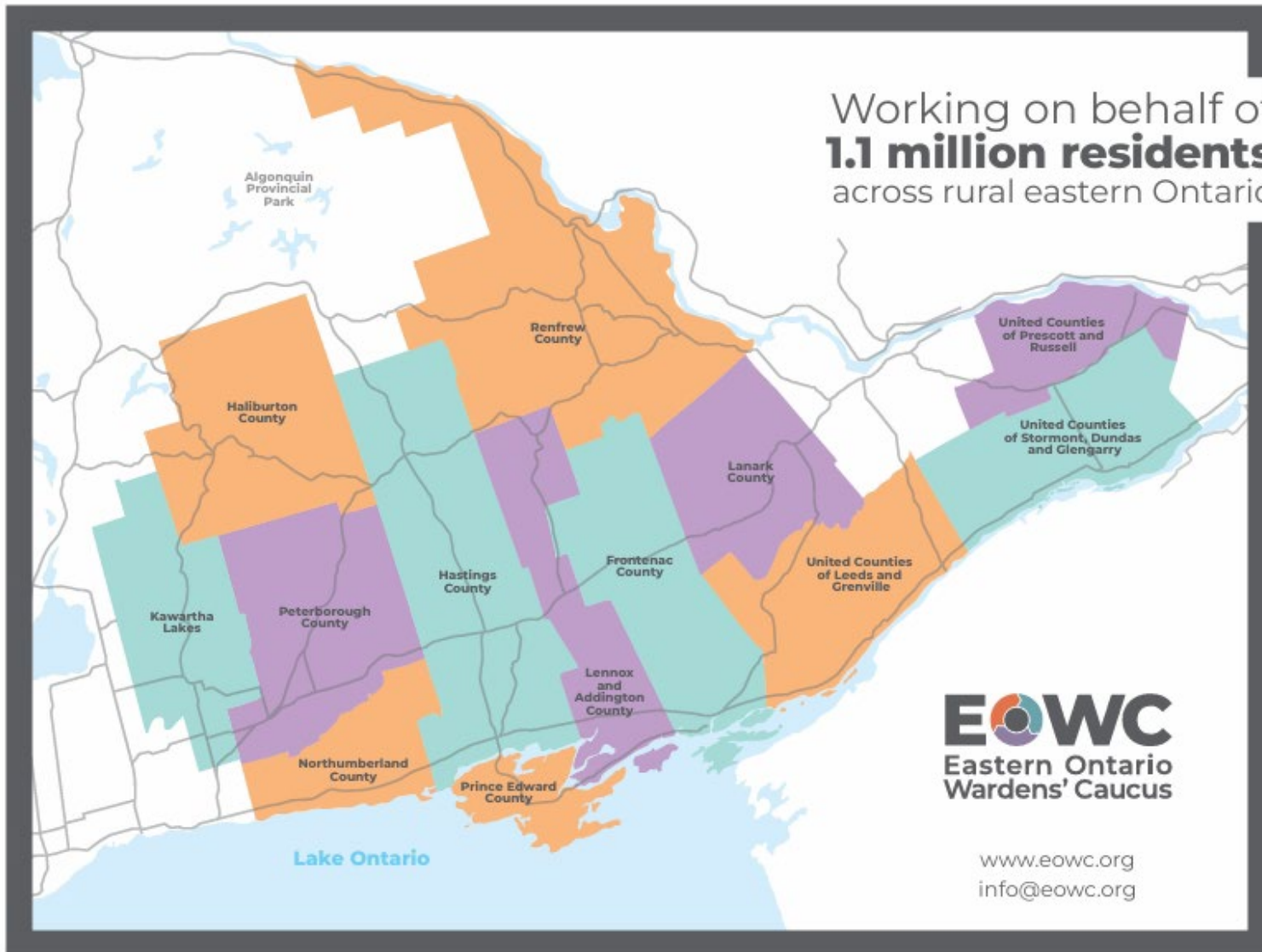




Overview and Current Advocacy

AMCTO Zone 6 Meeting
April 17, 2026

Success Through Partnership



- 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
- 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

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

Who We Are

- We advocate on behalf of **103 municipalities** and nearly **800,000 residents** – nearly **¼ of the municipalities in Ontario**
- We cover **50,000 square kilometres** - about the size of Nova Scotia
- Founded in 2002 and incorporated in 2010, the EOWC is a regional non-profit organization. Our Board of Directors is comprised of the Heads of Council of 13 upper and single-tier member municipalities across eastern Ontario

