

October 24, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Legislative Building, Room 281
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1
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The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation
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Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8
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**Re: Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus support for an Ontario-wide
licensing framework for rideshare companies**

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Sarkaria,

On behalf of the [Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus \(EOWC\)](#), representing 103 rural and small urban municipalities across Eastern Ontario, I am writing to request that the Ontario Government strongly consider adopting a province-wide licensing framework for rideshare companies.

Municipalities across Eastern Ontario, including the County of Northumberland and Township of Russell, have been advocating for a provincial licensing framework for rideshare companies that would align Ontario with Quebec and British Columbia. Ridesharing provides a vital transportation option in communities across Ontario, but much of the province is still underserved by ridesharing services.

In many parts of the province, ridesharing is unregulated or regulated in a 'patchwork' manner. Since 2016, dozens of municipalities across Ontario have developed unique bylaws to regulate ridesharing. These bylaws cover topics such as licensing scheme, insurance requirements, driver screening standards, vehicle requirements, and fee / payment schedules.

The benefits of an Ontario-wide licensing framework of rideshare companies include:

- **Supports economic development** - As Ontario continues to attract investments in areas such as electronic vehicle (EV) manufacturing, communities across the province will need additional transportation options. Ridesharing helps people get around growing communities while also providing part-time flexible job opportunities.
- **Connects communities** - The current patchwork regulatory structure does not reflect the reality of regional transportation, which does not stop at municipal borders. Similar to the One Fare approach of the government, a provincial regulatory framework would allow people to use ridesharing to move seamlessly between communities in the province.
- **Helps reduce impaired driving** - Research shows that the presence of ridesharing in a community can help reduce impaired driving. In many rural communities, transportation options are often sparse or unavailable late at night, which can lead some individuals to choose to drive impaired. A provincial regulatory framework would allow ridesharing to expand more easily into these communities and provide people with a safe ride option.
- **Enables innovative approaches to transit** – As one example of innovative partnerships, the Town of Innisfil and Uber Canada co-designed a custom transit solution, named Innisfil Transit. With a touch of a button, residents are offered flat fare rides to popular destinations, such as the train station, the recreation complex, or the Innisfil Employment Area. Since the launch of Innisfil Transit, thousands of residents have taken trips to connect with the commuter rail station, get to work, go out with friends, or visit their doctor.

Premier Ford and Minister Sakaria, we thank you for your consideration of this important issue. As always, the EOWC remains a trusted partner and welcomes continued collaboration and opportunities for open dialogue on behalf of our member municipalities.

Sincerely,



Peter Emon
Chair, 2024
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
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