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News Release: The EOWC Advocates for Regional Priorities at AMO 2024 Conference

City of Ottawa, August 23, 2024 – The [Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus](#) (EOWC) represented the region's 103 rural and small urban municipalities during the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) 125th Conference held in the City of Ottawa from August 18 to 21, 2024.

The EOWC welcomed the opportunity to advocate strongly for regional priorities - infrastructure, housing and health care - during meaningful conversations with federal, provincial and municipal elected leaders. The EOWC joined over 3,300 participants from 444 municipalities across Ontario including government, Indigenous, non-profit, private sector partners. The EOWC is pleased to see health care and infrastructure investments and tools announced by the Ontario Government during the conference.

"The EOWC continues to be a champion for our small urban and rural municipalities at decision-making tables," stated **Peter Emon, EOWC Chair**. "This conference brings an opportunity for us to highlight our priorities and bring solutions forward to our federal, provincial and sector partners. We came prepared to ensure that our region's needs are recognized."

Meeting discussions centered on the [EOWC's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan](#) priorities and the [EOWC's Mind The Gap: Municipal Infrastructure Policy Paper](#). The paper outlines the region's municipal infrastructure deficit, which has grown 58 percent from 2011 to \$6 billion. The EOWC's rural and small urban municipalities need specific support from the Federal and Provincial Governments to maintain and repair existing infrastructure, as well as build housing enabling infrastructure to support the growing regional economy.

During a joint meeting with the EOWC, Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC), and Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus (EOMC), representing 230 of Ontario's municipalities, the three caucuses submitted a joint letter to the Ontario Government to advocate for the [Social and Economic Prosperity Review](#), led by AMO. The EOWC, WOWC and EOMC Chairs also sent out a [news release](#) around the ['Solve the Crisis' Campaign](#), led by the Ontario Big City Mayors, to highlight the homelessness and mental health crisis taking place across all of our communities. Ontarians are encouraged to join the call to action and visit the 'Solve the Crisis' website.

The EOWC thanks the elected officials and organizational partners for meeting (listed below):

- The Honourable Sean Fraser, Federal Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
- The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
- The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs
- The Honourable Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, Minister of Long-Term Care
- The Ontario New Democratic Party, led by Marit Stiles, the Leader of the Official Opposition
- The Ontario Liberal Party, led by Bonnie Crombie
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- The Ontario Medical Association
- The Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus
- The Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus

For more information on the EOWC's AMO 2024 advocacy, read our briefing package at [EOWC.org](https://www.eowc.org).

About the EOWC

The EOWC Inc. is a non-profit organization advocating for 103 small urban and rural municipalities across Eastern Ontario. The EOWC covers an area of 50,000 square kilometres, serving 800,000 residents. For more than 20 years, the EOWC has gained support and momentum by speaking with a united voice to champion regional municipal priorities and work with the government, businesses, non-profit organizations, Indigenous leaders, the media, and the public.

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News Release

Municipal Leaders (EOWC-WOWC-EOMC) Support 'Solve the Crisis' Campaign to Address Homelessness and Mental Health

Sunday, August 18, 2024

City of Ottawa - Representing 230 municipalities and over 2.6 million people across Ontario, the [Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus](#), [Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus](#), and Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus join the call to action around the ['Solve the Crisis' Campaign](#), led by the [Ontario Big City Mayors](#).

During their joint meeting at the start of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) 125th Conference, the three caucuses are stating their collective support around the need for the Ontario and Federal Governments to take immediate and targeted action to help solve the crisis around homelessness and mental health.

There is a homelessness and mental health crisis happening on streets across our communities, small and big, rural and urban. Municipalities continue to step up, but do not have the tools, expertise or capacity to fully address the intersectional and complex issues around housing, homelessness, health care, and social services.

We appreciate the actions that both the Federal and Ontario Governments have taken to-date including Ontario's Roadmap to Wellness, the creation of the Homelessness Prevention Program, and investing in youth wellness hubs. But we need to do more to 'Solve the Crisis' together as government partners, and we need to act swiftly.

As municipalities continue to raise, the rising number of homeless encampments and the human toll of the opioid crisis are a symptom of deeper system failures that hurt Ontario's overall social and economic prosperity. The WOWC, EOMC, and EOWC will be sending a letter to Premier

Ford to further underscore the need for a [Social and Economic Prosperity Review](#). We need a municipal fiscal relationship that supports the foundations of a strong economy, sustainable communities and quality of life that reflects modern day and front-line realities.

Organizations and Ontarians can join the call to support the 'Solve the Crisis' campaign by visiting www.solvethecrisis.ca.