Our Value

- A united, regional champion
- Build partnership and relationships
- Homework-based and solutions focused advocacy
- Combine resources, share insight, and leverage expertise, data, and evidence to 'move the needle'
- Inform policy, programs, legislation and regulations
- Meaningful investment partner
- Deliver on time and on budget
- Develop EOWC region policy papers with key data

How We Do It

- EOWC Board of Directors
 - Led by the Chair and Vice-Chair
- CAOs' Group
 - Working groups
 - Includes CAOs, senior staff, subject matter experts
- Secretary-Treasurer and the Strategic Planning Committee
 - Sheridan Graham, CAO of Peterborough County
- EOWC Staff
 - Executive Director
 - Meredith Staveley-Watson
 - Administration and Communications Coordinator
 - Jessica Uitvlugt

Strong Partnerships

- EOLC / EORN
- Government of Canada / CMHC
- Province of Ontario
- FCM
- AMO
- ROMA
- CAMA
- AMCTO
- OMAA
- Rural Ontario Institute
- OGRA
- Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus
- Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus
- Ontario Big City Mayors' Caucus
- GreenPAC / Environment Leadership Canada
- Ontario Chamber of Commerce
- United Way – East Region
- Paramedic Chiefs of Canada / Paramedic Chiefs of Ontario
- AdvantAge
- Ontario Municipal Social Services Association
- SEOPAF
- Ontario Home Builders' Association

Strong Partners



GLSLCI MOU and Canada-US Advocacy



Ontario Auto Mayors' Group



OFA and EOWC Sign MOU



OBCM: 'Solve The Crisis' & Elect Respect



**ELECT
RESPECT**

DEMOCRACY DEPENDS ON IT



Municipal
Climate
Internship

GreenPac
Canada

2025 Municipal Climate Interns



Roberta Green
Napanee, ON



Amrit Kaur
Ottawa, ON



Molly Langabeer
Belleville, ON



Ashtyn Nauffts
Brooklin, ON



Meeting with the Ontario Medical Association



Eastern Ontario Housing Summit with home builders, municipal officials, and non-profit leaders

FCM Board of Directors



Government Relations Highlights

- **Ontario Offsets OPP Cost Increases** for Small and Rural Municipalities- \$77M
- Participate in both the **Federal and Provincial Budget Consultations**
- MOI **Centralized Asset Management Plan System**
- Invited to government announcements on 2026 Budget, Energy, Rural Affairs, Economic Resilience, and Infrastructure
- **VIA Rail and ALTO** Train Engagement for the East
- Legislation consultations and submissions on EOWC priorities

Presentation to
Standing
Committee on
Heritage,
Infrastructure
and Cultural
Policy:
Bill 9, *The
Municipality
Accountability
Act*



ALTO Resolution

The EOWC Opposes Alto High-Speed Rail Project In Its Current Form

- Limited municipal consultation and unclear impacts (including municipal costs)
- Concerns about effects on rural communities and the environment
- Need better alignment with eastern Ontario priorities (urban benefit at the cost of rural)
- Encourage stakeholders to share feedback with ALTO and federal officials
- Request more information and encourage exploration of routes along existing infrastructure (e.g., rail lines or Highways 401)

