
EOWC Newsletter: June 2025

From Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus <eowc@eowc.ccsend.com>

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To Kelly Picken <K.Picken@northkawartha.ca>

Newsletter

June 2025

EOWC Advocacy Update

The EOWC's Queen's Park Advocacy Day: Advancing Eastern Ontario's Priorities

Left-to-Right: Left-to-Right: Connor Dorey, CAO, County of Hastings; Gerald Lichty, Warden, County of Frontenac; Doug Elmslie, Mayor, City of Kawartha Lakes; Tyler Allsopp, MPP, Bay of Quinte; Nathan Townend, Warden, County of Lennox and Addington; Martin Lang, Warden, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry; Steve Ferguson, Vice-Chair, EOWC; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Meredith Staveley-Watson, Director of Government Relations and Policy, EOWC; Toby Randell, Warden, County of Lanark; Corinna Smith-Gatcke, Warden, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville; Peter Emon, Warden, County of Renfrew; Brenda Orchard, CAO, County of Lennox and Addington; Sheridan Graham, Secretary Treasurer, EOWC; Kevin Farrell, CAO, County of Frontenac; Maureen Adams, CAO, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; Craig Kelley, CAO, County of Renfrew; Gary Dyke, CAO, County of Haliburton; Stephanie DiNucci, Strategic Advisor, Atlas Strategic Advisors; Graydon Smith, Associate Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing; Billy Denault, MPP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke; John Jordan, MPP, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston; Matthew Rae, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing; Rob Flack, Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing; Doug Ford, Premier, Ontario; Vic Fedeli, Minister, Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; David Piccini, Minister, Labour, Immigration, Training & Skills Development; Steve Clark, MPP, Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands; Stéphane Sarrazin, MPP, Glengarry-Prescott-Russell; Dave Smith, MPP, Peterborough-Kawartha.

Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC.

Left-to-right: David Piccini, Minister, Labour, Immigration, Training & Skills Development; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Jill Dunlop, Minister, Emergency Preparedness and Response; Steve Ferguson,

The EOWC had an impactful Queen's Park Advocacy Day on May 13, beginning with a Breakfast Reception that highlighted our key strategic priorities: housing, infrastructure, and our newly introduced focus—**economic resilience**.

A sincere thank you to Minister David Piccini for sponsoring the event, and to Minister Rob Flack and MPP Ted Hsu for joining us and offering their perspectives.

We were also proud to be joined by local business leaders from Charlotte Products, Heat-Line, Cavanagh Concrete, and Freymond Lumber, who showcased the strength and innovation of Eastern Ontario's economy.

A key milestone was our multi-minister meeting, including Premier Doug Ford, where we were honoured to present the EOWC's vision and progress. We extend our appreciation to the Premier and the following leaders for taking the time to engage with us:

- Minister Nolan Quinn (Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security)
- Minister Vic Fedeli (Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade)
- Minister David Piccini (Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development)
- Minister Rob Flack (Municipal Affairs and Housing)
- Associate Minister Graydon Smith (Municipal Affairs and Housing)
- MPP Matt Rae (Perth—Wellington)
- MPP Steve Clark (Leeds—Grenville—Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes)
- MPP Stéphane Sarrazin (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell)
- MPP Billy Denault (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke)
- MPP Dave Smith (Peterborough—Kawartha)
- MPP Tyler Allsopp (Bay of Quinte)
- MPP John Jordan (Lanark—Frontenac—Kingston)

Additional meetings throughout the day included productive discussions with:

- Minister Jill Dunlop (Emergency Preparedness and Response)
- Minister Kinga Surma (Infrastructure)
- Staff from the office of Minister Neil Lumsden (Sport)
- MPP Ted Hsu (Kingston and the Islands)
- MPP Mike Schreiner (Guelph)
- Staff from the office of Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy (Finance)
- Associate Minister Kevin Holland (Forestry and Forest Products)

These valuable conversations reflect our shared commitment to building stronger communities across the province. The EOWC is proud to represent the voice of Eastern Ontario and remains focused on solutions that drive growth, resilience, and prosperity in our region.