Quotes

"In communities of all sizes, not just big cities, people are unhoused, suffering and dying. We need to help them and municipalities do not have the financial tools and resources to do it alone. It is time to take action to 'Solve The Crisis' together with municipalities, the Ontario Government, the Federal Government, and community partners at the table." – **EOWC Chair, Peter Emon, Warden of Renfrew County**

"As Chair of the WOWC, I see the impacts first-hand around the homelessness and mental health crisis. Municipalities have been working tirelessly on the front-lines to address complex issues. We want to build safe, health communities and the only way to do so is to work together. Let's step up and 'Solve the Crisis' together." – **WOWC Chair, Glen McNeil, Warden of Huron County**

"This is something we (the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus) have been pursuing, over the last year: the need for substantial investment by both the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada, to deal with this unprecedented humanitarian crisis that all municipalities are now facing." – **EOMC Chair, Jeff Leal, Mayor of the City of Peterborough**

About our organizations

[Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus](#)

The Western Ontario Wardens Caucus Inc. (WOWC) serves as a unified voice for the 15 upper and single tier municipalities in Southwestern Ontario, advocating for their collective interest. Through collaborative efforts, WOWC works to address the unique challenges faced by rural and small urban

communities, playing a pivotal role in shaping policies and initiatives that positively impact the region's 1.6 million residents.

[Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus](#)

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. (EOWC) is a non-profit organization advocating for 103 small urban and rural municipalities across Eastern Ontario. The EOWC covers an area of 50,000 square kilometres, serving 800,000 residents. For more than 20 years, the EOWC has gained support by speaking with a united voice to champion regional municipal priorities and work with the government, businesses, non-profit organizations, Indigenous leaders, the media, and the public.

[The Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus](#)

The Eastern Ontario Mayor's Caucus (EOMC) is comprised of ten Eastern Ontario municipalities that advocate for the region's needs and priorities, especially in the areas of health care, infrastructure, and economic development. The caucus works collaboratively with other levels of government, health care providers, community organizations, and interest holders to address the challenges and opportunities facing Eastern Ontario.

[Ontario Big City Mayors](#)

Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) is an organization that includes mayors of 29 single and lower-tier cities with a population of 100,000 or more, who collectively represent nearly 70 percent of Ontario's population. OBCM advocates for issues and policies important to Ontario's largest cities.

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August 18, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford
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The Honourable Lisa Thompson
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Dear Premier Ford and Ministers,

As you know, municipalities provide the services that Ontarians rely on every day. The fiscal framework that enables municipalities to do this work is broken. Failing to fix this problem fails residents, small businesses, health and public safety partners, and major industries.

Since last fall, AMO has called on your government to commit to working with municipalities on a Social and Economic Prosperity Review to put municipalities on solid fiscal footing for the benefit of Ontario's competitiveness and quality of life. Representing 230 of Ontario's 444 municipalities across Ontario, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus, and the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus are united and fully support the urgent need for a review.

Together, it is imperative that we form sustainable partnerships to ensure Ontario's overall future prosperity and growth. The review calls on the provincial government to sit down with municipalities and work together to conduct a joint review of revenues, costs and financial risks, as well as an analysis of Ontario's infrastructure investment and service delivery needs. Since its launch, more than 150 municipalities and organizations have passed resolutions supporting this work – *and counting*.

AMO, the WOWC, EOMC and EOWC, and its members remain committed to this important initiative. The review is critical to Ontario's ability to make progress on the issues people care about most, including infrastructure, housing, healthcare, cost of living, and public safety. The municipal fiscal sustainability challenge is urgent, province-wide, and central to Ontario's social and economic prosperity.

This work has received support from the opposition, who recognize the importance and urgency of a conversation on the state of municipal finances and the need for a comprehensive review of provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements. All three opposition leaders have committed to a New Deal for municipalities if elected in the next election.

Municipalities continue to call on Premier Ford to work together with municipal governments to get it done for Ontarians. We urge the Ontario Government to commit to this review.

Working together, we can build a better Ontario.

Sincerely,



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EOWC ADVOCACY
**BRIEFING
PACKAGE**

