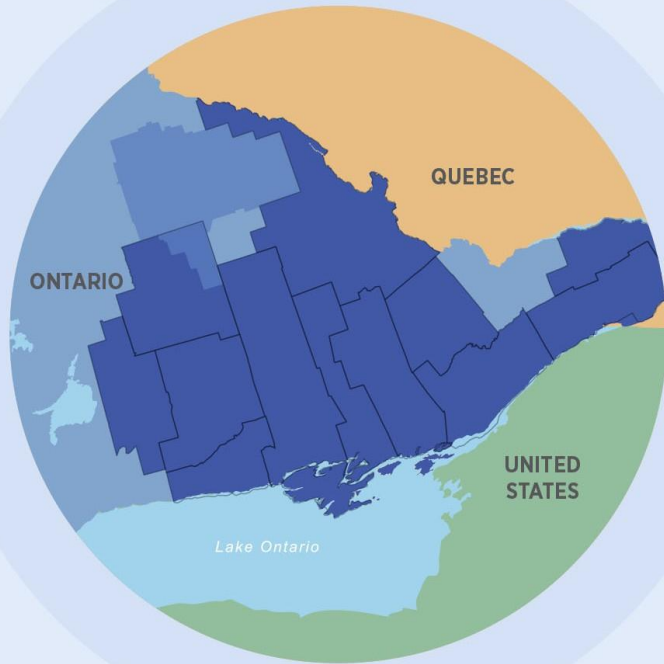


Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

History and Accomplishments





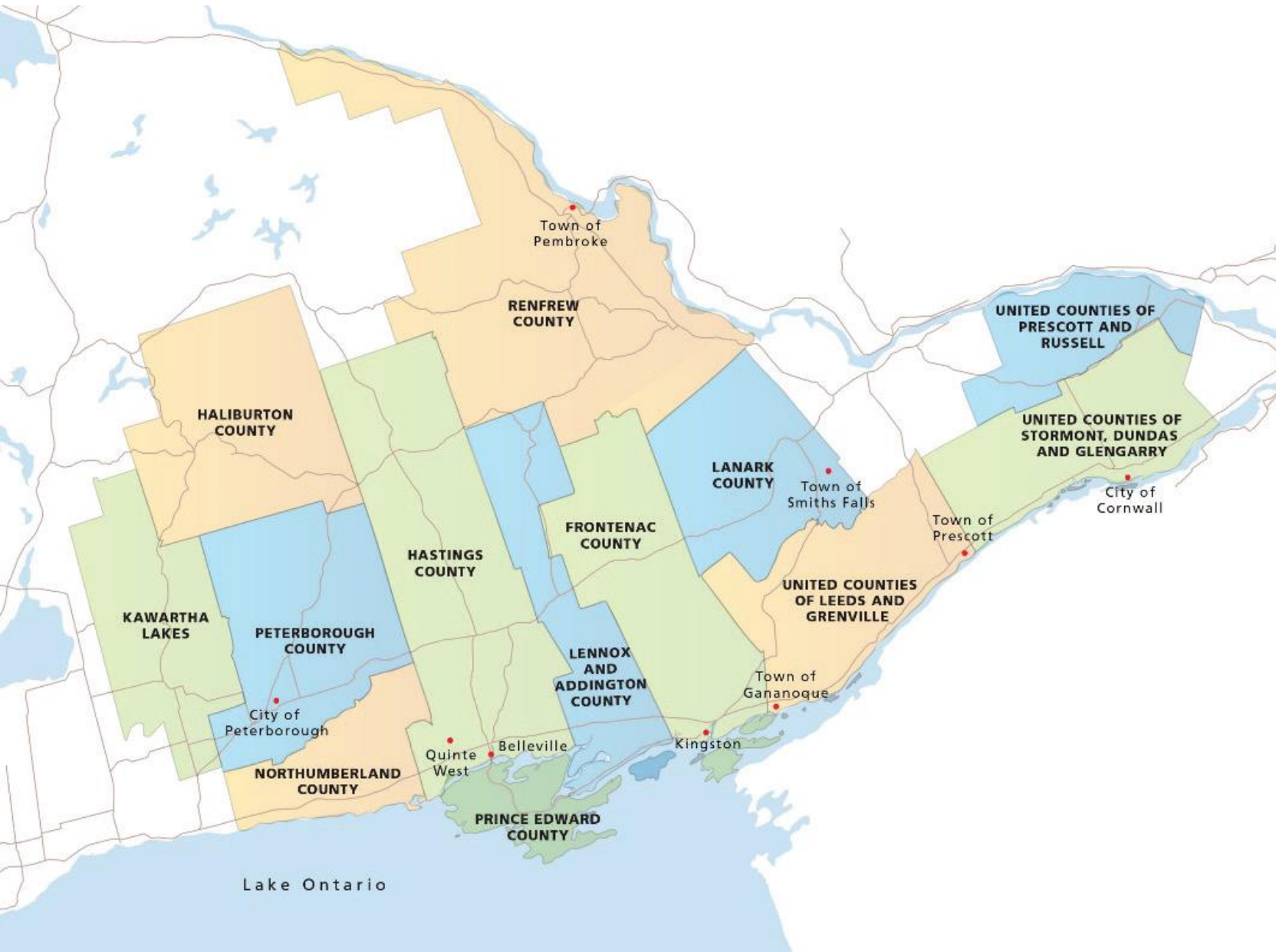
SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