**Read the EOWC's Queen's Park Advocacy Day News
Release Here.**

The EOWC Attends Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual Conference

Left to right: Jon Altenberg, CEO, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative; Matt Sisco, Mayor, St. Catherine's; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Brian Ostrander, Warden, Northumberland County; Nathan Townend, Warden, County of Lennox and Addington.

The EOWC was proud to attend the annual [Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative](#) (GLSLCI) conference in Milwaukee, where leaders from across the region gathered to address critical issues of water security and climate resilience.

Chair Bonnie Clark joined Warden Nathan Townend (Lennox and Addington County), and Warden Brian Ostrander (Northumberland County), for a special signing ceremony, formalizing a joint Memorandum of Understanding between the EOWC and the GLSLCI. Many thanks to Mayor Matt Sisco and CEO Jon Altenberg for their partnership and leadership.

Chair Clark also had the opportunity to connect with Ontario colleagues and congratulated Mayor Tom Mrakas from the Town of Aurora on receiving the Rob Ford Community Leader Award, presented by Ontario Agent-General Earl Provost.

A conference highlight was visiting the Biinaagami Great Lakes–St. Lawrence watershed map installation in downtown Milwaukee—an inspiring reminder of our shared responsibility to protect the world's largest freshwater system.

The EOWC remains dedicated to cross-border collaboration and innovative solutions for a more resilient Eastern Ontario and beyond.

[Read about the EOWC's initiatives amid U.S. tariff threats.](#)

The EOWC Attends 2025 Grow Ontario Food Summit: "Protecting Ontario's Agri-Food Industry"

Left-to-right: Meredith Staveley-Watson, Director of Government Relations and Policy, EOWC; Trevor Jones, Minister, Food and Agri-Business; Nathan Townend, Warden, County of Lennox and Addington; Rob Flack, Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing; Christa Lowry, Chair, ROMA.

On Friday April 10, the EOWC attended the Grow Ontario Food Summit, hosted by Minister Trevor Jones, where leaders from across the agri-food sector came together to tackle today's challenges and shape the future of Ontario's Food systems.

As a key contributor to Ontario's economic engine, the agri-food industry continues to face uncertainty due to global challenges and trade disruptions. The Summit's theme, "Protecting Ontario's Agri-Food Industry," emphasized the importance of collaboration and innovation in sustaining this vital sector.

The event featured engaging speakers, insightful panel discussions, and valuable networking opportunities—all focused on strengthening Ontario's food supply chain and ensuring long-term resilience and global competitiveness.

The EOWC remains committed to supporting our rural communities and advocating for a strong, sustainable agri-food industry that drives economic growth across Eastern Ontario and beyond.

The EOWC Attends CAMA Conference, and CAO Brenda Orchard, Named CAMA President

The EOWC attended the 51st Annual CAMA Conference and Annual General Meeting held in beautiful Mont Tremblant, Québec, from May 26 to 28. Hosted in Mont Tremblant, delegates gathered to connect, learn, and celebrate.

The EOWC extends its congratulations to Brenda Orchard, Chief Administrative Officer for the County of Lennox & Addington, on her appointment as [President of the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators](#).

Orchard, who also serves as the CAMA Representative for Ontario, assumed the role from her previous position as First Vice-President during the association's Annual General Meeting held on May 27.

"One of the greatest privileges of my career has been serving on the CAMA Board. As an Association we work hard to promote excellence in our profession and to support our colleagues in their challenging roles," said Orchard. "It is a rewarding experience to work alongside such passionate and committed leaders from across the country to help make our communities vibrant and strong."

The EOWC also extends its congratulations to Craig Kelley, CAO of the County of Renfrew, for receiving recognition of 20 years of service in the municipal service sector.

The EOWC is proud to see its CAOs being recognized on a national stage.

The EOWC Releases New Economic Resilience Strategic Priority and Data

The EOWC has introduced economic resilience as a new strategic priority, recognizing the critical need to safeguard the region's economy

against future disruptions. With annual sales across Eastern Ontario averaging \$124 billion—including \$115 billion from the private sector—strengthening the economic foundation has never been more vital.

