

City of Guelph, Civics 101 Glossary

Abolitionist	A person who advocated or supported the abolition (ending) of slavery in the U.S.
At-large	Members of a governing body who are appointed or elected to represent the governing body.
Building Code Act, 1992	The Building Code Act, 1992, governs the construction, renovation, change of use, and demolition of buildings. It also provides specific powers for inspectors and rules for the inspection of buildings, and allows municipalities to establish property standard by-laws. For more details on the roles and responsibility of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and municipalities, see Provincial and Municipal Roles Fact Sheet .
CAO or Chief Administrative Officer.	The CAO is the most senior employee within our Civic Administration. He or she ensures that the advice and recommendations provided by our employees to council are balanced and broad in perspective.
Delegating	When residents bring their idea or concern forward at a public council meeting.
Drumlins	An elongated or oval hill formed by glacial ice. In the area around Guelph, there is a drumlin field with about 300 drumlins. For more information and photos, see Ontario Drumlins .
Lower tier government	Lower tier governments elect their council once every four years either by wards or using at-large. They share service delivery and planning with either a region or a county, which are both upper tier levels of government.
Single tier government	Single tier governments are generally large, self-contained service areas with sole responsibility for all municipal services. The head of a single tier government is called a mayor, and their council is elected once every four years, either by wards or using at-large.
Single tier separated government	These local governments operate as a single tier, but actually sit within the geographic boundaries of an upper tier government. All municipalities in northern Ontario are single tier separated municipalities.
Upper tier government	Upper tier governments fall into two types: counties and regions. Counties cover quite large geographic areas and exist to provide a limited number of services that are more easily and effectively provided over a larger area. They often contain lower tier governments.

	<p>Regional municipalities contain lower tier municipalities. The head of the upper tier council is typically called the warden or the chair and can be appointed or directly elected. Regional governments include lower tier governments in close proximity that are facing similar demands related to growth.</p>
Development charge	<p>Fees paid by residential and commercial developers that help fund the building of systems to support development, such as roads, water and wastewater services, police, fire, and transit.</p>
Infrastructure	<p>The basic facilities, services, and installations needed for the functioning of a community or society, such as transportation and communications systems, water and power lines, and public institutions. The Municipal Act helps define the infrastructure requirements for local governments.</p>
Provincial standards	<p>A set of expectations associated with a practice. Standards exist across many different types of work and tasks. Provincial standards refer to those that apply to a specific province.</p>
Planning Act	<p>The Planning Act sets out the ground rules for land-use planning in Ontario and describes how land use may be controlled and who may control them. See Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for more information.</p>
Standing committee	<p>Standing committees represent our service areas. A council member chairs the standing committee and our more senior leaders attend the standing committee that relates to their service area. They invite public input and provide a chance for council to develop more thorough knowledge and insight into a specific type of service.</p> <p>The standing committee can approve, amend, reject, or send the proposal back to employees for more work. If the proposal is approved by the standing committee, it is forwarded to council.</p>
Sustainable	<p>Making decisions that support a City’s current goals (financial stability, economic growth, environmental stewardship, community health, etc.) without affecting the ability of future generations to do the same.</p>