The EOWC represents
750,000 people
in **103** rural
municipalities



EOWC
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

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



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

What We Do

- Political advocacy on behalf of the region
- Research and analysis on regional issues
- Partnerships (AMO, FCM, EOMC, WOWC, etc.)
- Communication and representation
- Monitor federal, provincial and municipal legislation, regulations and information

How We Do It

Peter Emon
(Renfrew County)
2023 Chair

Bonnie Clark
(Peterborough County)
2023 Vice-Chair

Craig Kelley
(Renfrew County CAO)
Secretary-Treasurer

Meredith Staveley-
Watson
**Manager of
Government
Relations and Policy**

Heather Wrightly
**Policy and
Administrative
Coordinator**

EOWC elected officials
Wardens/Mayors from 13 member municipalities



Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs)



Staff Working Groups

Current and Past Successes

- **June 2023** – Chair invited to speak at national FCM conference
- **May 2023** – Released the updated Paramedic Services Situational Overview Report
- **March 2023** – Submission to Auditor General on long-term care residential services audit around concerns related to staffing agencies
- **March 2023** – Participated in Ontario Chamber of Commerce consultation on housing report
- **January 2023** – Advocated during three ROMA Conference delegations

Current and Past Successes

- **January 2023** – Presented the RHIS on main stage at the ROMA 2023 Conference as an innovative housing tool
- **January 2023** – Hosted Inaugural meeting with MPs, Ministers, and MPPs
- **August 2022** – Launched the '7 in 7' regional housing plan
- **July 2022** – Participated in FCM consultations to advocate the Federal Government on future of rural infrastructure
- **June 2022** – Hosted regional housing summit with municipal staff

Past Successes

- **Spring 2022** – EOWC transitioned back to in-person meetings and conferences
- **May 2022** – EOWC transitioned to a new staffing model to build for the future
- **January 2022** – EOWC Final Report on Long-Term Care Capital Construction
- **2021**– EOWC secured \$1.2 million in CMHC funding to develop the Rural Housing Information System (RHIS) digital data tool
- **2021** – EOWC advocacy helped the Province to move to a 4 hour of care model in long-term care facilities

Past Successes

- **2020 – 2021** – EOWC two-part review of Eastern Ontario Long-Term Care Facilities
- **March 2020** – EOWC successfully pivoted priorities and advocacy to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic
- **July 2020** – EOWC’s collaborative advocacy efforts helped secure the Federal-Provincial Safe Restart Agreement. \$7 billion to support frontline health care and communities

Past Successes

- **December 2019** – EOWC review of eastern Ontario paramedic services study completion and participation in Provincial consultations
- **September 2018** – EOWC successfully lobbied the Province to mandate the Ontario Energy Board to expand natural gas networks into rural areas via cross-subsidization (Bill 32)
- **November 2017** – EOWC successfully lobbied at Queen’s Park against the financial impacts of minimum wage changes for municipalities in the first draft of Bill 148

Past Successes

- **February 2016** – EOWC successful lobbying in favour of increasing Provincial OCIF to \$300 million per year
- **August 2015** – EOWC successful lobbying in favour of the passage of Bill 34
- **2013/2014** – EOWC lobbied for legislative change to improve POA fine collection