Manufacturing leads the region's economy with \$43.9 billion in annual sales. In particular, five key sectors—manufacturing, agriculture, transportation, electrical equipment, and residential construction. These sectors represent \$24 billion in economic activity and support nearly 49,000 jobs, making up 21% of the regional economy.

By focusing on these areas, the EOWC aims to proactively address risks, support long-term growth, and ensure the region remains economically strong and competitive.

See more of the [EOWC's data on Eastern Ontario Economic Resilience here](#).

The EOWC Congratulates and Encourages Newly Elected Federal Government to Prioritize National Prosperity Partnership with Municipalities

Following the recent federal election and the election of Prime Minister Mark Carney, the EOWC extends its congratulations and looks forward to working collaboratively with the new government to address the pressing needs of local communities across Canada.

As we move forward, it is essential that we adopt a long-term approach that not only addresses these unique needs but also sets the country on a path to a stronger, more sustainable future.

The EOWC, proudly supports the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and respectfully encourages the newly elected federal government to prioritize the establishment of a **[National Prosperity Partnership](#)** between the federal government and municipal governments across the country.

This partnership presents an important opportunity to engage in a national dialogue about how Canada can best fund and support economic growth, while ensuring that the needs and aspirations of local communities are at the forefront of decision-making.

Key areas of focus for this proposed partnership include:

- Supporting local economic growth and resilience
- Investing in infrastructure renewal
- Achieving housing affordability
- Addressing homelessness with locally-driven solutions
- Ensuring the safety and well-being of communities
- Building climate-resilient communities
- Fostering the development of thriving rural, remote, and northern communities

[Read more about the National Prosperity Partnership here.](#)

Premier Ford Visits Peterborough County After Ice Storm

Left to right: Doug Ford, Premier, Ontario; Dave Smith, MPP, Peterborough-Kawartha; Jill Dunlop, Minister, Emergency Preparedness and Response; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC.

Premier Doug Ford, Minister Jill Dunlop and MPP Dave Smith visited the Peterborough County Douro Depot in the Township of Douro-Dummer to witness firsthand the devastating impact of the recent ice storm on the community.

During the visit, residents had the opportunity to speak directly with the Premier and Minister, sharing their experiences and ongoing challenges. Following time spent clearing debris and engaging with residents, Premier Ford, Minister Dunlop, and MPP Smith met with Warden Clark to discuss the next steps in Peterborough County's recovery efforts.

County officials expressed deep gratitude for the visit and the continued support from the Province, acknowledging the commitment shown to the well-being of residents and the recovery of the region.

EOWC In The Media

Community Futures Peterborough and Partners Launch 'Tariff Toolkit' for Local Businesses

Community Futures Peterborough, alongside local government and business partners, has launched a Tariff Toolkit to help businesses navigate economic challenges tied to ongoing U.S. - Canada trade tensions. The free guide, Navigating Tariff Impacts with Strategy, offers practical steps for managing risk, diversifying supply chains, and exploring new markets

[Download the toolkit here.](#)

County of Renfrew Featured in Ontario Newsroom for Expanded Emergency Department

The County of Renfrew was recently featured in the Ontario Newsroom, highlighting St. Francis Memorial Hospital's largest redevelopment in history. With an \$18.6 million investment from the Ontario government, the expansion will add 6,000 square feet to the hospital's emergency department and renovate the ambulatory care clinic, significantly improving access to high-quality care for local residents.

Once complete in 2027, the new emergency department will feature a dedicated ambulance entrance, a quiet room for mental health patients, an upgraded trauma area, and enhanced infection control measures.

The expanded facility will handle 11,900 visits annually, ensuring faster, more efficient care for families in the community. Construction will not interrupt 24/7 emergency services, and the project is part of Ontario's broader efforts to modernize healthcare facilities across the province.

Read more about [the redevelopment here](#).

EOWC's Partnership with U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Coalition Gaining Recognition

On March 27, the EOWC and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding, marking a new chapter in cross-border collaboration. This partnership aims to strengthen border relations and share best practices to build resilient, thriving communities on both sides of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region.

