



The Corporation of the City of Stratford  
Social Services Committee  
Open Session  
AGENDA

**Date:** Monday, February 24, 2025

**Time:** 7:05 P.M.

**Location:** Council Chamber, City Hall

**Committee Present:** Councillor Henderson - Chair Presiding, Councillor Briscoe - Vice Chair, Mayor Ritsma, Councillor Beatty, Councillor Biehn, Councillor Burbach, Councillor Hunter, Councillor Nijjar, Councillor Sebben, Councillor Wordofa

**Staff Present:** Joan Thomson - Chief Administrative Officer, Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, Karmen Krueger - Director of Corporate Services, Taylor Crinklaw - Director of Infrastructure Services, Tim Wolfe - Director of Community Services, Adam Betteridge - Director of Building and Planning Services, Neil Anderson - Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief, Audrey Pascual - Deputy Clerk, Miranda Franken - Council Clerk Secretary

To watch the Committee meeting live, please click the following link:

<https://video.isilive.ca/stratford/live.html>

A video recording of the meeting will also be available through a link on the City's website

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings> following the meeting.

Pages

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair to call the Meeting to Order.

Councillor McCabe provided regrets for this meeting.

**2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence

from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

**3. Sub-committee Minutes** 3 - 5

Sub-committee minutes are attached for background regarding the discussion held at the February 11, 2025, Sub-committee meeting.

**4. Delegations**

None scheduled.

**5. For the Information of Committee**

**5.1 Department Update** 6 - 9

The following Department Update Infographics of December, 2024 are provided for the information of Committee:

- Monthly Children's Services Report
- Monthly Homelessness Report
- Monthly Housing Report
- Monthly Ontario Works Report

**6. Adjournment**

Meeting Start Time:

Meeting End Time:

**Motion by**

**Committee Decision: THAT the Social Services Committee meeting adjourn.**



**The Corporation of the City of Stratford  
Social Services Sub-committee  
MINUTES**

Date:	February 11, 2025
Time:	4:30 P.M.
Location:	Council Chamber, City Hall
Sub-committee Present:	Councillor Briscoe - Vice Chair Presiding, Councillor Biehn, Councillor Nijjar, Councillor Wordofa
Regrets:	Councillor Henderson - Chair
Staff Present:	Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, Jeff Wilson - Manager of Housing, Shannon Archer – Business Integration Manager, Kelly Stone – Supervisor of Social Services Housing, Audrey Pascual – Deputy Clerk, Miranda Franken - Council Clerk Secretary
Also present:	Members of the Public

**1. Call to Order**

The Vice-Chair called the Meeting to Order.

Chair Henderson provided regrets for this meeting.

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

Respectful Conduct Statement

## 2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

### Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were made by a Member at the February 11, 2025, Social Services Sub-committee meeting.

## 3. Delegations

None scheduled.

## 4. Department Update

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Director of Social Services provided the following highlights from the department update:

- the update being reflective of December 2024;
- Children Services having an increase in the number of children on the waitlist;
- the Homelessness Report having a decrease of 6 individuals experiencing homelessness to 138;
- the Housing Report having the number of households on the centralized waitlist decrease by 8 families to 590;
- Ontario Works having a decrease to 813 active caseloads;
- staff working on a variance review for the last quarter of 2024;
- at the January 14 meeting a Councillor requested staff review highlighting Stratford centric statics in the updates;
- staff indicating this is possible in most cases but not possible on the Homelessness Report as this population is transient; and
- staff to include this information in upcoming updates.

**5. Next Sub-committee Meeting**

The next Social Services Sub-committee meeting is March 4, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

**6. Adjournment**

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

**Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Social Services Sub-committee meeting adjourn.**

**Carried.**

Meeting Start Time: 4:30 P.M.

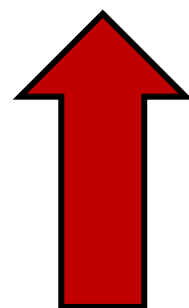
Meeting End Time: 4:34 P.M.

# SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY CHILDREN'S SERVICES REPORT

## Stratford, Perth County, & St. Marys

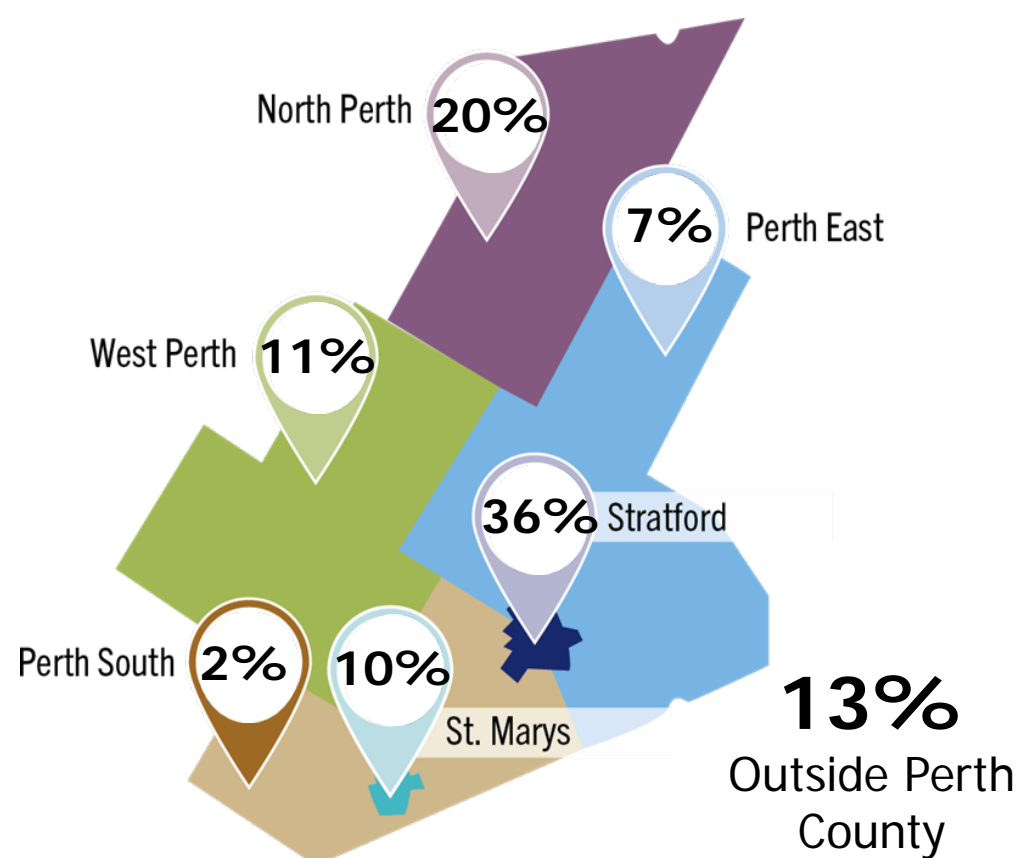
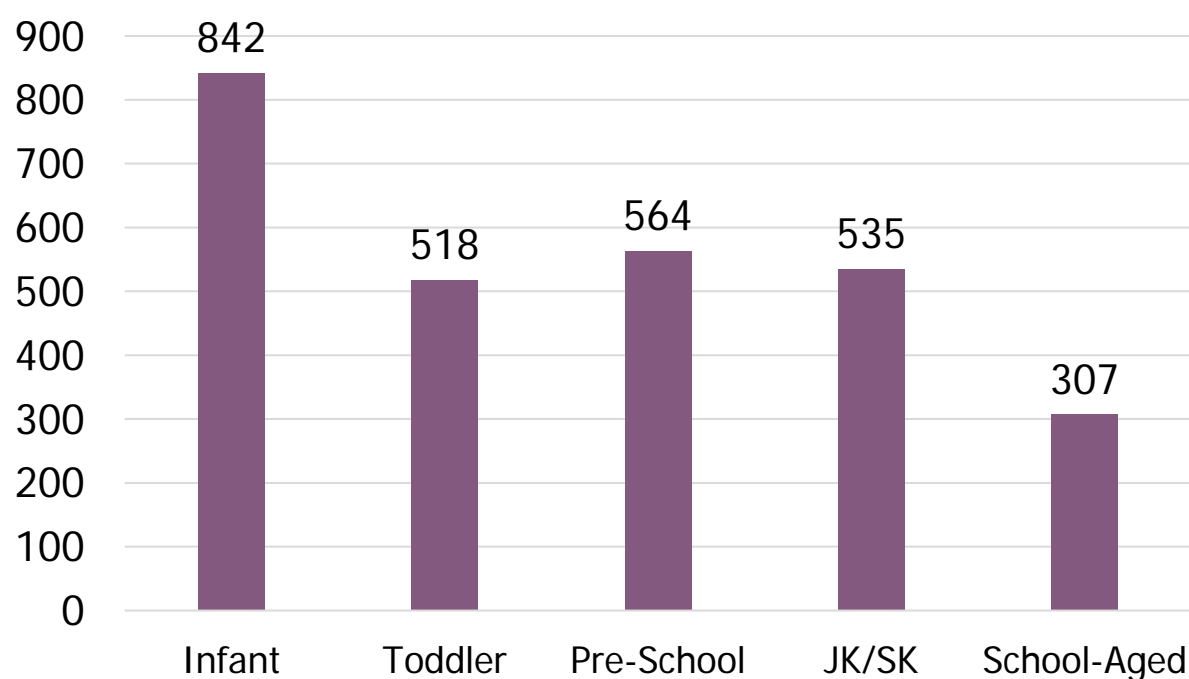
**2,766**