Past Successes

- **2012/2013** – EOWC lobbied the Province to introduce “formula based” infrastructure funding instead of all funding being application based / lottery style. As a result, the Province introduced the \$100-million OCIF and Small Communities Fund
- **2011/2012** – EOWC lobbied for changes to mandatory participation in Housing Services Corporation insurance program for Social Housing

Past Successes

- **2008** – Provincial EODF Program - \$80 million for the Eastern Ontario Economic Development Fund (\$20M/year for 4 years). As one of EOWC's recommendations, the EODF was made permanent in 2012
- **2005** – CFDC/EOWC partnership – Federal support of \$10 million per year for the Eastern Ontario Development Program to promote the growth of businesses in rural communities. Extended in 2013, an additional \$48 million committed over 5 years

Past Successes

- **2004** – CRF Reconciliation “Pay Your Bills” campaign resulted in the Province reversing its decision not to reconcile actual costs for downloaded programs and payments of \$90 million across the municipal sector
- **Land Ambulance Costs** – Along with AMO strongly advocated on the issue of true 50-50 cost sharing between the province and municipalities. In 2006, the Province announced a three-year phased-in of \$300 million

2023 EOWC Priorities

1. Affordable and Attainable Housing

The EOWC's Regional Housing Summit

In June of 2022, the EOWC brought together municipal staff from various departments to gather ideas, share feedback and influence advocacy and policy on behalf of the region.

Feedback gathered informed EOWC's advocacy during the AMO 2023 and ROMA 2023 Conferences delegation meetings.



The Rural Housing Information System: CMHC Housing Supply Challenge

The Rural Housing Information System (RHIS) digital data tool aims to fill the information gap when trying to plan for and build housing across rural eastern Ontario.

- **March 8, 2021** – Received incubation funding of \$200,000 from CMHC as part of the Housing Supply Challenge for our *Filling the Housing Information Gap in Rural Eastern Ontario* project. EOWC developed a prototype of a tool that would provide local, reliable and current rural data to assist proponents and municipalities in the planning and construction of new, affordable housing
- **November 6, 2021** – The EOWC received \$1.2M in funding for the 2nd phase of the CMHC Housing Supply Challenge project to scale up the prototype and create a tool to support the creation of affordable and attainable housing in rural communities.



The Rural Housing Information System: CMHC Housing Supply Challenge

- **2021-2023** – EOWC as the RHIS founder, in partnership with the Rural Ontario institute (ROI), and technology firm, Itergy, continue to build out the RHIS tool.
- **Fall 2022** – RHIS user-testing occurred where municipal, private home developers, and non-profit housing organizations tested the tool and provided feedback.
- **Winter 2022- Spring 2023** – Staff collect municipal data from EOWC's 103 municipalities.
- **Spring/Summer of 2023** – The RHIS is targeted to be complete. EOWC will hand the RHIS ownership and management over to ROI moving forward. EOWC and its 103 member municipalities will remain members of the RHIS.



EOWC's '7 in 7' Regional Housing Project

The EOWC endorses the urgent need for more housing of all types, including affordable community rental units. The EOWC is committed to delivering a bold, innovative regional housing plan that will deliver 7,000 community rental units leveraging an additional 21,000 in attainable market rate units over seven years.

- **AMO 2022** – The EOWC launched the proposal of the '7 in 7' at the AMO Conference in the delegation meeting with Minister Steve Clark.
- **October 2022** – The EOWC endorsed the '7 in 7' vision statement to guide the '7 in 7' project work forward. The EOWC issued a Request for Expression of Interest for a consultant to develop a business case.
- **January 2023** – The EOWC started working with KWM Consulting to bring the business case forward for AMO 2023.
- **Fall-Summer 2022-2023** – EOWC staff meet with Federal and Provincial Ministers, MPs, MPPs, and staff, as well as County/City Councils to generate awareness and gain feedback on the project.



Housing Advocacy for 2023

Financial Framework

- The EOWC is calling on the government to develop a strong financial framework to support municipalities in order to better prepare, plan and implement housing and related support services.

Standardizing Housing Definitions

- The EOWC is advocating for the government to standardize language around housing and have clear streamlined definitions for both 'affordable' and 'attainable' housing.