The agreement has already gained media attention, with coverage in the [Penticton Herald](#), [KawarthaNow](#), and [The Badger Herald](#).

This media recognition highlights the importance of the agreement and the growing interest in cross-border efforts to support sustainable, connected communities.

The EOWC's Historic Queen's Park Advocacy Day Makes Headlines

On May 13, the EOWC hosted a Queen's park Advocacy Day including a breakfast reception and meetings with various ministers. The highlight of the day was the historic meeting for the EOWC - a meeting with Premier Doug Ford.

Premier Ford was accompanied by Ministers Nolan Quinn, Vic Fedeli, Rob Flack, Graydon Smith, David Piccini; Parliamentary Assistants and MPPs Matthew Rae, Steve Clark, Stephane Sarrazin, Dave Smith, Tyler

Allsopp, John Jordan, Billy Denault. The EOWC feels immense gratitude for the Premier, Ministers and MPPs taking time out of the day to hear about the advocacy efforts, plans and data the EOWC has gathered.

The historic moment for the EOWC has been making media waves as the EOWC's meeting has been shared on [Renfrew County's page](#), [Kawartha Lakes' page](#), [QuinteNews](#), [Municipal Information Network](#), [Peterborough County's page](#), and [Napanee Today](#).

This media recognition highlights this significant milestone for the EOWC and advocacy efforts for Eastern Ontario.

Regional Updates and News

Hon. Right Mark Carney Elected Prime Minister

The EOWC would like to congratulate Honourable Right Mark Carney on a federal election victory and extend our appreciation to all who ran in the recent election.

The EOWC remains **'Ready to Work and Ready to Grow'**, focused on economic resilience, infrastructure development and maintenance, creating housing, and supporting increased health care access.

The EOWC looks forward with the new federal government working to strengthen the communities amongst eastern Ontario.

Ontario Moves to Unlock Internal Free Trade

The Ontario government is taking bold steps to boost the economy and cut red tape with the introduction of the Protect Ontario through Free Trade within Canada Act.

If passed, the legislation will remove internal trade and labour mobility barriers, helping Ontario businesses grow and workers move more freely across provinces.

Key initiatives include:

- Recognizing certified workers from other provinces "As of Right,"
- Enabling direct-to-consumer alcohol sales across provinces, and
- Launching a \$50M Ontario Together Trade Fund.

Ontario is also partnering with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to enhance trade and labour collaboration—setting a national precedent for stronger economic unity.

Learn more about the [Protect Ontario through Free Trade within Canada Act here](#).

Ontario Expanding Strong Mayor Powers to 169 Additional Municipalities

Starting May 1, Ontario plans to extend strong mayor powers to heads of council in 169 additional municipalities.

This move supports provincial priorities like building homes, infrastructure, and transit faster by cutting red tape and streamlining decision-making.

Already in place in 47 municipalities, these powers provide mayors with new tools—like proposing budgets and reorganizing departments—while maintaining oversight and accountability through council checks and balances.

Read [more here](#) and see [the list of the additional 169 municipalities here](#).

Donna Skelly Becomes Ontario's First Female Speaker

[MPP Donna Skelly has been elected as the 43rd Speaker of the Ontario Legislature](#)—making history as the first woman to hold the role.

A former broadcast journalist and current representative for Flamborough—Glanbrook since 2018, Skelly previously served as deputy Speaker.

She succeeds Ted Arnott, who retired after nearly seven years. Skelly aims to bring a more professional tone to the chamber as members return for the new legislative session.

Ontario Strengthens Local Governance with New Legislation

Ontario is reintroducing the Municipal Accountability Act, 2025 to enhance municipal governance and accountability. [The proposed legislation](#) aims to create a standardized municipal code of conduct, establish consistent integrity commissioner inquiry processes, and mandate training for council members and certain local boards. If passed, the act could enforce penalties, including removal from office for serious violations, upon the recommendation of municipal integrity commissioners.

Minister Rob Flack emphasized that strong local governance begins with accountability, while AMO President Robin Jones praised the bill for holding elected officials to higher standards of conduct. This legislative move promises to empower municipal leaders to uphold the trust residents place in them.

