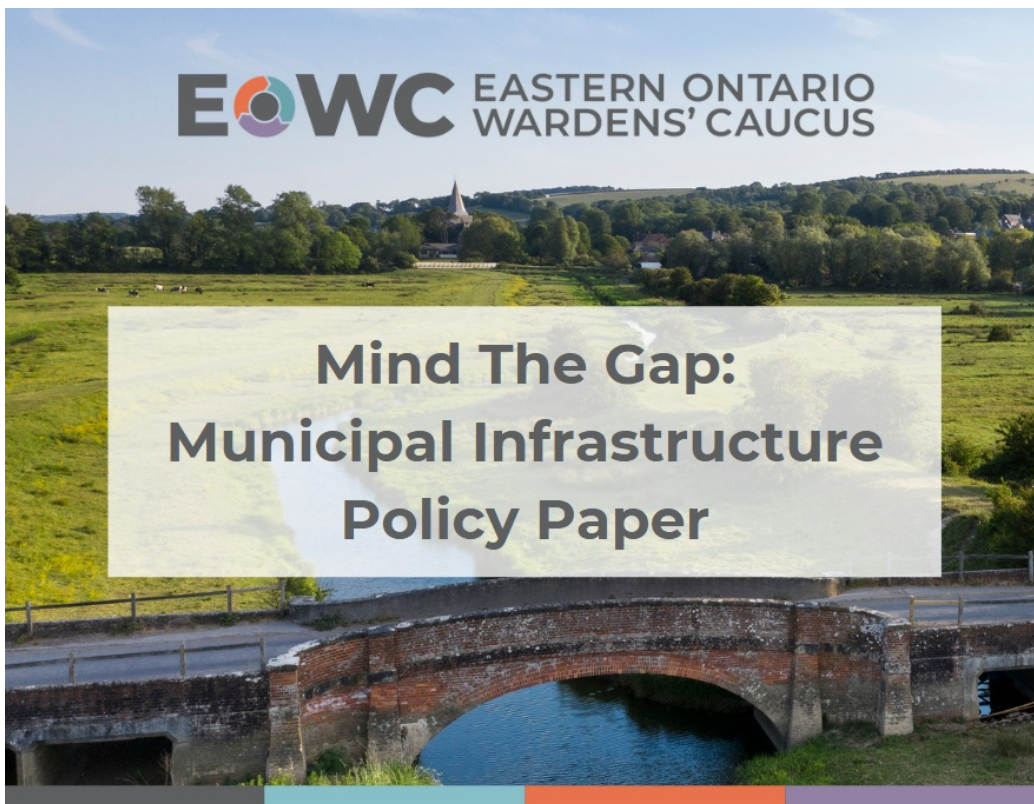


Newsletter

September 2024



Advocacy Update on the 'Mind The Gap' Paper

As the region continues to grow, the EOWC is committed to building a better Eastern Ontario which includes maintaining and building new infrastructure that will enable housing to be developed and communities to thrive.

Under the number one strategic priority of infrastructure, the EOWC released our [Mind The Gap: Municipal Infrastructure Policy Paper](#) earlier this year and have since met with Federal and Ontario officials to share its findings, the region's ability to build faster, and look for more ways to collaborate.

How Municipal Councils Can Support the Message

To date, over 27 municipalities have passed resolutions of support for the policy paper and its key messages. These resolutions call on governments to partner with Eastern Ontario's municipalities to support

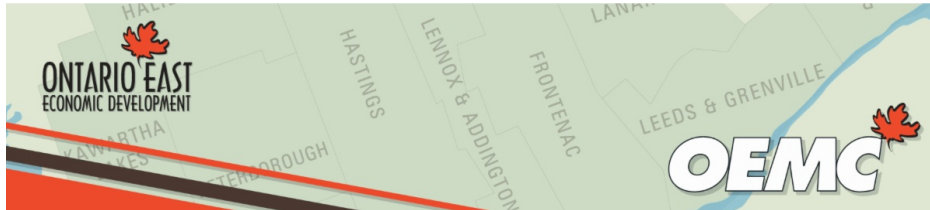
growth, leverage our communities' ability to build, coordinate planning, and ensure infrastructure is sustainably supported in rural and small urban communities.