AMO CONFERENCE 2024

AUGUST 18-21, 2024

EOWC
EASTERN ONTARIO
WARDENS' CAUCUS

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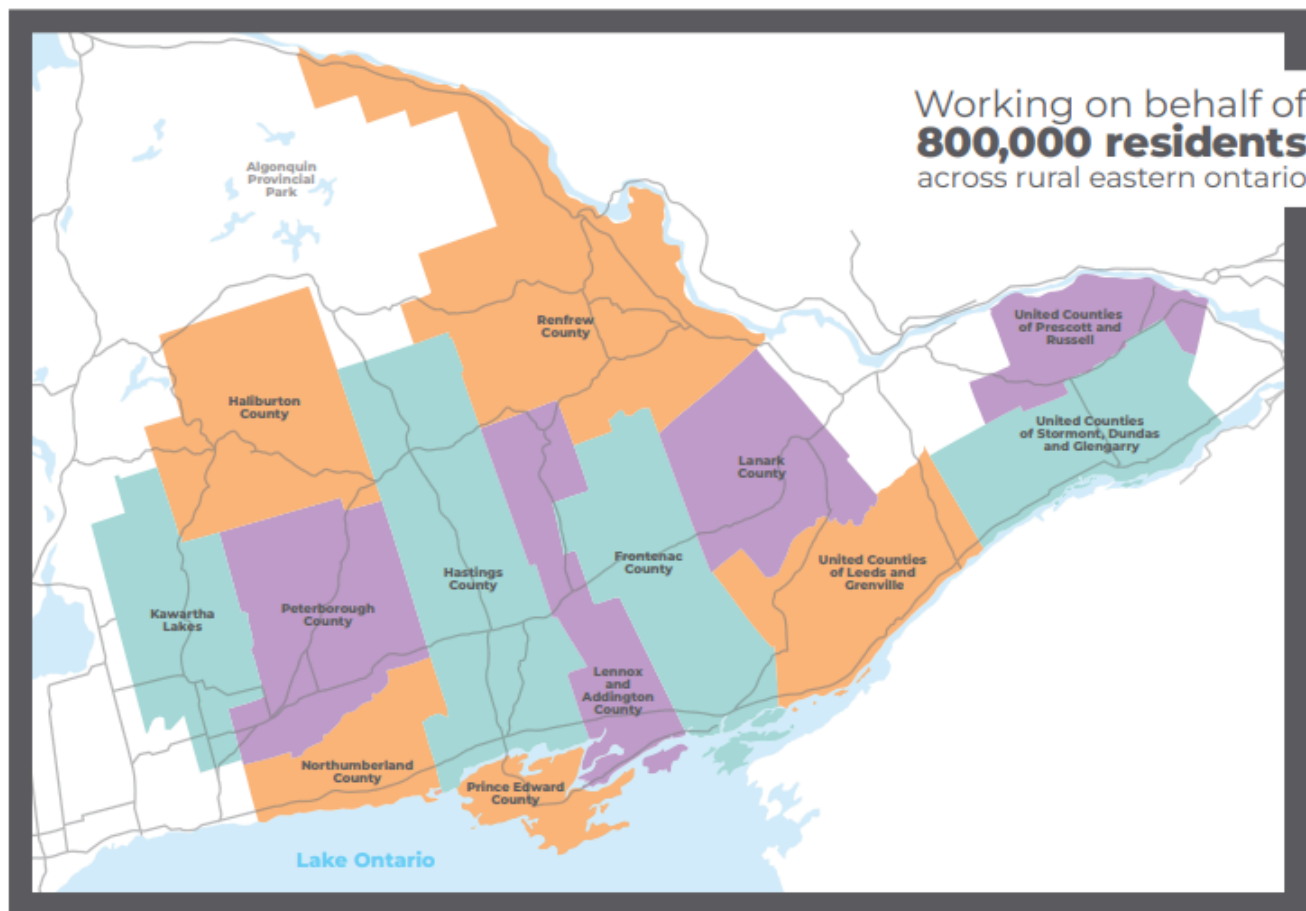
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EOWC Members

County of Frontenac
County of Haliburton
County of Hastings
City of Kawartha Lakes
County of Lanark
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
County of Lennox and Addington

County of Northumberland
County of Peterborough
United Counties of Prescott and Russell
Prince Edward County
County of Renfrew
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

2024-2027 Strategic Plan

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Foundation for Local Prosperity

HOUSING

The Backbone of Thriving and Supportive Communities

HEALTH CARE

The Engine for Healthy and Resilient Communities

STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT

The Value of the EOWC's Voice



VISION

The respected voice of Eastern Ontario that ignites a vibrant, thriving and inclusive region through strategic municipal partnerships and advocacy.

MISSION

The EOWC elevates Eastern Ontario through collaborative leadership, innovative solutions, and sustainable development for a prosperous and connected future.



