

Ministry of the Solicitor General

Ministère du Solliciteur général

Office of the Chief Coroner  
Ontario Forensic Pathology Service

Bureau du coroner en chef  
Service de médecine légale de l'Ontario



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C23-143

**DATE:** September 25, 2023

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Bereavement Authority of Ontario  
Ontario Funeral Service Association  
Ontario Association of Cemetery and Funeral Professionals

**FROM:** Dirk Huyer, MD, Chief Coroner

**RE:** Changes to Regional Boundaries

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I am writing to inform you that the Office of the Chief Coroner (OCC) will be modifying the regions/regional boundaries to smooth investigation volumes and optimize coverage. This includes the establishment of a new Waterloo Office and a new Regional Supervising Coroner.

In addition, we are implementing a new scheduling approach. The OCC Coroner Schedule (Google Calendar) will be used to support 24/7/365 Coroner coverage across the province and facilitate equitable distribution of Cremation/Out of Province Body Shipment (C/OP) Certificates.

### **Regional Boundaries**

The updated regions/regional boundaries and [OCC Coroner Schedule](#) will take effect for all reported deaths as of **12:00 a.m. on October 1, 2023**.

#### New Waterloo Office

- Boundaries: Wellington, Dufferin and Waterloo (moving from the Hamilton Office) and Perth, Bruce, Huron, Grey and Oxford (moving from the London Office)
- Dr. Ian MacPhee will begin as the Regional Supervising Coroner, West Region – Waterloo Office on October 1, 2023
  - Address: Forensic Services and Coroners Complex, 25 Morton Shulman Ave., Toronto, ON M3M 0B1
  - Phone: (226) 336-2947

- Email: [OCC.Waterloo@ontario.ca](mailto:OCC.Waterloo@ontario.ca)

#### Hamilton Office

- Boundaries: Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk, Niagara, and Hamilton

#### London Office

- Boundaries: Essex, Chatham-Kent and Lambton, Elgin, and Middlesex

#### Sudbury Office

- Boundaries: Muskoka (moving from Central East Office), Nipissing, Parry Sound, Algoma, Manitoulin, Sudbury, Timiskaming and Cochrane

#### Central East Office

- Boundaries: Durham and York

#### Ottawa Office

- Boundaries: Lanark, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Prescott and Russell, Ottawa, and Renfrew

#### Kingston Office

- Boundaries: Leeds and Grenville (moving from Ottawa Office), Northumberland, Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough, Frontenac, Hastings, Lennox and Addington, and Prince Edward

#### Toronto East/West Offices

- Boundaries: Moving the boundary between the Toronto West and Toronto East Offices from dividing along Yonge Street, to Yonge Street from Steeles Avenue south to Bloor Street, then east to Jarvis Street and south to Lake Ontario.

The revised regional maps are included for your reference. We will be updating the Office of the Chief Coroner/Ontario Forensic Pathology Service website, brochure, and map of Ontario with the regions/regional boundary changes.

### **Scheduling Solution**

The [OCC Coroner Schedule](#) has been created to allow for efficient dispatch of calls and cases to coroners. This schedule will be available in a read only format to Funeral Homes and Funeral Service Providers to identify the first call coroner who is to receive cremation certificates.

We know that traditionally Funeral Service Providers have been submitting cremation requests to coroners by referring to coroner generated call schedules, directly to specific coroners due to preferred practice/response times or, to the coroner who completed the Medical Certificate of Death or Warrant to Bury. Under the new process, cremation and out of province shipment certificates are only to be sent for authorization to the coroner listed on the subregion specific schedules as first call for the day on

which the request is made. During this transition, the OCC will be monitoring this new process to ensure the timely completion of cremation certificates.

A guide on how to use the OCC Coroner Schedule is attached to this memo. If you have any questions on any of the above, please contact Bonnie Burke, Deputy Chief Coroner at [bonnie.burke@ontario.ca](mailto:bonnie.burke@ontario.ca) or your local Regional Supervising Coroner.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to continuing to work with you as we move into the next phase of implementing the service delivery enhancements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DH'.

Dirk Huyer, MD  
Chief Coroner for Ontario