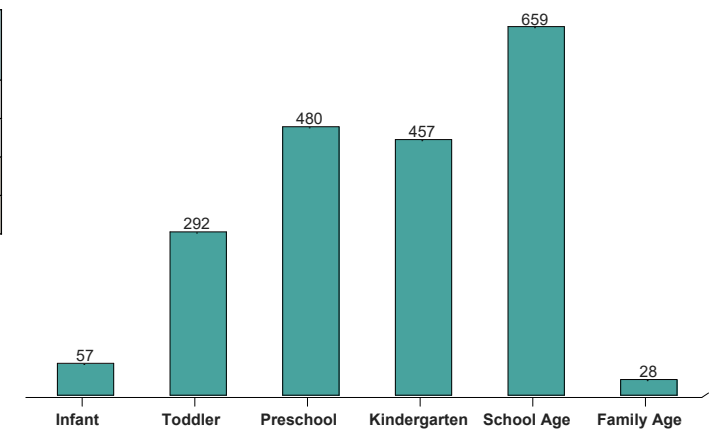
Data Profile: County of Renfrew
East Region
[Back to Top](#)

Total Number of Child Care Spaces in Ontario: 505,055
Percentage of Spaces in Ontario: 0.4%

Table 1: Licensed Child Care Centres and Spaces 2022-23, County of Renfrew

Characteristics	Number of Centres	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Kindergarten	School Age	Family Age	Total Spaces 2022-23	Total Spaces 2013-14	% Increase in Spaces 2013-14 vs 2022-23
Profit Status										
Not-for-profit	26	42	262	416	420	629	28	1,797	860	109%
For-profit	3	15	30	64	37	30	0	176	206	(15%)
Proportion of Not-for-profit	90%	74%	90%	87%	92%	95%	100%	91%	81%	n.a.
Service Language										
English	26	41	252	412	373	539	28	1,645	960	71%
Bilingual	1	6	15	24	19	0	0	64	0	n.a.
French	2	10	25	44	65	120	0	264	106	149%
Proportion in French Only	7%	18%	9%	9%	14%	18%	0%	13%	10%	n.a.
Location										
Communities	13	28	107	216	86	125	28	590	721	(18%)
Publicly Funded Schools	16	29	185	264	371	534	0	1,383	345	301%
Proportion in Publicly Funded Schools	55%	51%	63%	55%	81%	81%	0%	70%	32%	n.a.
Proportion by Age Group		3%	15%	24%	23%	33%	1%	100%	100%	n.a.
Total	29	57	292	480	457	659	28	1,973	1,066	85%

Figure 1: Child Care Spaces by Age Group 2022-23 County of Renfrew



Data source: Table 1 Licensed Child Care Centres and Spaces 2022-23

Table 2: Home Child Care Agencies and Approved Homes 2022-23, County of Renfrew

Characteristics	Number of Agencies 2013-14	Number of Homes 2013-14	Number of Agencies 2022-23	Number of Homes 2022-23	% Increase in Agencies 2013-14 vs 2022-23	% Increase in Homes 2013-14 vs 2022-23
Not-for-profit	2	43	2	65	0%	51%
For-profit	0	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.
Proportion of Not-for-profit	100%	100%	100%	100%	n.a.	n.a.
Total	2	43	2	65	0%	51%

Table 3: Number of Licensed Child Care Centres and Spaces, County of Renfrew

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	% Increase 2013-14 vs 2022-23	% Increase 2021-22 vs 2022-23
Number of Licensed Child Care Centres	23	24	26	26	27	27	27	28	28	29	26%	4%
Not-for-profit	20	22	24	24	26	26	26	26	26	26	30%	0%
For-profit	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	0%	50%
Number of Licensed Child Care Spaces	1,066	1,191	1,504	1,532	1,667	1,744	1,764	1,828	1,828	1,973	85%	8%
Not-for-profit	860	1,015	1,325	1,353	1,555	1,632	1,668	1,668	1,668	1,797	109%	8%
For-profit	206	176	179	179	112	112	96	160	160	176	(15%)	10%

Table 5: Spaces in Licensed Child Care by Age Group, County of Renfrew

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	% Increase 2013-14 vs 2022-23	% Increase 2021-22 vs 2022-23
Total Spaces	1,066	1,191	1,504	1,532	1,667	1,744	1,764	1,828	1,828	1,973	85%	8%
Infant	50	50	62	62	53	63	50	56	56	57	14%	2%
Toddler	197	192	232	232	232	252	237	252	252	292	48%	16%
Preschool	419	407	416	416	392	424	408	432	432	480	15%	11%
Kindergarten	148	198	300	313	406	406	412	431	431	457	209%	6%
School Age	252	344	494	509	584	599	629	629	629	659	162%	5%
Family Age	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	28	28	28	28	n.a.	0%

Notes: As of September 1, 2017, the "Family Age" group was introduced for licensed child care centres. This new licensed age group did not exist prior to 2017-18.