2024-2027 Strategic Priorities

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Economic Resilience

The Bridge to Opportunity, Equity, and Growth



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

PRIORITY ONE: INFRASTRUCTURE

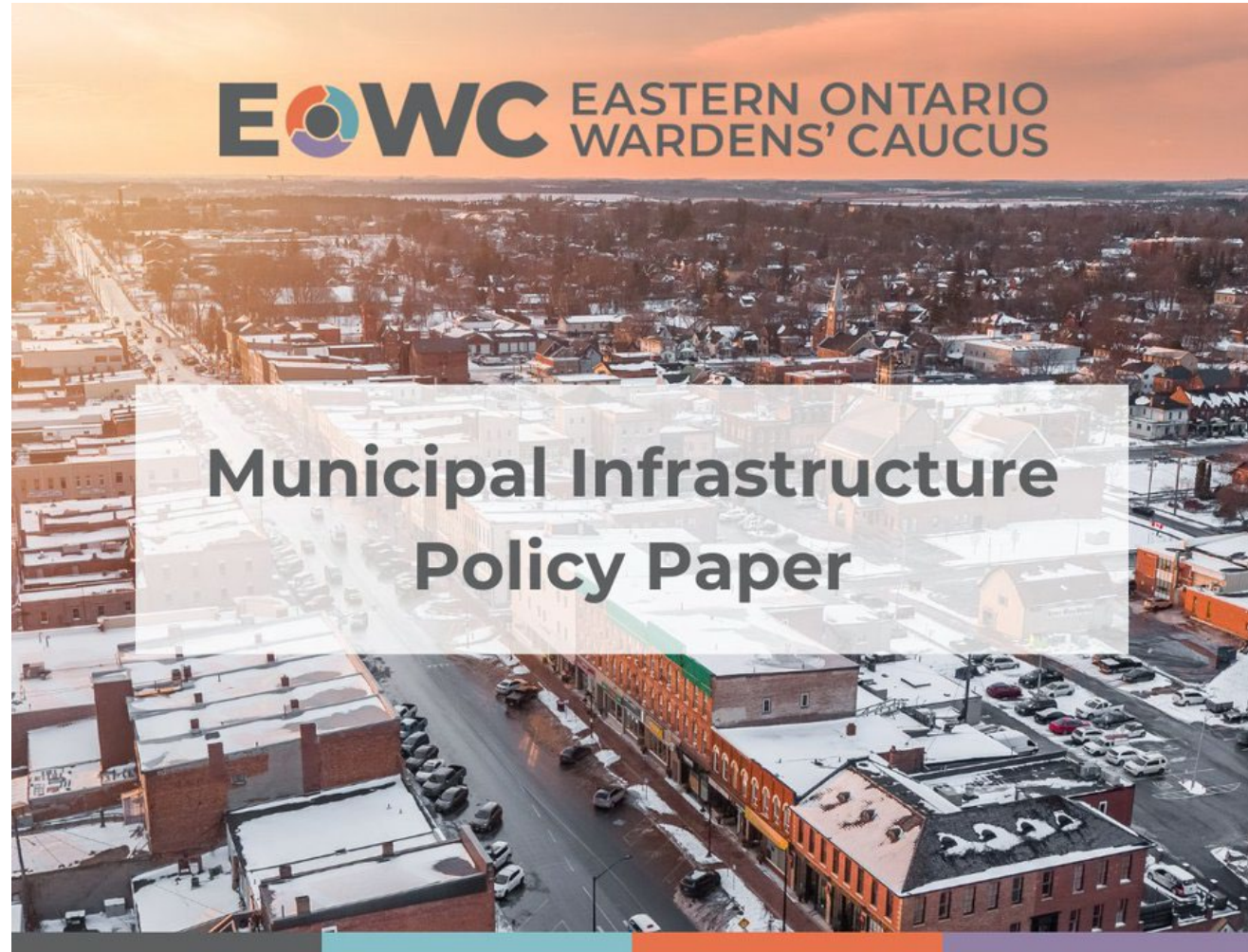


The Foundation for Local Prosperity

The EOWC is committed to advocating for vital infrastructure assets, policy and financial supports. We will partner with both the federal and provincial governments and appropriate allies to:

- 1.** Invest in municipal infrastructure that provides predictable, fair, evidence-based funding to allow municipalities to plan and create economic environments that foster growth.
- 2.** Create flexible and adaptive policies to enable our municipalities and the Ontario Government to unlock capacity and build innovative infrastructure solutions.
- 3.** Invest in infrastructure that supports an environmentally sustainable economy.
- 4.** Advocate for continued and necessary investment in provincially and federally-owned and controlled infrastructure.

Mind The Gap



EOWC EASTERN ONTARIO
WARDENS' CAUCUS

Municipal Infrastructure Policy Paper

There is an upfront cost to growth creating a burden for small rural 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**

EOWC Deficit

2011

2021

In rural areas it costs more to maintain the same kilometre of road

Cost to taxpayers for maintaining 1 km of paved municipal road:

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

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

5% municipal tax increase

Toronto

Ottawa

EOWC's 103 municipalities

\$35M

\$93M

\$64M

PRIORITY TWO: HOUSING



The Backbone of Thriving and Supportive
Communities

The EOWC commits to partner with both the Federal and Ontario Governments and other housing providers and champions to:

- 1.** Continue to advocate for alternative funding to assist Eastern Ontario municipalities to plan and develop housing and related infrastructure.
- 2.** Make programming more equitable by advocating for the expansion of the parameters for funding eligibility and allocation across all municipalities.
- 3.** Develop and recommend flexible and adaptive housing policies to enable Eastern Ontario municipalities and the Ontario Government to build innovative housing solutions.