LEADERSHIP

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

EVIDENCE-BASED AND SOLUTION DRIVEN

INCLUSION

RESPECT FOR RURAL AND SMALL URBAN

INFRASTRUCTURE

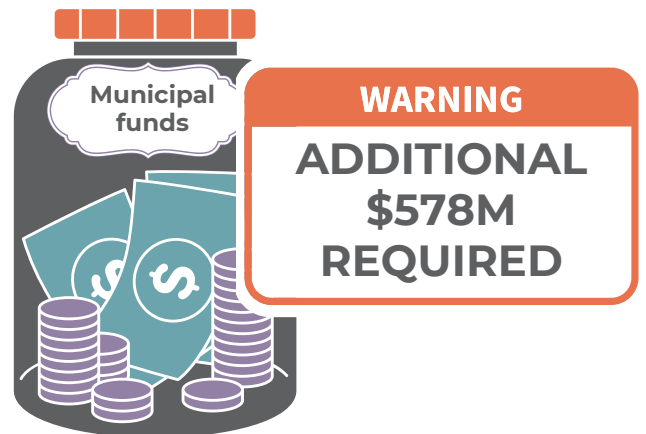
The foundation for local prosperity



Municipal responsibility exceeds capacity

\$981M annually is required to close the current capital investment gap

- The EOWC's municipalities spend \$403M annually on infrastructure, not including growth
- An additional \$578M a year is needed to maintain assets and address deficit



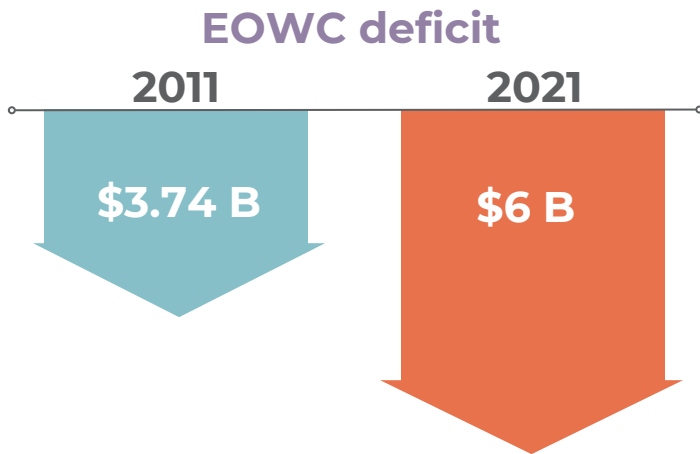
Rural and small urban Eastern Ontario is a growing economy that can grow more



- The EOWC's communities built more housing / 100,000 population than the City of Toronto
- The EOWC's municipalities issued 3,969 building permits since 2023

There is an upfront cost to growth creating a burden for rural and small urban communities and taxpayers

The capital infrastructure deficit has deepened by **58%** since 2011



The EOWC's 103 municipalities (2021):

- manage over **\$12B in assets**
- spend **\$536M a year to operate** infrastructure and perform basic maintenance
- **lack the tax base** to sustain infrastructure investment and asset management
- **infrastructure deficit has grown to \$6B**

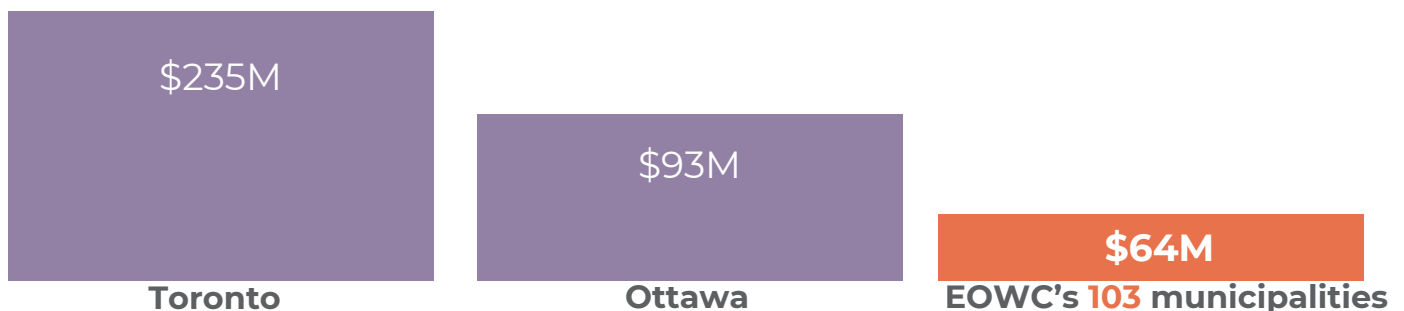
Cost to taxpayers for maintaining 1km of paved municipal road

- In rural Ontario = 10 households
- In separated cities and towns = 28 households

Across the EOWC region, 236 households must maintain a bridge. In separated cities and towns, that cost is spread over 709 households

Same tool, big difference in revenue generation between one city and the EOWC region

Municipal own purpose revenue generation by 5%



Rural and small urban Eastern Ontario communities are major exporters to Ontario and other jurisdictions

- Businesses export 57.6% of production to other jurisdictions. This represents **\$33B / year of economic activity**
- The EOWC region generates **\$61B in annual economic activity** and exports \$20B a year in manufactured goods outside its regional boundaries
- **Municipal infrastructure is vital** to production, wholesale trade and transportation

Mind The Gap: EOWC's Municipal Infrastructure Policy Paper

<https://eowc.org/infrastructure-2/>





HOUSING

The backbone of thriving and supportive communities

Issue

Under the [2024-2027 Strategic Plan](#), the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) set infrastructure, housing and health care as its three priorities.