Table 4: Number of Home Child Care Agencies and Approved Homes, County of Renfrew

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Number of Home Child Care Agencies	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Not-for-profit	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
For-profit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Approved Homes	43	43	43	43	65	65	65	65	65	65
Not-for-profit	43	43	43	43	65	65	65	65	65	65
For-profit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 6: Licensed Child Care Centre Closures and Openings, County of Renfrew

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Number of Centres	23	24	26	26	27	27	27	28	28	29
Number of Centres Opened	3	2	4	0	3	0	1	1	0	3
Number of Centres Closed	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	2
Number of Net Change	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
% of Centres Opened	13.0%	8.3%	15.4%	0%	11.1%	0%	3.7%	3.6%	0%	10.3%
% of Centres Closed	4.3%	4.2%	7.7%	0%	7.4%	0%	3.7%	0%	0%	6.9%
% of Net Change	8.7%	4.2%	7.7%	0%	3.7%	0%	0%	3.6%	0%	3.4%

Note: The number of centres in a given year may not be equal to the sum of the number of centres in the previous year and the number of net change as centres may report to different municipalities over time.

Table 7: Number of Centres and Spaces Located in Publicly Funded Schools, County of Renfrew

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	% Increase 2013-14 vs 2022-23	% Increase 2021-22 vs 2022-23
Number of Centres	7	9	13	13	15	15	15	15	15	16	129%	7%
Infant	0	0	18	18	18	28	28	28	28	29	n.a.	4%
Toddler	60	75	125	125	125	145	145	145	145	185	208%	28%
Preschool	100	136	184	184	184	216	216	216	216	264	164%	22%
Kindergarten	88	140	239	252	339	339	345	345	345	371	322%	8%
School Age	97	189	354	369	459	474	504	504	504	534	451%	6%
Family Age	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.
Total Spaces	345	540	920	948	1,125	1,202	1,238	1,238	1,238	1,383	301%	12%

Table 9: Number of Centres and Spaces Located in Communities, County of Renfrew

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	% Increase 2013-14 vs 2022-23	% Increase 2021-22 vs 2022-23
Number of Centres	16	15	13	13	12	12	12	13	13	13	(19%)	0%
Infant	50	50	44	44	35	35	22	28	28	28	(44%)	0%
Toddler	137	117	107	107	107	107	92	107	107	107	(22%)	0%
Preschool	319	271	232	232	208	208	192	216	216	216	(32%)	0%
Kindergarten	60	58	61	61	67	67	67	86	86	86	43%	0%
School Age	155	155	140	140	125	125	125	125	125	125	(19%)	0%
Family Age	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	28	28	28	28	n.a.	0%
Total Spaces	721	651	584	584	542	542	526	590	590	590	(18%)	0%

Note: As of September 1, 2017, the "Family Age" group was introduced for licensed child care centres. This new licensed age group did not exist prior to 2017-18.

Table 8: Licensed Child Care Serious Occurrences, County of Renfrew

Program Type	Serious Occurrence Type	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Child Care Centre	Allegation of abuse and/or neglect	0	1	2	7	1	1	1	1	1	5
	Complaint about service standard	1	0	2	1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Death of a child	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Life-threatening injury or illness	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	2	0	2	5	0	3
	Missing or unsupervised child(ren)	2	0	4	1	4	4	4	0	4	11
	Serious injury	5	7	15	13	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Unplanned disruption of service	0	0	1	6	4	2	30	5	10	4
	Other	2	11	11	4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Child Care Centre Total	10	19	35	32	11	7	37	11	15	23
	Home Child Care Agency	Allegation of abuse and/or neglect	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
Complaint about service standard		0	1	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Death of a child		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Life-threatening injury or illness		n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Missing or unsupervised child(ren)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Serious injury		1	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Unplanned disruption of service		0	1	0	2	1	0	8	0	6	13
Other		0	0	3	3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Home Child Care Agency Total		1	2	3	7	2	1	8	1	6	13
Grand Total	11	21	38	39	13	8	45	12	21	36	

Notes: 1. Serious occurrence data is available since December 2013; therefore, 2013-14 data includes serious occurrences reported to the ministry from December 2013 to March 2014.
2. As of August 29, 2016, the serious occurrence categories were redefined as part of the Ontario Regulation 137/15 amendment; therefore, the data may not be directly comparable over the years.
3. As of August 29, 2016, definitions for serious occurrences changed and no longer included "serious injuries", "complaint about service standards" and "other", and "Life-threatening injury or illness" was added.
4. Serious occurrence records verified as "Not a Serious Occurrence" are excluded from the report. The 2022-23 data is preliminary as some serious occurrences were still under review. For the same reason, some of the 2021-22 data may be updated in this report because it was preliminary in last year's report.
5. Licensees are required to report a child's death as a serious occurrence where there may be a relationship between the child's death and the child's care in the licensed program, regardless of whether the death of an enrolled child occurred on or off the premises. In all reported cases, the Ministry of Education conducts a follow-up to assess compliance with the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*.
6. In 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, the increase of the "Life-threatening injury or illness" is mostly from "Illness", the increase of the "Unplanned disruption of service" is mostly from "Public Health Closure of entire centre or Home premise related to Covid-19", "Voluntary Closure of entire centre or Home premise related to Covid-19", or "Other emergency relocation or temporary closure", these variances reflect the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