Additionally, we will promote shovel-ready housing initiatives and infrastructure projects across Eastern Ontario's municipalities. We will also examine the development of a rural housing regional repository that shares expertise, best practices, successful projects, tools and resources across our 103 municipalities. This will support our members to build the local conditions and capacity to respond to housing needs strategically and efficiently.

PRIORITY THREE: HEALTH CARE



The Engine for Healthy and Resilient Communities

Going forward, the EOWC will:

- 1.** Undertake an environmental scan to measure what municipalities are spending directly on health care and to access related trend data and forecasting. This will include integrating a social determinants of health framework into the assessment.
- 2.** Provide evidence-based feedback and data to inform government decisions around long-term care, paramedic services, public health and the evolution of Ontario Health Teams. The EOWC will incorporate social determinants of health to map out impact.
- 3.** Educate the public and continue to advocate for adequate and sustainable funding to support the delivery of health care services and to ensure the long-term viability of the health care system.

Municipalities are a key partner in health care

- The EOWC's municipalities invested ~ \$613M for health services (2017-2021).
- This is \$123M per year.
 - Paramedic services
 - Long-term care
 - Public health
 - Health care workers
 - Hospital investment

Paramedic Services

The EOWC region covers 12 paramedic services, supporting 1.1M people

- 12,747 people actively enrolled in community paramedicine. A total of 42,315 enrolled since start of CPLTC Funding (January 2026).
- 10% reduction in emergency department use; 7% reduction in hospital admissions
- Clients and caregivers report 'very satisfied'
- Expanded scope of care



Regulated Paramedic College

Create a Regulated Paramedic College

Ontario is now an outlier among Canadian jurisdictions, with most provinces having established paramedic regulatory colleges. Establishing a college would strengthen public protection, modernize professional oversight, and better position paramedics to support health system priorities.

The EOWC Recommends:

- The Ontario Government, led by the Minister of Health, to announce intent to include paramedics under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*. This would start the process of establishing a regulated paramedic college.



Regulated Paramedic College

Recommendations

1. Establish a fair and sustainable OPP billing model
2. Improve transparency and predictability in billing notices
3. Provide clearer data
4. Commit to long-term provincial support to stabilize OPP billing costs and reduce uncertainty
5. Streamline administrative processes

PRIORITY FOUR: ECONOMIC RESILLIENCE



The Bridge to Opportunity, Equity, and Growth

2025 Priority: Economic Resilience



**Eastern Ontario's Top
Economic Sectors Are At
Risk**

**Economic Resilience: The Bridge to
Opportunity, Equity, and Growth**

Trade and Tariffs Across the Region

EASTERN ONTARIO EXPORTS AT RISK

Sector	\$ Value/Sales	Jobs (Estimate; Direct Jobs Only)	# of CDs with this in 'top 3' export sectors
Agriculture, dairy product manufacturing, grain and oilseed milling, farms	\$8,235,503,277	12,308	11
Resins, synthetic fibres, rubber and fibres/filaments manuf.; rubber product manuf.	\$5,951,910,086	4,114	4
Motor vehicle parts manuf; other transit and ground passenger trans Railway rolling stock	\$2,670,323,318	1,021	4
Electrical power gen, trans & distrib.; other electrical equipment & component manuf.	\$2,365,579,841	3,580	5
Alumina and aluminum production and processing; iron and steel mills and ferro-alloy manufacturing	\$1,747,146,794	4,713	2

