

2023 Strategic Priorities

Attainable and Affordable Housing

As part of the Ontario Government's goal of building 1.5 million homes by 2031, the EOWC is looking to do our part to increase housing supply through our '7 in 7' regional housing plan.

Across the EOWC region, there are 12,000 to 14,000 units on municipal community rental housing wait lists. The EOWC's '7 in 7' regional housing plan proposes building at least **7,000 community rental units over seven years** across the region to address the wait lists. Using a mixed-model approach, the '7 in 7' plan has the added benefit to bring on nearly 21,000 additional market rate units. This would **total 28,000 housing units**. The plan requires partnering with Federal and Provincial Governments, as well as the private and non-profit sectors, and Indigenous partners. The EOWC is working with KWM Consulting Inc. to create a business case which will be ready by Summer 2023.

The EOWC is also calling on government to develop a strong **financial framework** to support municipalities to prepare, plan and implement housing and support services. In addition, the EOWC is advocating for government to **clarify and standardize 'affordable and 'attainable' housing definitions**.

Long-Term Care

Municipal governments are key partners in the delivery of long-term care, which was highlighted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The EOWC was an early advocate for the four hours of care model that the Province is in the process of implementing and continues to provide evidence-based feedback to inform the government decisions.

The EOWC is advocating for the Province to **implement the long-term care human resources strategy** to address staffing shortages that work for rural long-term care facilities and labour markets. As part of the human resources advocacy, the EOWC is continuing to call on the Provincial Government to **eliminate staffing agencies** that pose an unnecessary and unsustainable resource and cost burden on municipalities and taxpayers.

Additionally, the EOWC is advocating that the Provincial Government **review and modernize the long-term care funding framework**. The EOWC is ready to provide input and work with government and stakeholders.

Paramedic Services

EOWC member municipalities are experiencing increased pressures on their paramedic services. The EOWC is advocating for **permanent, sustainable and predictable funding** to support paramedic services as well as **community paramedicine** efforts.

The EOWC is also calling on the Provincial Government to **modernize the dispatch system** to improve the prioritization of calls and overall level of service. Additionally, the Caucus is advocating for the Provincial Government and associated stakeholders to **reduce offload delays** at hospitals which would allow paramedics to spend more hours serving their communities.

The EOWC is working with ApexPro Consulting Inc. to update the **Review of Eastern Ontario Paramedic Services Situation Overview report** to be launched in May 2023. The EOWC looks forward to sharing report findings and recommendations with government and stakeholders.



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Chair's Message

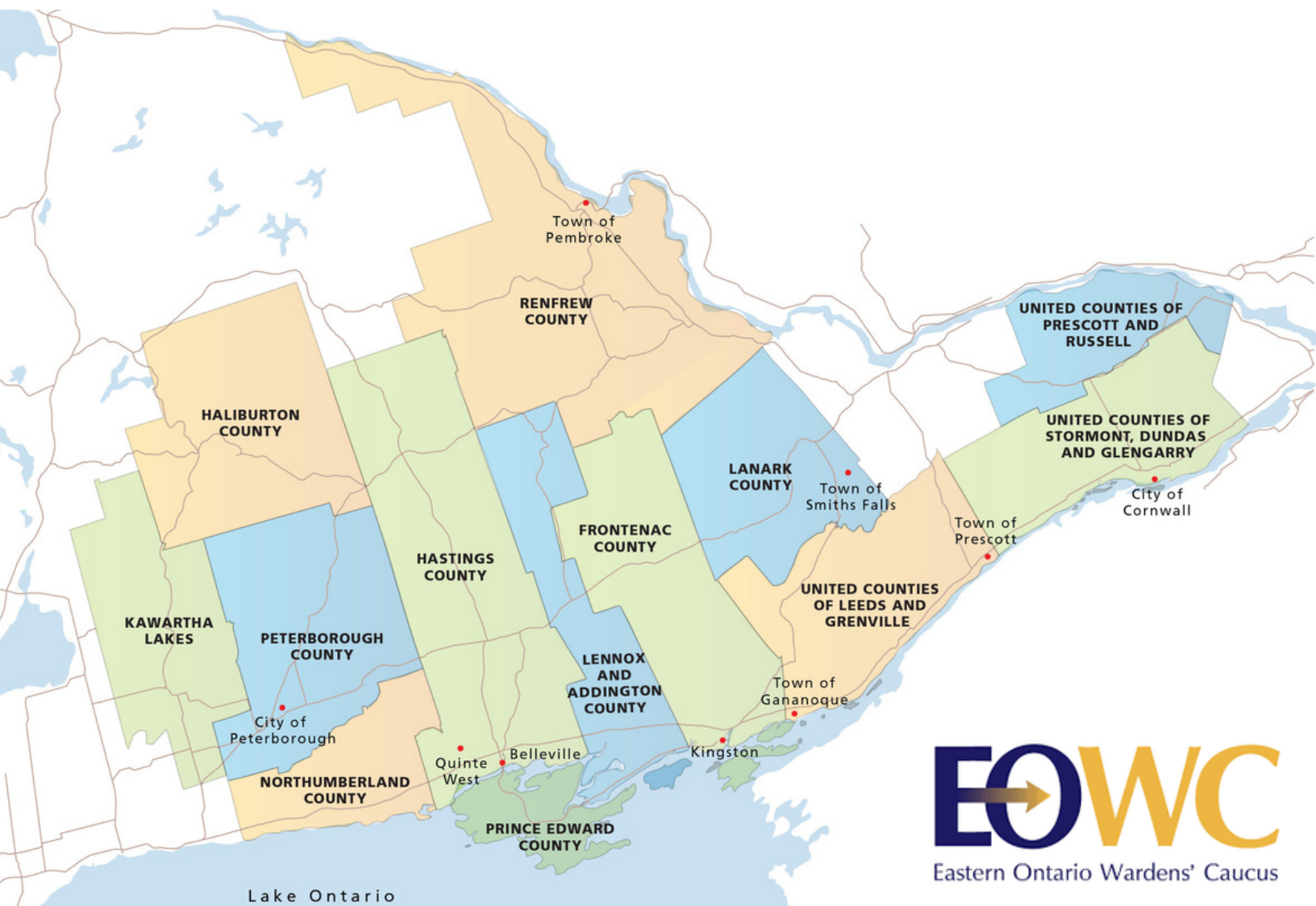
"Now more than ever, municipal governments play a vital role as organizations that unify and strengthen Ontario and Canada. The EOWC is in a position to lead, inform and respond during the coming year and beyond. The Caucus has set clear goals and we intend to strongly advocate on behalf of our region's communities and residents" -
Chair, Warden Peter Emon

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) is an incorporated non-profit organization comprised of the Heads of Councils of 13 upper-tier and single-tier municipalities. The EOWC covers an area of approximately 50,000 square kilometres from Northumberland County to the Québec border. The EOWC supports and advocates on behalf of 103 municipalities including 750,000 residents to champion priorities and work with government, stakeholders, media, and the public.

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
County of Prince Edward
County of Renfrew
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry



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