The EOWC is asking to set a regional housing target in partnership with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing prior to December 2024.

This would be the first regional municipal housing target set, which would apply across the EOWC's 103 municipalities. This demonstrates the EOWC's willingness to partner and be a leader to address the housing crisis and align with the Ontario Government's goal of building 1.5 million homes by 2031.

Recommendations

That the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing:

- Works together with the EOWC to establish a regional housing target. This target must reflect rural and small urban settings and circumstances across the EOWC's municipalities.
- Immediately following the AMO 2024 Conference, sets an MMAH-EOWC statement that a housing target be developed.

Considerations for establishing an EOWC housing target

- The housing target should reflect rural and small urban settings, considering local servicing constraints, achievable density and growth targets. Investments in smaller communities can have significant, far-reaching impacts. Therefore, the EOWC's municipalities should be integrated into the overall provincial housing strategy.
- The housing target intends to align with the Ontario Government's housing goal of building 1.5 million homes by the end of 2031. The EOWC's municipalities are ready to work together to provide data and feedback on behalf of the region.
- The intention of the EOWC is to create units across the housing continuum including supportive, affordable and market-rate housing.

Background

The EOWC's municipalities continue to work toward solutions to get housing built faster. The EOWC's communities built more housing than the City of Toronto per 100,000 population: 39 vs. 17 units (2021), as noted in the [EOWC's Mind The Gap: Municipal Infrastructure Policy Paper](#).

The EOWC continues to track available public lands for housing. Across the EOWC region, there are 278 parcels of surplus provincial and municipal lands.

- 28 provincial lands
- 250 municipal lands; 74 of these sites are development ready or close to being ready and would be an ideal property to build housing quickly

The EOWC is well positioned to support housing development and wants to capitalize on the current environment and growing economy by leveraging the resources and partnerships across the EOWC's 103 municipal members. The EOWC represents 800,000 people and covers over 50,000 square kilometres. The EOWC continues to actively track housing being built and surplus lands available for housing across the region.

As part of the EOWC's regional housing strategy, the EOWC is working on a list of actions that fit within each of the housing types as shown below. These actions, which include concrete advocacy measures, will feed into the overarching EOWC housing strategy.

SUPPORTIVE/AFFORDABLE HOUSING

MARKET HOUSING



EOWC Housing Strategy Guidance Principles

- Eastern Ontario requires significant investment from our Federal and Provincial Government partners to create new housing
- Eastern Ontario municipalities will work as a region to streamline and improve the housing development process to demonstrate that municipalities are not a barrier to development
- Eastern Ontario will embrace innovative technology and solutions to bolster housing supply
- Eastern Ontario will support the creation of housing through the use of existing municipal lands while working alongside the Federal and Provincial government to make their surplus lands available

Affordable and Supportive Housing

- Utilize municipal lands for the development of intervention housing
- Advocate for a new funding model for operating costs of social housing
- Coordinate local By-Name Lists amongst EOWC Service Managers
- Advocate for provincial support to municipalities in managing 'End of Operating' agreements
- Advocate for rent scales to be updated under the HSA
- Advocate for the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) to include rural component in funding formula
- Advocate for increased funding through Service Manager allocations
- Advocate for Service Managers to be part of the bi-lateral agreement discussions with the Federal and Provincial governments

Market Housing

- In partnership with the Province of Ontario, develop a Housing Target for Eastern Ontario
- Advocacy to solidify Build Faster Fund Rural Component
- Implement regional delivery approach on issues such e-permitting, land use planning and procurement of services
- Advocacy for increased funding for infrastructure within Eastern Ontario
- EOWC members to pre-develop municipal land for housing development
- EOWC to incorporate an Economic Development Lens to Housing

LONG-TERM CARE

The engine for healthy and resilient communities



Issue

Under the [2024-2027 Strategic Plan](#), the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) set infrastructure, housing and health care as the three priorities. Under health care, municipal long-term care is a key focus.

The EOWC aims to discuss issues including the impact of staffing agencies in rural and small urban communities, and debt capacity challenges for long-term care homes.

The EOWC thanks the Ontario Government for the investments in municipal long-term care staffing in the 2024 Ontario Budget, including the targeting of students and providing funds for health care staff through the Ontario Learn and Stay Program. Additionally, the EOWC appreciates the renewal of the Construction Funding Subsidy to help capital projects across the finish line.

