



Memorandum

TO: York Region Chairman and Members of Regional Council
FROM: Bruce Macgregor, Chief Administrative Officer
DATE: March 26, 2015
RE: Ontario Ice Storm Assistance Program Update

On December 17, 2014, the Region submitted a claim of \$2,311,747.49 for eligible costs to the Province as a result of damages sustained during the 2013 ice storm.

On February 13, 2015, the Region received confirmation from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) that the Region is to receive an interim payment of \$809,111.62 equal to 35% of the claimed amount.

Additionally, eligible interim payments from the Province are being made to the local municipalities:

Municipality	Interim Payment (35%)
Town of Aurora	\$102,833
Town of East Gwillimbury	\$5,048
Town of Georgina	No claim submitted
Township of King	\$76,310
Town of Newmarket	\$43,548
City of Markham	\$2,480,559
Town of Richmond Hill	\$1,137,159
City of Vaughan	\$3,579,618
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	\$109,039

On February 23, 2015, the Region received from the MMAH a list of additional documentation required prior to releasing the remainder of the claim. Finance department staff is currently dealing with the Ministry request to provide additional information. No specific date has been provided by MMAH on when the final claim will be released.

The MMAH requires the Region enter into a grant agreement before an interim payment is made. The grant agreement was executed by York Region on March 4, 2015 and returned to the MMAH.

Bruce Macgregor, CAO

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Attachment (1)

cc Bill Hughes, Commissioner of Finance

Ontario Ice Storm Assistance Program

SEPTEMBER 2014 PROGRAM UPDATE

Ontario is helping municipalities and conservation authorities affected by the December 2013 ice storm by implementing the Ice Storm Assistance Program. Municipalities and conservation authorities that submitted expressions of interest and received notifications are eligible to submit a full claim.



PROGRAM TIMELINE



Release of Program Guidelines and Claim Forms (September 15, 2014)

- Detailed program guidelines and claim forms have been distributed to eligible municipalities and conservation authorities to prepare full claims.
- In the fall of 2014, the ministry will host web-based information sessions on the guidelines and claim forms. Claimants are strongly encouraged to participate to ensure successful claim submissions. Session details will be shared with all eligible claimants.

Deadline for Claim Submissions (December 31, 2014)

- The deadline to submit claims has been extended to December 31, 2014.
- Claims must be submitted using the claim forms provided.
- Completed claim forms and full supporting documentation can be submitted before the deadline and will be processed upon receipt.
- Claimants must retain all original supporting documentation on ice storm costs, including invoices and detailed timesheets, work contracts, reports, proof of payment and other files, until they are informed of the closure of the program. This time period may extend beyond normal record retention schedules.

Target Date for Incurring Eligible Program Costs (June 22, 2014)

- The target date for incurring eligible response and recovery costs was June 22, 2014.
- The ministry will consider costs that are incurred after June 22, 2014, if claimants demonstrate that the recovery work could not have been completed within the six-month time frame and that work is demonstrably linked to the December 21-22, 2013 ice storm.
- The longer the time between the disaster event and the recovery work, the more difficult it may be to establish a causal link to the ice storm event. Establishing a link between the damage suffered and the December 2013 ice storm will also become especially difficult if another extreme weather event occurs before work is completed.

NEXT STEPS FOR SUBMITTING A CLAIM

- Fill in the claim forms provided in the Excel Workbook and submit them, along with the attestation and all supporting documentation, no later than December 31, 2014.
- Review the program guidelines in detail to ensure the success of the claim.
- Please retain all documentation on ice storm costs, including invoices and detailed time sheets, and ensure that documents are marked as ice storm-related. Ensure that you keep original files to avoid future problems at the audit stage.
- Ensure that the final claim has been attested to by the individual with the delegated authority (e.g., the municipal treasurer, chief administrative officer or equivalent senior staff person).
- The time required to review a claim will depend on the size and complexity of the claim and the clarity and completeness of supporting documentation provided by the claimant.
- You may be contacted during the review process if additional information is required to substantiate any claimed costs.
- Payments will be made on the basis of grant agreements following the completion of the claim review and verification of costs.

ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS

The list is not exhaustive, and claimants should refer to the program guidelines for detailed information.

Eligible Costs	Ineligible Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Incremental costs of immediate emergency response, such as setting up warming centres. ✓ Incremental costs for the clean-up of debris on roads, sidewalks and frequently travelled routes to protect public health and safety in the immediate aftermath of the storm. ✓ Making safe (including removal of trees and tree limbs) any public infrastructure and public facilities, including beaches, zoos and parks, which constitute a threat to public safety. ✓ Incremental costs incurred to provide the essential services, equipment, material and labour required to sustain the operability of public infrastructure. ✓ Incremental costs of staff for overtime work on ice storm response and recovery. ✓ Backfilling contracts where temporary staff were required to perform the work of staff who were deployed to ice storm work. ✓ Repairs to pre-disaster condition of municipal and conservation authority infrastructure and equipment damaged as a result of the ice storm or their replacement. ✓ Incremental costs of appraising and estimating damage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Regular public sector salaries, even for staff assigned to ice storm work during regular hours. ✗ Normal operating expenses, including maintenance budgets for winter storms. ✗ Recovery costs for work other than to protect public health and safety or secure access to public roads, sidewalks or frequently travelled routes. ✗ Emergency service costs related to routine incident management functions, as opposed to the incremental costs of responding to broader disaster consequences. ✗ Tree replacement or tree canopy restoration. ✗ Loss of income, wages, profits and/or revenue, loss of opportunity or inconvenience. ✗ Costs incurred by local electricity distribution companies and/or damage to the local electricity distribution network. ✗ Damage from any natural disaster other than the December 21-22, 2013 ice storm. ✗ Damage to private property and all costs covered by insurance and any other program or funding source. ✗ Harmonized Sales Tax (HST).

Claimants can direct program questions to icestorm.program@ontario.ca or contact their [Municipal Services Office](#).