We developed a [template resolution](#) that municipal councils may send to Ontario and Canada's Ministers and Members of Parliament to show support for the paper, its findings, and recommended solutions achieved by working together across all orders of government.

The EOWC developed the below graphic handout to clearly share our paper's message, key findings, and the growing need for governments to sustainably invest in municipal infrastructure.

[Download the 'Mind The Gap' Handout](#)

Recent Events



The OEMC 2024 Conference

The EOWC's elected officials and staff had the opportunity to attend the 2024 [Ontario East Municipal Conference](#) (OEMC) from September 11 to 13, 2024 in the City of Ottawa.

It was an honour to join economic development leaders and organizations from across Eastern Ontario to exchange knowledge and find ways to drive economic investment and opportunities forward.

The EOWC Chair, Peter Emon, delivered remarks and spoke to the EOWC's recent success at the AMO 2024 Conference and advocacy around the 'Mind The Gap' infrastructure paper, 'Solve The Crisis' Campaign, and continued support for AMO's call for the Ontario Government to implement a Social and Economic Prosperity Review to support municipalities financial realities. The EOWC's Manager of Government Relations and Policy, Meredith Staveley-Watson, also moderated the session on the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation's Housing Solutions.



Peterborough & the Kawarthas Home Builders Association Dinner

The EOWC was pleased to attend and present at the [Peterborough & the Kawarthas Home Builders Association](#) (PKHBA) event on September 12, 2024 in the Village of Lakefield to share advocacy efforts and discuss collaboration. Meredith Staveley-Watson, the EOWC's Manager of Government Relations and Policy, spoke about the EOWC's ongoing work to advance infrastructure and housing solutions that support rural and small urban communities.

We appreciate the opportunity to engage with PKHBA, an organization that champions quality of life that is supported through housing development.

The [Eastern Ontario Regional Network](#) (EORN) Cell Gap Project continues to see new towers coming into service throughout the region. With this recent tower in Peterborough County, the project now sees 70 newly built towers in service, as well as 54 co-located towers. Additionally, upgrades to existing towers are 99% complete.



EORN has announced the launch of its [five-year strategic plan](#), which demonstrates an inspiring vision designed to drive equity, vibrancy, and sustainable development across the region, guided by EORN's values of innovation, partnership, and regional orientation.

EORN's strategic plan centers on three core strategies:

- EORN will expand its impact through value-added services, enhancing regional growth by delivering innovative and value-added services that address the connectivity and development needs of eastern Ontario.
- EORN will foster a sustainable, efficient, and dynamic organization by being committed to ensuring that our organization operates efficiently, sustainably, and dynamically to achieve results for our stakeholders and communities.
- EORN will raise awareness of its capabilities and its impact on the region through strategic communications, increasing public awareness of its ongoing initiatives and successes, fostering a deeper understanding of our role in the region's development.

What's new with the EOLC?

The [Eastern Ontario Leadership Council](#) (EOLC) hosted their first meeting regarding their Strategic Priority Planning on September 5, 2024. The process is scheduled to be complete by January 2025 and will help to guide the organization's future direction.

Upcoming Events



AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community and Supportive Housing

AMO is hosting a Knowledge Exchange on Community and Supportive Housing on October 1-2, 2024 at the Delta Hotels Toronto Airport & Conference Centre.

The event brings together elected officials, municipal staff, government representatives, Indigenous partners, and other sector partners for networking, knowledge sharing, and collaboration to advance community and supportive housing solutions across Ontario.

Topics will include municipal leadership in ending homelessness, government action for housing, sector partnerships, innovative financing, Indigenous housing, and more.

[Register today!](#)



OMAA 2024 Fall Workshop at Deerhurst Resort, Huntsville

OMAA is hosting a workshop from October 16-18, 2024 at Deerhurst Resort. Workshops include a mix of social events, keynote speakers, educational sessions, quick hits, and sponsored sessions--all aimed at giving CAOs and Aspiring CAOs the tools they need to be more effective.