Impacts of Staffing Agencies on Rural and Small Urban Municipalities

The use of short-term staffing agency workers goes against the principal of continuity of care. The end goal must be to have full-time regular staff that know the individual resident's needs and preferences to provide the safest, personalized, highest quality of care that residents deserve.

Recommendations

That the Ministry of Long-Term Care:

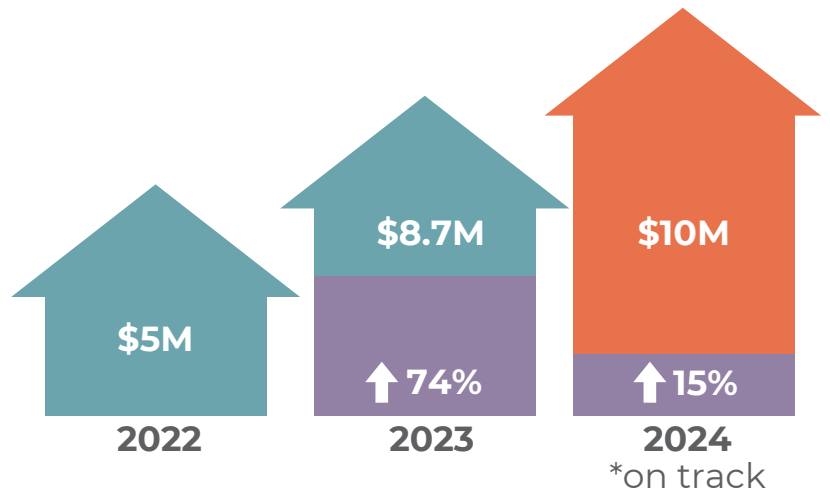
- Works together with the Ministry of Health on a sector-wide health human resources strategy, with a focus on rural and small urban communities' needs, to address staffing issues in the entire health sector, including long-term care. The EOWC is willing to provide data and feedback on behalf of the region.
- Sustainably funds rural and small urban municipal long-term care homes to alleviate the continued burden of paying premiums for staffing agency workers which are depleting municipal budgets.
- Ensures that staffing agency organizations and their staff have legitimate education credentials. Long-term care residents, with increasingly complex needs, must be cared for by qualified staff.

Key evidence

Staffing agencies are still impacting rural and small urban communities and municipal budgets. Across the EOWC's 17 municipal long-term care homes, on average staffing agencies have cost municipalities the following:

- In the first six months of 2024, the use of agencies has cost approximately \$5 million – this is on track to being a 15% increase from 2023 if nothing changes
- In 2023, agencies cost \$8.7M, a 74% cost increase from 2022
- In 2022, agencies cost \$5 million

Municipal cost of agencies year-over-year



Agency staff put a burden on rural taxpayers because of the premiums in wages of **60% to 100% of regular staffing costs**, plus extra costs charged for mileage and accommodation.

Agencies contribute to a decrease in staff morale and work culture

This is attributed to working alongside agency staff who may be making

1.5-2x more than their hourly wage.

The home environment when agency staff are present makes it even more difficult for small urban and rural municipalities to attract and retain staff.



Background

The EOWC understands the complexity of the health human resources staffing challenges across Ontario's communities given their unique needs. In comparison to larger cities, the health human resources crisis continues to affect the EOWC's small urban and rural long-term care homes. The EOWC appreciates the steps that the Ministry of Long-Term Care has taken thus far as long-term care plays a significant role in easing the pressures on the overall healthcare system. However, the staffing gap in the EOWC's communities remains a concern and needs to be addressed with a short to medium-term timeline in mind as current municipal budget pressures are not sustainable.

Municipal rural and small urban long-term care homes continue to lose staff to agencies. This results in higher costs to fill staffing shortages through these agencies, as well as negatively impacting staff culture, and increased efforts spent to attract and retain staff. The money could then be directed to hire and retain staff as municipalities work towards reaching the four hours of care target.

The EOWC's municipalities are strong performers on long-term care and were an early advocate for the four hours of care target. The EOWC's municipalities are working to meet four hours of care for the 2024-2025. The region currently sits at an average of approximately 3.53 hours of care per resident.

Debt Capacity

Recommendations

That the Ministry of Long-Term Care:

- Works with Infrastructure Ontario to lower municipal interest rates for rural and small-urban communities with limited revenue sources, so that valuable capital can be directed into long-term care home build projects, and not interest payments.
 - Across the EOWC region, this would impact four municipal long-term care homes that are currently under development. It would also help enable more long-term care homes to be built.

Background

Responsibility is exceeding municipal capacity to pay for new long-term care homes.

