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## Report 2024-103

**Report Title:** Corporation of the County of Northumberland 2023 Annual Report

**Prepared by:** Kate Campbell  
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Communications

**Reviewed by:** Matthew Nitsch  
Director of Finance/Treasurer  
Finance

**Approved by:** Jennifer Moore, CAO

**Council Meeting Date:** August 14, 2024

### Report Not Considered by

#### Standing Committee Because:

- Time-sensitive Issue (information received too late for Committee consideration)
- Urgent Matter (issue arose after this month's Committee meeting)
- Other

**Strategic Plan Priorities:**  Innovate for Service Excellence

- Ignite Economic Opportunity
- Foster a Thriving Community
- Propel Sustainable Growth
- Champion a Vibrant Future

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### Recommendation

**“Whereas** Northumberland County’s Annual Report serves as a critical instrument in bolstering public trust and confidence in municipal governance, reflecting the County’s dedication to transparency and accountability; and

**Whereas** the 2023 Annual Report highlights effective financial management and prudent stewardship of taxpayer funds, showcasing the efforts of Northumberland County Council and staff to address community priorities and provide value to the community through municipal programs and services;

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved That** County Council receive Report 2024-103 'Corporation of the County of Northumberland 2023 Annual Report' for information."

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## **Purpose**

The 2023 Annual Report marks the 11<sup>th</sup> edition for Northumberland County. This report underscores the County's dedication to transparent governance by outlining the allocation of budget funds to program and service delivery, infrastructure upkeep and renewal, debt management, and reserve contributions.

This year's report offers highlights:

- Significant achievements in 2023 that align with the County's Strategic Plan,
- Key priorities anticipated for 2024, and
- A detailed account of the County's robust financial standing, as reflected in the audited financial statements for the fiscal year concluding on December 31, 2023.

The primary goal of this report is to keep residents, businesses, and stakeholders informed about how the County utilizes tax dollars to provide essential services, infrastructure, and programs. The report is presented in a visually appealing format that is both engaging and easy to understand, helping to link complex financial information with real-world outcomes.

The main section of the report presents a visually-focused summary of the County's service delivery, initiatives, and financial data. It employs creative design layouts and infographics to capture the interest of readers seeking a clearer understanding of our community and the County's efforts. This portion also includes quick, informative facts about our community and services, complemented by captivating photography featuring County staff, services, and the distinctive landscapes found throughout Northumberland. The design aims to offer a valuable visual depiction of our community, reflecting the County's values, services, and priorities.

Additionally, the appendix of the report provides the complete audited Consolidated Financial Statements, offering a thorough breakdown of our 2023 fiscal status.

The full 2023 Annual Report is accessible online as a user-friendly PDF at [Northumberland.ca/AnnualReport](http://Northumberland.ca/AnnualReport), with a limited number of printed copies available at Northumberland County Headquarters.

## **Background**

Each year, Northumberland County's Annual Financial Report is prepared collaboratively by the County's Finance and Communications departments. The Consolidated Financial Statements included in the report are audited by Baker Tilly KDN LLP in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, on behalf of Northumberland County.

This report serves as a key tool for enhancing transparency and fostering connections with community members. Through a visually appealing publication, it showcases the County's services, accomplishments, priorities, and financial standing for the previous year.

To date, the County has earned six accolades for the design of our Annual Financial Reports, including awards for the 2018 through 2022 reports. These awards include:

- MarCom Gold Award for the 2022 Annual Financial Report
- MarCom Gold Award for the 2021 Annual Financial Report
- MarCom Gold Award for the 2020 Annual Financial Report

- MarCom Gold Award for the 2019 Annual Financial Report
- Hermes Gold Award for the 2019 Annual Financial Report
- Hermes Honourable Mention for the 2018 Annual Financial Report

This consistent recognition underscores the County's dedication to being a leader in best practices within municipal governance. It also reflects our ongoing commitment to producing high-quality, professional, and engaging communications for our community.

### **Consultations**

Items in the '2023 Annual Report' Appendix A: 'The Corporation of the County of Northumberland Consolidated Financial Statements' were audited by Baker Tilly KDN LLP, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards on behalf of the County.

### **Legislative Authority / Risk Considerations**

N/A

### **Discussion / Options**

N/A

### **Financial Impact**

N/A

### **Member Municipality Impacts**

N/A

### **Conclusion / Outcomes**

The 2023 Annual Report serves as a crucial resource for ensuring transparency and accountability, and conveying sound financial management. Northumberland County uses this report to engage with the community, offering insights into the County's corporate values, services, priorities, and financial details. Presented in a professional, visually appealing format, the report is designed to be accessible and easily understood by a wide audience. It is recommended that County Council accept this report for information.

### **Attachments**

- 1) Report 2024-103 ATTACH 1 '2023 Annual Report'