2023 EOWC Priorities

2: Paramedic Services

Paramedic Services

- The responsibility to be the voice of our residents in the future direction of community-based health care, including paramedic services and community paramedicine, is a key priority for the EOWC.
- Municipal councils have a duty to represent the interests of their ratepayers, by providing oversight for health-related services.
- The EOWC, along with AMO, have been advocating for **dedicated municipal representation** at decision making tables given the array health-related services they provide and the thousands of municipal employees providing these services.
- The current model must be designed to protect municipal operating and capital investments into programs they operate.
- In late **November 2022**, the Province issued guidance for OHT governance that placed municipalities and long-term care homes in the discretionary category. The Caucus taxes and expends over \$100M per year on direct healthcare.



Paramedic Services

The EOWC advocates for:

- 1. Permanent, sustainable and predictable funding** to support paramedic and community paramedicine efforts.
- 2. Dispatch system modernization** to improve the prioritization of calls and overall level of service.
- 3. Reduce offload delays** at hospitals to allow paramedics to spend more hours serving their communities
- 4. Community college paramedicine enrolment** must increase

Advocacy based on evidence and data:

In May 2023, the EOWC released the updated the EOWC's 2019 Review of **Eastern Ontario Paramedic Services Situational Overview report**.

- The report provides an updated environmental scan, new five-year predictive forecasts, and the above recommendations.
- www.eowc.org/2023paramedicstudy



2023 EOWC Priorities

3: Long-Term Care

Long-Term Care

- Municipal Governments are key partners in delivering long-term care and deserve a seat at decision making tables related to community health care ('say for pay').
- The EOWC was an initial advocate for the 4 hours of care model and commends the Province for implementing this model.
- Municipalities are witnessing an unprecedented strain on the human resource requirements of our health care system. The staffing shortage is causing longer wait times, hospital closures, and increased dollars spent for the same service level, among other problems.

The EOWC advocates for:

1. Proper implementation of the provincial long-term care **human resources strategy** to address staff shortages that works for rural homes
2. The Province to **eliminate staffing agencies** that pose unnecessary and unsustainable resource and cost burdens
3. The Province to review and modernize the LTC **funding framework** that is equitable for rural homes



Continued Advocacy Items

Issues of ongoing importance that have been advocated for in the past and that the Caucus will continue to support on an as-needed basis.

2023 EOWC Advocacy

- EOWC 2023 Inaugural Meeting (January)
- ROMA 2023 Conference (January)
 - Multi-ministerial delegation, 2 individual delegations, and delegations with NDP and Liberal Caucuses
- Provincial Budget Submission
- Federal Budget Submission
- Strategic priority setting meeting (March)
- Partner for the Ontario Farmers' Association Health Vibrant Communities Summit (March)
- EOWC Staff attend Ontario Chamber of Commerce consultation meeting re: housing affordability and supply solutions focused policy document (March)
- EOWC Staff participated in consultations with Ontario Chamber of Commerce for housing report (March)
- EOWC-WOWC Chair and Vice-Chair strategic priority meeting (April)
- EOWC Chair, Vice-Chair and staff meet with government elected officials, staff and stakeholders on the '7 in 7' (ongoing)
- Member Council presentations (ongoing)

2022 EOWC Advocacy

- EOWC 2022 Inaugural Meeting (January)
- ROMA 2022 Conference (January)
 - Multi-ministerial delegation: MMAH, MOH, MCCS, MLTC
- Strategic priority setting meeting with StrategyCorp (March)
- EOWC regional municipal staff housing summit (June)
- Meeting with EOWC Chair and FCM President (August)
- EOWC – WOWC joint Wardens’ meeting (August)
- 2021 AMO Conference (August)
 - Individual delegations with MMAH, MCU, MOH
- EOWC Chair and staff meeting with Federal Minister of Housing on the ‘7 in 7’ (November)
- Chair and staff attend Queen’s Park for Renfrew County’s advocacy day (November)
- New municipal council orientation package (November)
- EOWC staff meetings with Ministers, MPs and MPPs on the ‘7 in 7’ (Fall-Winter)
- Meeting with MMAH Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing Division to showcase RHIS (December)
- Meeting with OHBA staff to share ‘7 in 7’ and the RHIS (November)

Contact Us

Website www.eowc.org

Email info@eowc.org

Twitter @EOWC_ON

LinkedIn Eastern Ontario
Wardens' Caucus



Questions?