

The Partnership:

Ontario Federation of Agriculture:

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is celebrating 80 years of advocacy in 2016. OFA is the largest general farm organization in Ontario, representing more than 36,000 farm families across the province. We are a dynamic, farmer-led organization based in Guelph, championing the interests of Ontario farmers through government relations, farm policy research, lobby efforts, community representation, education and media relations.

Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus:

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. (EOWC) is an incorporated not-for-profit organization comprised of the heads of Council of 13 upper-tier and single-tier municipalities in eastern Ontario, representing 750,000 residents across the region. Over the past 15 years, the EOWC has established partnerships; conducted research and analysis; and developed advocacy, policies and recommendations for municipal, provincial and federal policymakers, including a series of white papers and an economic development strategy.

In total, the EOWC region extends across 45,000 square kilometres of territory, including 103 rural municipalities and containing 69,000 lane-kilometres of road and 5,000 structures. The EOWC's work continues to benefit residents and businesses in rural Eastern Ontario, including the creation of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN), which resulted in a multi-year, \$170-million commitment from local, provincial and federal governments as well as the private sector to build a rural broadband network across Eastern Ontario.

Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus:

The Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. (WOWC) is a not-for-profit organization representing 15 upper and single tier municipalities in southwestern Ontario with more than three million residents. Its purpose is to enhance the prosperity and overall wellbeing of rural and small urban communities across the region. Caucus members work collectively to influence federal, provincial and municipal legislative, regulatory and program initiatives through advocacy, research and analysis and education.

Collectively, the municipalities represent approximately 300 communities, and almost half a million square kilometres of territory, more than 90% of it rural. A rough count indicates that these municipalities administer approximately 25,000 kilometres of roads, more than 3,000 bridges, and about 24,000 culverts.