Total number of children on the child care waitlist



This is an increase from November 2024, when there were **2,697** children on the child care waitlist

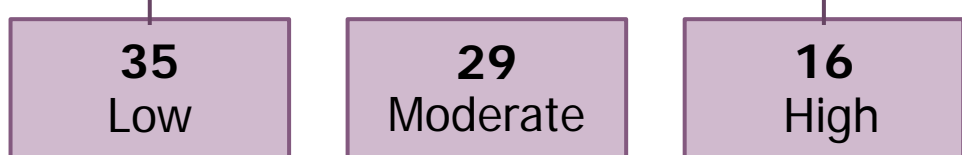
### Age Category on the waitlist



### Resource Consulting

**80** Total children supported by the Program

#### Level of Support



### EarlyON

**446** Unique children (0-6 years) served

**329** Unique parents/caregivers served

**1,064** Visits by children (0-6 years)

**786** Visits by parents/caregivers

## **i** Information Bulletin

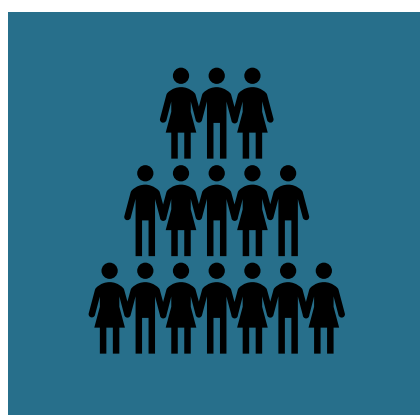
The Children's Services Division is the manager for child care in Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County. In partnership with the community, the Children's Services Division promotes fair and equal access to high quality care for children, and support to their families and caregivers.

For more information about Children's Services and supports please visit: <https://www.stratford.ca/en/inside-city-hall/childcare.aspx>



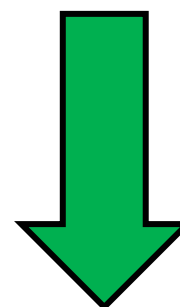
# SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY HOMELESSNESS REPORT

## Stratford, Perth County, & St. Marys



138

Total number of households experiencing homelessness



This is a decrease from November 2024, when there were **144** households experiencing homelessness



7

New households entering into homelessness



4

Households returned to service area or reconnected with services



3

Households who lost their housing



10

Households who became housed



10

Households who left the service area or had no contact with service provider

## Population Specific Information

106 Single Adults

11 Youth (16-24)

21 Families

122 Chronic

30 Unsheltered

22 Identify as Indigenous

## Information Bulletin

A critical shortage of housing that is affordable, safe and stable directly contributes to homelessness. The millions of Canadian families and individuals living in "core need" (spending more than 50% of their income on housing) are at serious risk of homelessness, as are families and individuals spending more than 30% of their income on housing. Arguably, the most impactful factor is the lack of affordable housing nationwide.

Source: Homelessness Hub

For more information about housing and homelessness services and supports please visit: <https://www.stratford.ca/en/inside-city-hall/Homelessness.aspx>

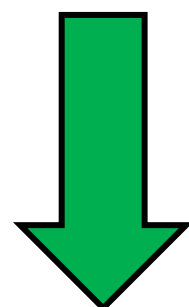


# SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY SOCIAL HOUSING REPORT

## Stratford, Perth County, & St. Marys

**590**

Total number of Households on the centralized waitlist



This is a decrease from November 2024, when there were **598** households on the centralized waitlist