[Register today!](#)



OCTOBER 22-24, 2024
COUNTY OF RENFREW

Growing Together

MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING FORUM

Municipal Agriculture Economic Development & Planning Forum

From October 22-24, 2024, the County of Renfrew and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness are co-hosting the [Municipal Agriculture Economic Development & Planning Forum](#) at the Best Western Pembroke Inn & Conference Centre in Pembroke, Renfrew County.

This year's theme, "Growing Together – Nurturing Agriculture for Rural Community Prosperity", will highlight the importance of fostering agriculture growth, sustainability and collaboration in rural communities. Marking the first time coming to Eastern Ontario, the Forum is an opportunity to network, engage and share best practices and lessons learned from rural economic development and planning professionals working with and supporting the agriculture industry.

The early-bird registration deadline is September 29 and final **registration cut-off is October 6, 2024.**

Learn more and [register today!](#)

News in the Region



Ontario Driving Economic Growth in Rural Communities

The Ontario Government is investing over \$5.7 million in 85 projects through the Rural Economic Development (RED) program. These projects aim to create jobs, address labour force challenges, and diversify local economies. Belleville's Downtown District Business Improvement Association (BIA) will receive \$57,427 to launch a new program that will support the business community in the downtown area, and Prince Edward County is getting \$65,000 through the RED program for their Workforce Development Training for Community

Benefit project. This funding strengthens rural communities and supports Ontario's economic prosperity.

Read the full [news release](#).

Ontario Training New Workers for Careers in the Skilled Trades and other Sectors in Belleville

The Ontario Government is investing nearly \$900,000 to train up to 3,775 workers and jobseekers in Belleville for careers in construction, advanced manufacturing, health care, tourism, and other sectors through the Skills Development Fund (SDF) and pre-apprenticeship programs. This brings the total SDF investment in the region to over \$8.7 million since the launch of the fund. These investments aim to address labour shortages and support economic growth.

Read the full [news release](#).

Ontario Expanding Diagnostic Services in Eastern Ontario Long-Term Care Homes

The Ontario Government is expanding access to diagnostic services in long-term care homes in Hastings County and Quinte West through the Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care Plus (CPLTC+) program. Paramedics will deliver services like bloodwork and ultrasounds to reduce avoidable emergency room visits. Additionally, over \$98,000 will be invested locally for equipment and training to improve resident care. This initiative is part of the province's efforts to enhance long-term care by providing more services in-home, improving quality of life for seniors.

Read the full [news release](#).

Ontario Helping Build More Homes in Cobourg

The Ontario Government is providing up to \$25 million to expand Cobourg's water infrastructure, supporting the development of over 2,200 new homes. This funding is part of Ontario's \$970 million Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, which aims to improve water and wastewater infrastructure to accelerate home construction across the province.

Read the full [news release](#).

Ontario Helping Build More Homes in Prince Edward County

The Ontario Government is investing up to \$18.3 million to build a new regional water treatment plant in Prince Edward County, supporting the construction of 3,895 new homes. This funding is part of Ontario's \$970 million Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, aimed at expanding water infrastructure to accelerate homebuilding across the province.

The EOWC Acknowledges the Loss and Contribution of Former CAO



It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the recent passing of Ray Callery, who served as the Chief Administrative Officer of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville and was a valued member of the EOWC for the last two-and-a-half years.

Ray was known for his unwavering dedication, positivity, and leadership. His insights, passion, and friendship during his time with the EOWC left a lasting impact on all of us and on the municipal sector as a whole.

In honour of Ray's legacy, the EOWC had donated to the Canadian Cancer Society, as per his family's request. Our thoughts go out to Ray's family, friends, colleagues, and community.

Connect With Us on LinkedIn and X



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

2024 Chair, Warden of Renfrew County, Peter Emon

2024 Vice-Chair, Warden of Peterborough County, Bonnie Clark

Manager of Government Relations and Policy, Meredith Staveley-Watson

info@eowc.org

Meredith Staveley-Watson, Manager of Government Relations and Policy | 235 Pinnacle Street | Belleville, ON K8N 3A9 CA

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