Ontario Invests \$1.3 Billion to Support Manufacturing Jobs

The Ontario government is enhancing the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit, committing an additional \$1.3 billion over three years to help manufacturers lower costs and invest in buildings, machinery, and equipment.

As part of the upcoming 2025 Budget, the proposed changes will:

- Increase the tax credit rate from 10% to 15% for Canadian-controlled private corporations;
- Extend the credit to non-Canadian-controlled private corporations as a non-refundable tax credit;
- Allow eligible businesses to receive up to \$3 million annually.

The move comes amid growing concerns over job losses linked to U.S. tariffs. The government says this investment will help safeguard Ontario's 830,000 manufacturing workers and attract new investment to strengthen the province's economy.

Read more about [Ontario's investment in manufacturing jobs here](#).

Ontario Introduces More Convenient Care Act to Strengthen Health System

The Ontario government has re-introduced the More Convenient Care Act, 2025—a key step in its commitment to building a more connected, transparent, and patient-focused health care system.

This legislation supports better access to care, enhances hospital governance, modernizes digital health tools, and empowers health professionals across the province. From streamlining emergency services to giving Ontarians secure access to their health records online, the Act ensures the right care is delivered in the right place, at the right time.

Learn more about [how Ontario is protecting and modernizing health care for the future](#).

Ontario Accelerates Home and Infrastructure Development with New Legislation and Funding

The Government of Ontario is taking bold steps to address the housing crisis and improve infrastructure by introducing the [Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025](#). This legislation aims to cut red tape, lower development costs, and fast-track construction, in close partnership with municipalities across the province.

As part of this initiative, the province is boosting its investment in housing-enabling infrastructure with an additional \$400 million, bringing the total to nearly \$2.3 billion over four years through the

Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF) and Municipal Housing Infrastructure Fund (MHIP).

Key measures include:

- Simplifying development charges and municipal approval processes
- Reducing construction costs by encouraging innovation
- Harmonizing building and road standards
- Expanding fast-track approvals for transit and housing projects

Ontario is also working closely with local governments to streamline planning and unlock more housing near transit. These changes aim to get homes built faster, create jobs, and build a more affordable, efficient future for all Ontarians.

Ontario Permanently Cuts Gas Tax and Ends Tolls on Highway 407 East

As part of its ongoing effort to help families and businesses manage rising costs, the Ontario government is making two major cost-saving moves: [permanently cutting the gas tax and removing tolls from Highway 407 East.](#)

Premier Doug Ford announced that the province will lock in its current 9-cent-per-litre gas and fuel tax rate, saving households an average of \$115 annually. Since the temporary cut was introduced in 2022, Ontarians have saved \$1.7 billion at the pumps.

In a move to improve affordability and reduce gridlock, tolls on the provincially owned section of Highway 407 East (from Brock Road to Highway 35/115) will be eliminated effective June 1, 2025. This change is expected to save commuters up to \$7,200 a year, and follows the earlier removal of tolls on Highways 412 and 418.

These initiatives are part of Ontario's broader strategy to:

- Lower the cost of living
- Support economic growth
- Improve transportation access and affordability

Ontario and Manitoba Unite to Break Down Trade Barriers

Ontario Premier Doug Ford and Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew have signed a new [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) aimed at eliminating interprovincial trade barriers.](#)

The agreement will boost the flow of goods, services, investment, and workers between the two provinces—strengthening economic ties and reducing costs for families and businesses. This is the latest in a series of efforts by Ontario to enhance free trade within Canada, including MOUs with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and the landmark Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act.

With over \$19.5 billion in trade between Ontario and Manitoba in 2021 alone, this partnership signals a major step toward a more unified and resilient Canadian economy.

Ontario Releases 2025 Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario

[Ontario's 2025 Budget, A Plan to Protect Ontario](#), outlines bold steps to strengthen the province's economy and safeguard jobs, businesses, and families amid global economic uncertainty. Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy announced measures to unleash economic growth through targeted investments in workers, critical minerals, infrastructure, and Indigenous partnerships—all while maintaining a responsible path to balance by 2027–28.