### Unit Size

1 Bedroom	62%
2 Bedroom	15%
3 Bedroom	12%
4+ Bedroom	12%

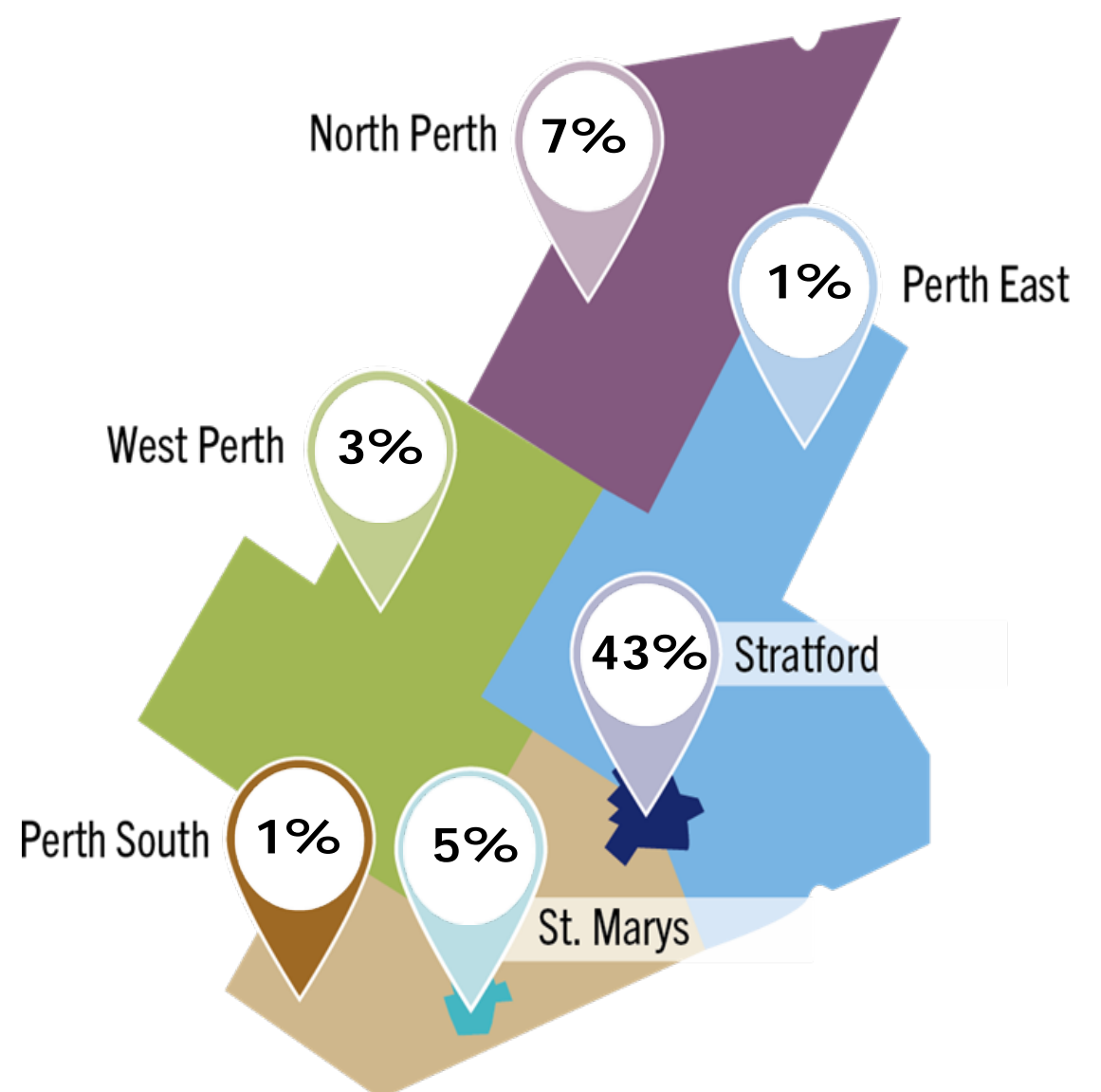
### Applicant Type

Single/Couple	54%
Family	36%
Senior	11%

### Priority Status

Chronological Order	87%
Homeless	8%
Special Provincial Priority (SPP)*	5%

\*SPP: Survivor of domestic abuse or trafficking



Unknown: **6%**

Outside Perth County: **35%**

\*Current applicant address

### Move ins & Move outs

**3** Total number of move outs  
**11** Total number of move ins

### Maintenance



**194**

Number of Work orders requested

For more information about housing services and supports please visit: <https://www.stratford.ca/en/inside-city-hall/housing.aspx>

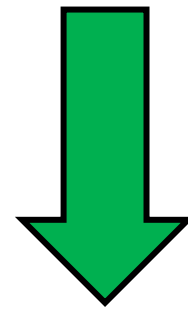




# SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY ONTARIO WORKS REPORT

## Stratford, Perth County, & St. Marys

**813** Total number of active caseloads



This is a decrease from November 2024, when there were **816** active cases

**56** Total number of active temporary care cases\*

\*If you are an adult and you are temporarily responsible for the care of a child who is in financial need, you may be eligible for temporary care assistance on their behalf.



**18%**

Percentage of caseload terminations exiting to employment



**5%**

Percentage of Caseload terminated



**66**

New applications received



**12%**

Percentage of caseloads with employment earnings



**\$907**

Average monthly employment earnings

## Population Specific Information



**67%**

Singles without dependents



**28%**

Lone parent families



**6%**

Couples with or without dependents

**2.3  
Years**

Average time on Assistance

**\$733**

The maximum amount a Single on Ontario works receives per month



## Information Bulletin

Effective December 16, 2024, the local Ontario Works office will no longer accept in-person applications. If you want to apply for Ontario Works or check the status of your application, please contact the Provincial Intake unit at <https://www.sada.mcass.gov.on.ca/intake/> or 1-888-999-1142

For more information about Ontario Works and Social Assistance please visit: <https://www.stratford.ca/en/inside-city-hall/ontarioworks.aspx#How-to-Apply-for-Financial-Assistance>