Trade and Tariffs Across the Region

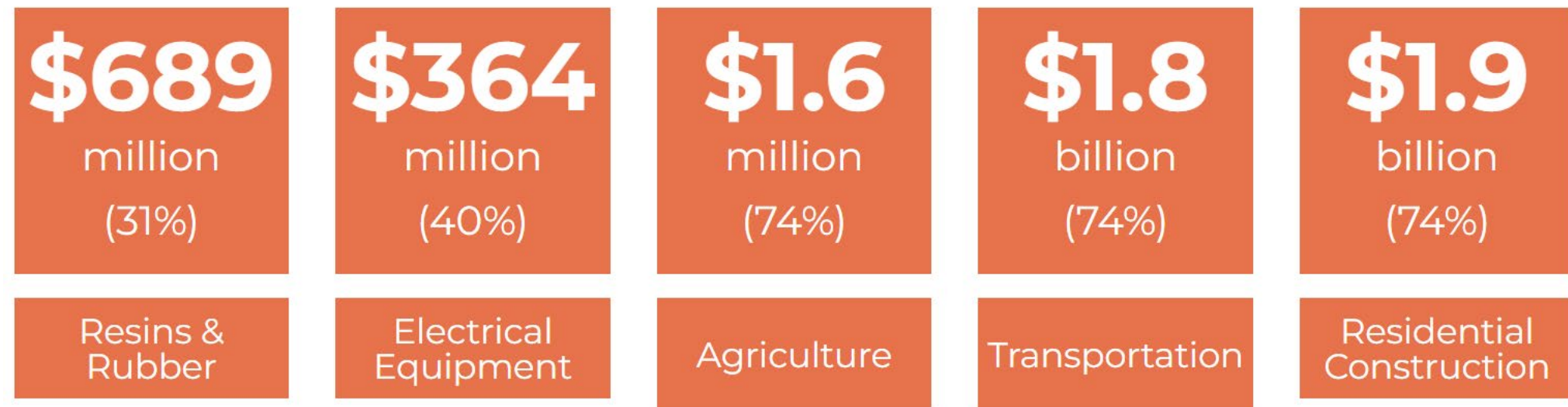
Top Commercial or Industrial Export by Eastern Ontario Census Division (2021), by Dollar Volume

(at risk in the face of 25% tariffs)

Jurisdiction	Top Export Sector	\$ Value Top Export Sector
Haliburton	Residential building construction	\$63,465,690
Kawartha Lakes	Dairy product manufacturing	\$154,833,089
Northumberland	Basic chemical manufacturing	\$1,740,927,393
Peterborough	Grain and oilseed milling**	\$496,953,307
Hastings	Motor vehicle parts manufacturing	\$1,039,614,332
Prince Edward	Farms	\$271,450,837
Lennox and Addington	Rubber product manufacturing	\$1,027,721,309
Frontenac	Resin, synthetic rubber and fibres/filaments manufacturing	\$4,079,336,835
Lanark	Fabric mills	\$194,037,944
Leeds and Grenville	Other electrical equipment & component manufacturing	\$1,075,196,526
Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Dairy product manufacturing	\$862,461,728
Prescott-Russell	Iron and steel mills and ferro-alloy manufacturing	\$738,925,086
Renfrew	Scientific research and dev. services	\$345,248,847

Eastern Ontario's Ability to Supply Its Own Inputs

How can we build on this strong foundation and grow our own supply chains?



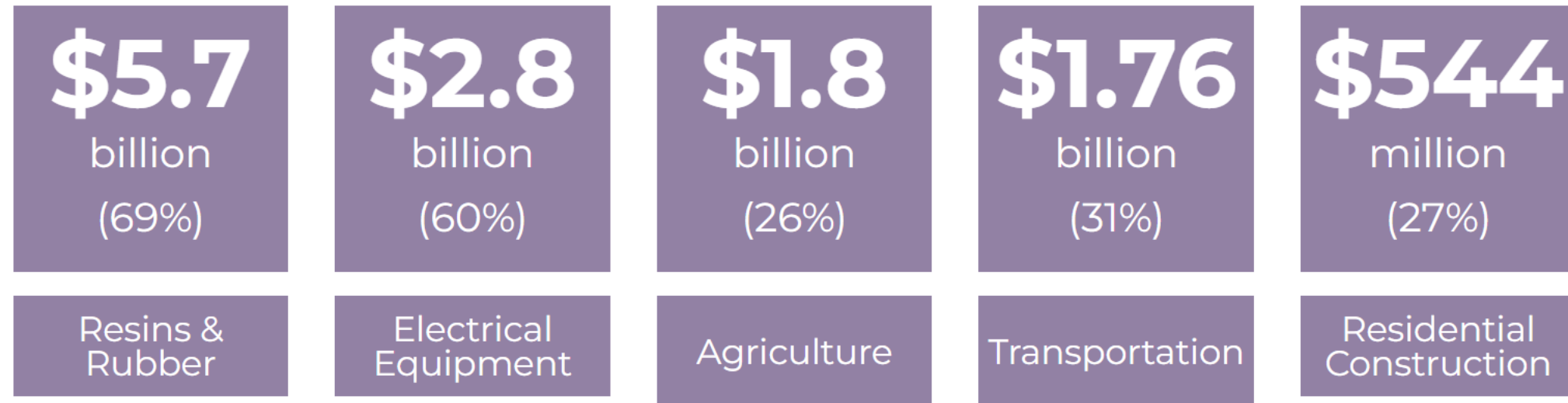
Eastern Ontario Imports

How can we diversify our supply chains and buy more from other regions or provinces?