Over time, **municipalities are spending twice as much in interest on the Construction Funding Subsidy (CFS) funding as they receive** from the Ontario Government to build new long-term care homes. Municipalities are paying this interest back to a provincial agency (Infrastructure Ontario). Taxpayers should not be paying more as a result of interest payments between governments. **This is a barrier to more long-term care homes being built.**

The [EOWC's Municipal Infrastructure Policy Paper](#) demonstrates that across the EOWC's municipalities, there is a **\$6 billion infrastructure deficit (2021) which has grown by 58% since 2011. Rural and small urban municipalities do not have the same financial tools to raise revenue** to cover much needed infrastructure repairs and new projects compared to larger cities. A more predictable, sustainable solution is needed to address current and future infrastructure maintenance and growth.

Municipal Case Examples

Municipal Debt Capacity

Effects of Escalating Long-Term Borrowing Interest Rates

United Counties of Prescott & Russell residence redevelopment project

At the beginning of the new long-term care home project, based on post-tender figures, the municipality's debt requirement was estimated at close to \$68 million. As the project progressed and market conditions indicated higher interest rates, the municipality focused on what could be controlled and invested significant capital to reduce the debt requirement.

Based on the most up-to-date cash-flow estimates, while the municipality has succeeded in reducing debt requirement by more than \$22 million, **municipal interest costs over a 25-year period have increased by \$10.2 million** due to the historic increase of the most recent confirmed interest rates. **The interest rate paid on advances requested from Infrastructure Ontario during construction is now 9.2 times higher than originally reported.**

The costs of carrying debt have become a more significant driver of budgetary pressures and will unfortunately lower debt capacity for upcoming years, **reducing the capacity of the municipality to deliver other vital programs.** Until the project is completed, the risks of rising interest rates remain a threat to the project and a priority concern for the United Counties of Prescott & Russell, among other municipalities across the EOWC region.



Municipal Case Examples

Municipal Debt Capacity

Effects of Escalating Long-Term Borrowing Interest Rates

Cost of debt servicing for Prince Edward County to build a new long-term care home

Provincial Construction Subsidy Funding (CFS) and the top-up CFS has made this project possible. The operating costs to finance the debt will however put a strain on an already tight municipal budget given other infrastructure pressures.

For a \$94.7 million build, about \$60.6 million will come over the 25 year period from the Ministry of Long-Term Care. Debt financing is essential to the capital funding strategy for municipalities such as Prince Edward County (where an annual 1% of tax increase equals \$500,000 in revenue). However, **that \$6.60 million will cost an additional \$43.9 million in interest over the life of the loan to furnish the debt required at the time of construction.**

This is operating budget expenditures for interest paid to a provincial agency (Infrastructure Ontario), to address the fact that funding from the provincial ministry comes over time.



EOWC Resources

The EOWC remains a reliable, trusted partner. The EOWC encourages government and sector partners to learn more about the EOWC's municipal long-term care sector homes and related data.

- [EOWC – Key Takeaways](#) Review of Eastern Ontario Long-Term Care Facilities (January 2021)
- [EOWC – Phase Two Report](#) Review of Eastern Ontario Long-Term Care Facilities, January 2021 (January 2021)
- [EOWC – Phase One Report](#) Review of Eastern Ontario Long-Term Care Facilities (January 2021)





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[Contact information of EOWC members](#)

FOLLOW THE EOWC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

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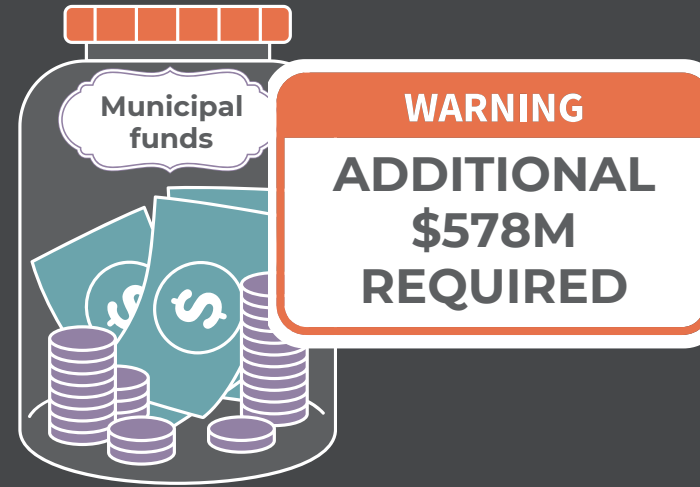