Key highlights include:

- A \$500M Critical Minerals Processing Fund to boost domestic production.
- A \$3B expansion of the Indigenous Opportunities Financing Program.
- A proposed expansion of the Ontario Made Manufacturing Tax Credit, providing \$1.3B in support.
- A new \$5B Protecting Ontario Account to shield businesses from tariff shocks.
- Permanent cuts to gas and fuel taxes, saving households an average of \$115 annually.
- Over \$200B in infrastructure investments over 10 years, including highways, public transit, health care, and schools.

The budget reflects the government's commitment to building a resilient, self-reliant economy that protects Ontarians today and strengthens the province for the future.

Ontario Government Moves Forward with New Campbellford Memorial Hospital in Northumberland County

As part of the 2025 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario, the provincial government has announced the start of [planning for the construction of a new Campbellford Memorial Hospital In Northumberland County](#). This investment will significantly improve access to high-quality, modern health care for residents in Trent Hills and across Northumberland, Peterborough, and Hastings Counties.

The project marks a major step toward building a state-of-the-art facility that will expand programs and services, increase inpatient capacity, and improve emergency and community care through a new health care campus. The new hospital will also include enhanced infection control measures and support services tailored to the needs of the region's growing and aging population.

This initiative is part of Ontario's nearly \$60 billion investment to build and upgrade more than 50 hospitals across the province, ensuring families can access care when and where they need it—close to home.

Ontario Launches Trade-Impacted Communities Program to Support Local Resilience

The Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade has launched the Trade-Impacted Communities Program (TICP)—a new, competitive funding initiative aimed at helping Ontario communities and industries navigate economic challenges caused by U.S. trade disruptions.

With up to \$40 million in funding available, the TICP supports local projects aligned with Ontario's economic priorities, including:

- Economic resiliency – Building local competitiveness and growth opportunities
- Supply-chain diversification – Strengthening key sectors like manufacturing, agri-food, and critical minerals
- Trade partnerships – Expanding export markets and reducing reliance on the U.S.
-

The program includes two streams:

- Stream 1: Community Economic Development – Supporting local strategies and immediate resiliency efforts
- Stream 2: Transformational Projects – Backing large-scale, collaborative projects to grow and modernize key industries

Eligible applicants include municipalities, economic development organizations, business incubators, and industry associations.

Upcoming Info Webinars:

- Program Orientation: May 28, 2025
- Stream 1 Overview: June 4, 2025
- Stream 2 Overview: June 11, 2025

For more information or to register, contact Amanda Wouters at amanda.wouters@ontario.ca, or direct general inquiries to ticp@ontario.ca.

AMO Launches Municipal Health Survey

Following the successful release of our homelessness report, AMO is launching a new survey to better understand the health care challenges municipalities face. With many communities using property tax dollars to fill system gaps, your input is vital.

Heads of Council and treasurers have been sent details—your participation will help strengthen evidence-based advocacy across Ontario.

AMO Welcomes the Reintroduction of Municipal Codes of Conduct Legislation

AMO welcomes the reintroduction of long-awaited legislation to strengthen accountability standards for elected municipal officials. Promised after extensive public consultations in 2021, the proposed legislation aims to:

- Standardize municipal codes of conduct and integrity commissioner processes;
- Introduce a formal role for Ontario's Integrity Commissioner in local matters; and
- Establish a process to remove or disqualify council members and certain board members for serious violations.

In April, AMO recommended amendments to address concerns, including a too-high threshold for removal from office and the need for progressive penalties.

Upcoming Events

P3s for Municipalities: 6-Part Webinar Series

The EOWC is excited to build its partnership with the [Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships](#) (CCPPP). CCPPP is offering the free P3s for municipalities webinar series available for municipal and Indigenous employees and elected officials across Canada.

Designed for those new to or seeking a refresher on P3 infrastructure delivery, the series covers fundamentals, opportunities, challenges, and tools for successful P3 procurement.

CCPPP is also introducing the Council's new municipal P3 recommendations and insights from the updated [Public-Private Partnerships: A Guide for Municipalities](#).

Upcoming webinars: June 3, and September 16. Webinars will continue to be available on the CCPPP site.