Eastern Ontario Exports

How can we sell more to other regions or provinces?



Affordability Beyond the GTHA: Different Needs, Different Solutions



Affordability Beyond the GTHA: Different Needs, Different Solutions

Asset Management

- 13 members have a combined annual requirement to support \$388M of assets; \$260M of that cost is for core assets
- Over $\frac{1}{3}$ of those annual costs remain unfunded, requiring an average 34% tax levy increase to support unfunded asset management costs.

Development Charges

- Less than half of the EOWC's municipalities have DCs.

Affordability
Beyond the
GTHA:
Different
Needs,
Different
Solutions

Funding Infrastructure Growth

- Infrastructure in our region is lagging behind
- Other tools are needed to generate revenue.
- The *Municipal Act* restricts municipalities (25% cap of their own source revenue)
- Most of our municipalities do not have enough debt capacity to maintain current assets, let alone pay for growth

Despite local investment, the EOWC's Infrastructure debt has deepened by 58% (2011-2021)

- \$3.74B to \$6B

Affordability
Beyond the
GTHA:
Different
Needs,
Different
Solutions

Affordability at Risk: Avoiding House Poor Communities

When municipalities can only recover costs through property taxes, residents face the real risk of being unable to afford the operating costs of their homes.

Affordability Beyond the GTHA: Different Needs, Different Solutions

Opportunities

1. Review alternative models to sustainably manage and build infrastructure
2. Offer equitable and transparent 0% or low interest loans
3. Increase the targeted investment for growing rural and small-urban municipalities through HEWSF and MHIP
4. Allow a share of municipal land transfer tax for all municipalities
5. Implement municipal tools to optimize property assessment
6. Streamline grant applications and reporting to reduce red tape

STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT



The Value of the EOWC's
Voice

From 2024-2027, the EOWC will:

1. Ensure our work is informed by research and evidence-based approach.
2. Engage in collaborations and partnerships that move the needle on issues impacting eastern Ontario.
3. Communicate strategically and effectively on multiple levels with the government and all our key partners and members.
4. Provide effective and strategic leadership and build our organizational strength to ensure our efforts are impactful.

Looking Ahead in 2026: Ontario 2026 Budget

Chair's Statement: 2026 Ontario Budget

“The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus thanks Premier Doug Ford, Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy, and Minister Rob Flack for their leadership in delivering a 2026 Budget that supports affordability and invests in rural economic resilience. Measures such as the one-year Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) removal, the historic small business corporate income tax reduction, new investments in health, social services, supportive housing, and enhancements to the Ontario Transit Investment Fund will provide meaningful relief and growth opportunities for residents and businesses across eastern Ontario. This Budget reflects a clear understanding of the challenges and priorities facing rural and small-urban communities.”



- **EOWC Chair, Bonnie Clark**
(Warden of Peterborough County)

EOWC Ontario 2026 Budget Requests

- Modernize municipal fiscal partnerships
- Support rural and small-urban growth
- Invest in eastern Ontario ports
- Establish a Paramedic Regulatory College
- Ensure sustainable OPP policing
- Expand Building Faster Fund access to rural and small
- 'Solve The Crisis' around homelessness and mental health

OPP Billing and Fine Reform



OPP Billing and Fine Reform

Recommendations OPP Billing and Transparency

1. Establish a fair and sustainable OPP billing model
2. Improve transparency and predictability in billing notices
3. Provide clearer data
4. Commit to long-term provincial support to stabilize OPP billing costs and reduce uncertainty
5. Streamline administrative processes

Communications and Outreach



In 2025, the EOWC rebranded its logo to show Canadian Pride, adding a maple leaf.

This branding has been added to all EOWC materials and communication initiatives, which can be found on our [website](#).

EOWC
Eastern Ontario
Wardens' Caucus



Communications and Outreach

- In 2025:
 - 6 Newsletters
 - 4 News Releases
- Sign up for the newsletter: [EOWC Newsletter Sign Up](#)




CONTACT US

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FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

 Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

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