Mind The Gap: 2024 Municipal Infrastructure Policy Paper

Municipal Responsibility Exceeds Capacity

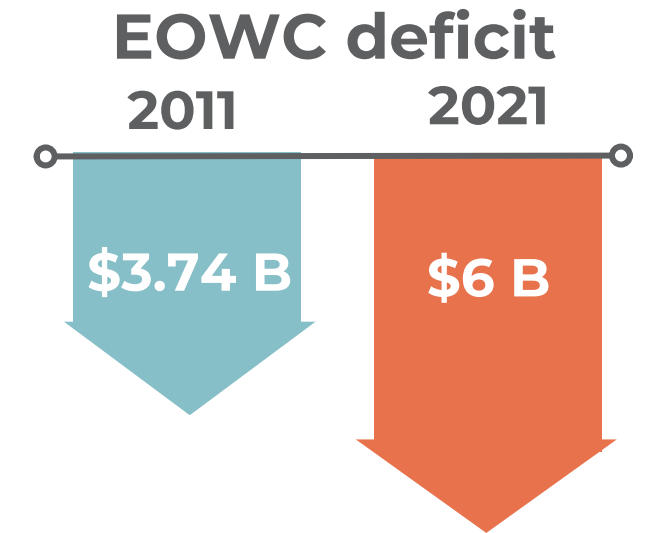
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There is an upfront cost to growth creating a burden for rural and small urban communities and taxpayers

The capital infrastructure deficit has deepened by **58%** since 2011



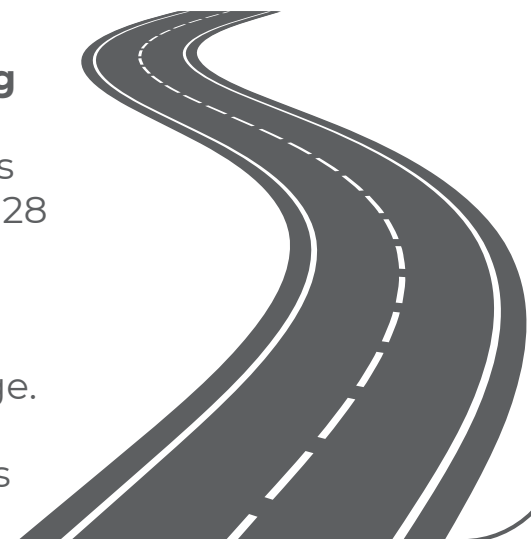
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- **lack the tax base** to sustain infrastructure investment and asset management
- **infrastructure deficit has grown to \$6B** (2021)

Cost to taxpayers for maintaining 1km of paved municipal road

- In rural Ontario = 10 households
- In separated cities and towns = 28 households

Across the EOWC region, 236 households must maintain a bridge. In separated cities and towns, that cost is spread over 709 households



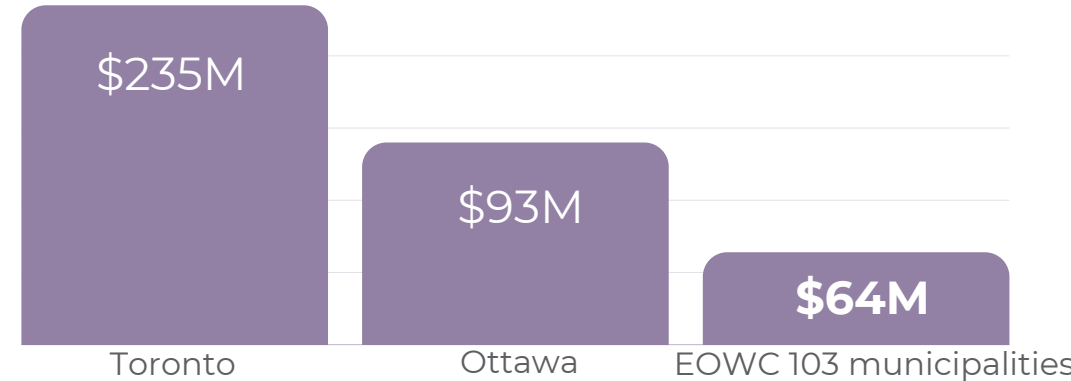
Rural and small urban Eastern Ontario is a growing economy that can grow more

- EOWC's municipalities issued **3,969** building permits **since 2023**
- EOWC's communities built more housing / 100,000 population than the City of Toronto



Same tool, big difference in revenue generation between one city and the EOWC

Municipal Own Purpose Revenue Generation by 5%



Rural and small urban Eastern Ontario communities are major exporters to Ontario and other jurisdictions

- Businesses export **57.6%** of production to other jurisdictions. This represents \$33B / year of economic activity
- The EOWC region generates **\$61B** in annual economic activity and exports **\$20B** a year in manufactured goods outside its regional boundaries
- Municipal infrastructure is vital to production, wholesale trade and transportation