

A Personal Message from the Premier

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend my sincere congratulations and gratitude to the local champions and partners who work tirelessly to innovate and serve their communities.

This progress report showcases many of the dedicated local service providers who have found unique ways to meet community needs. But it highlights just a fraction of the excellent community building they have done over the years, as many of the community hubs featured in this report predate our government's appointment of the Advisory Group. These providers have overcome challenges and brought partners together in the interest of improving the lives of people in their communities, and we continue to learn from them.

Last year, when I received recommendations from the Community Hubs Framework Advisory Group, I said that our government had an opportunity to take meaningful action to make real improvements. I believe the province needs to remove barriers to community hubs and provide support to build strong communities.

Today, I am proud to say that we are doing just that. We are making provincial funding relationships more flexible and streamlined, and are making it easier to use schools as community hubs. We are also looking at how we consider community needs in the way we manage public property. And we are developing a resource network that will allow service providers to connect and tap into the wealth of knowledge that has accumulated across the community hubs sector.

This report marks a year of progress in communities across our province that is worth celebrating. I want to thank the Advisory Group and all of our partners for giving their time and expertise. I look forward to continuing our work together as we build strong communities in every corner of Ontario.



Kathleen Wynne
Premier

Message from the Minister of Infrastructure

I would like to thank Karen Pitre and the members of the Community Hubs Framework Advisory Group for continuing to guide the Province's work on community hubs.

Community hubs are certainly not a new concept. For decades, local champions and partners have been coming together to establish hubs in response to community needs. Today, community hubs across the province offer a wide range of services through a variety of models, reflecting the diversity of Ontario.

While communities are doing amazing work, our government acknowledges that we need to remove provincial barriers, and provide the tools and information they need to innovate and meet evolving community needs.

That's why Premier Wynne appointed the Advisory Group and Karen Pitre as the Premier's Special Advisor on Community Hubs. That is also why our government has accepted all of the recommendations in Community Hubs in Ontario: A Strategic Framework and Action Plan.

I am very encouraged by the significant progress made to date, and excited to further develop community hubs initiatives in my new role as the Minister of Infrastructure. I am confident that we will use this unique opportunity to look at how we can make better use of public properties, encourage the creation of multi-use spaces, and help communities establish financially sustainable hub models.

Again, I would like to thank the Advisory Group for their ongoing advice, and I applaud the work taking place provincially and locally. I look forward to working with all partners to make it easier to develop successful community hubs in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Bob Chiarelli
Minister of Infrastructure