Sign up for the webinars

AMO Strategic Leadership Workshops

AMO is offering two strategic leadership workshops designed to support elected municipal officials as they navigate increasing pressures—from provincial interventions and council cohesion challenges to ethical concerns, staff relations, and growing constituent expectations.

These interactive, expert-led sessions will provide practical tools and insights to strengthen leadership and improve municipal governance:

Strategic Thinking, Planning, and Leading
June 4 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

This session offers tools and strategies to strengthen leadership effectiveness, including approaches to stewardship, strategic planning, and fiscal sustainability.

[Register now for Thinking, Planning, and Leading](#)

The Value of Community Engagement: Insights and Approaches
June 25 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

This workshop emphasizes the importance of clear communication and meaningful engagement with the public, particularly around local budgets and strategic plans. It highlights how elected officials can lead more impactful community conversations.

[Register now for The Value of Community Engagement: Insights and Approaches](#)

AMO Municipal Trade and Tariff Forum

On June 6, 2025, AMO will host a forum to bring together members, stakeholders, and partners to assess the impacts of tariff and trade disruptions on Ontario Municipalities and the business sector. The forum will focus on identifying strategies to address and mitigate these challenges, fostering new alliances and relationships to support effective economic advocacy.

Key topics will include:

- What the trade war means for municipalities
- Building Ontario in uncertain times
- Changing approach to procurement
- Seizing opportunities to strengthen Ontario

Find more information and register for the forum [here](#).

AMO Rural Healthy Democracy Forum

On June 11, 2025, AMO will host its Rural Healthy Democracy Forum. AMO's Healthy Democracy Project is an initiative aimed at improving local democracy through respectful and diverse civic engagement. It's all about collaboration and working together to strengthen democracy in Ontario.

This full-day event will bring together municipal leaders, experts, and academics to discuss the state of democracy in rural Ontario.

[Find more information and register for the forum here.](#)

ROMA's Teeny Tiny Summit

On June 17th, 2025, the Ontario Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) will host the Teeny Tiny Summit.

This summit focuses on the challenges and opportunities faced by Ontario's smallest rural communities. With practical tools, examples, and insights from community leaders, the Summit offers valuable economic development strategies tailored for small towns.

[Find more information about ROMA's summit here.](#)

Crisis Communication in Action: The Mayor-CAO Dynamic During Disasters

Join AMO and OMAA on June 24 from 12–1 PM for a free dynamic virtual session on effective leadership during municipal emergencies. Hear from leaders in Huntsville and Red Lake as they share real-life lessons on navigating crises like wildfires, floods, and cyberattacks.

Strengthen your approach to communication, collaboration, and public trust when it matters most.

[Sign up for the free webinar here.](#)

AMO and TMU Present: Cybersecurity Training for Municipal Councillors

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), in collaboration with Toronto Metropolitan University's Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst, is hosting a vital training session to support municipal councillors in understanding and addressing today's cybersecurity threats.

As cyber-attacks on municipalities become more frequent and sophisticated, elected officials have a critical role to play in ensuring their organization's cyber resilience. This half-day virtual session will help councillors prepare for, prevent, and respond to cyber incidents with confidence and clarity.

On October 21, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., participants will engage in expert-led lectures, guided discussions, and practical activities that explore the evolving cyber threat landscape, highlight best practices in prevention, and clarify the leadership role of elected officials during a cyber event.

Sign up for the training session [here](#).

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About the EOWC

The EOWC is a regional non-profit organization representing 13 upper and single-tier municipalities across Eastern Ontario. The EOWC supports and advocates on behalf of 103 municipalities and nearly 800,000 residents. The EOWC covers an area of approximately 50,000 square kilometers from Northumberland County to the Québec border.

The EOWC has gained support and momentum by speaking with a united voice to champion regional municipal priorities and work with government, business leaders, the media, and the public.

Visit the EOWC's website at eowc.org.

Connect with the EOWC

2025 Chair, Warden of Peterborough County, Bonnie Clark

2025 Vice-Chair, Mayor of Prince Edward County, Steve Ferguson

Director of Government Relations and Policy, Meredith Staveley-Watson

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