

**Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in  
Advance of the 2023 Federal Budget**

**By: The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus**

January 18, 2023

## **EOWC Recommendations**

### **Recommendation 1:**

That the Federal Government formally commit, in Budget 2023 and beyond, to be a partner with the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) to build and support the EOWC's '7 in 7' regional housing plan.

### **Recommendation 2:**

That the Federal Government formally commit, in Budget 2023 and beyond, to supporting regional and stackable municipal housing projects, to ensure that the EOWC's '7 in 7' regional housing plan can be leveraged across its communities.

### **Recommendation 3:**

That the Federal Government formally commit, in Budget 2023 and beyond, to having funding program applications that the EOWC and its regional municipalities can apply to that are within rural municipalities' resource capacities and appropriate timeframes (90 days).

### **Recommendation 4:**

That the Federal Government, under their climate change action targets, make sure to integrate a rural perspective when developing programs and funding streams to ensure that they can be used to implement rural infrastructure projects, including housing.

### **Recommendation 5:**

That the Federal Government commit to Eastern Ontario Development Program (EODP) funded by FedDev – to support the region's municipalities to support businesses growth and development.

### **Recommendation 6:**

That the Federal Government support the Indigenous consultations as part of the '7 in 7' regional housing plan to ensure fulsome and proper engagement.

# **EOWC's '7 in 7' Regional Rental Housing Project**

## **What Is the '7 in 7'?**

The EOWC endorses the urgent need to build more housing across the region. More housing of all types including affordable community rental units is a critical component to eastern Ontario's future prosperity. The EOWC has developed and is committed to delivering a bold, innovative '7 in 7' regional housing plan. This plan will deliver seven thousand (7,000) affordable community rental housing units, while incenting an additional twenty-one thousand (21,000) attainable market rate units over seven (7) years, totaling approximately twenty-eight thousand (28,000) units.

The EOWC believes that all residents deserve to live and thrive in their communities of choice. Across rural eastern Ontario, residents should not be waiting ten years to have a place to rent that fits within their income threshold. Under the Ontario Government's goal of building 1.5 million homes by 2031, an increase of affordable community rental housing supply needs to occur. By building the community affordable rental housing supply, residents who are vital members of the region's economy and communities, do not get left behind as economic pressures persist after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

The proposed '7 in 7' additions to the housing supply will dramatically reduce the municipal wait lists for community housing and reduce the pressure on market rate housing at the same time. The '7 in 7' plan will be accomplished through a regional model to ensure cost efficiency and savings around group collaboration and procurement. The project will also include a mixed model approach to housing using a private-public partnership where the EOWC would work with government, and the private and non-profit sectors.

## **Vision Statement**

The EOWC will commit to increase our share of rental supply by 7,000 units across eastern Ontario within seven years, and work in partnership with the federal and provincial governments, local municipalities, private sector, and non-profit sector.

This will include a regional model that accounts for cost savings, local flexibility and sustainability. This goal will be accomplished through joint procurement and design, incentivization, municipal coordination, land use planning, long-term operational models, and leveraging partnerships.

An innovative approach to funding, land use planning, engineering, inspection, and servicing will be required.

## **Background**

The EOWC's main priority is safe, affordable, and attainable housing. In June of 2022, the EOWC hosted a regional municipal Housing Summit including a variety of municipal

staff from different departments related to housing to gather information, ideas, and recommendations. Using information from the summit, the EOWC developed the draft concept of a regional housing project to tackle affordable and attainable housing, titled the '7 in 7'.

In August 2022, during the Association of Municipalities (AMO) 2022 Conference, the EOWC met with Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to share the project. Since that time, EOWC has met with Federal and Provincial Ministers, including Federal Minister of Housing, the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, to share the '7 in 7' plan concept and get valuable feedback.

In October of 2022, the EOWC released a Request for Expression of Interest for a consultant to develop a feasibility study around the '7 in 7' regional housing project. Once the consultant is awarded in mid-January of 2023, the EOWC will move ahead to develop a regional business plan on the '7 in 7' to ensure the project moves ahead using an evidence-based, efficient, and collaborative approach. As the business case is developed, more details will become clear on how to make this proposed solution a tangible reality.

## **Alignment with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities**

Based on the EOWC's 2022 main priority of affordable and attainable housing, the Caucus supports the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' below recommendations from their written 2023 Federal Budget Submission (submitted on October 8, 2022).

- **Recommendation 2:** That the government work with municipalities to promote a better quality of life for Canadians by addressing housing affordability, building the right kind of housing supply, and taking the critical steps needed to achieve our shared goal of ending chronic homelessness in Canada.
- **Recommendation 3:** That the government partner with municipalities and work directly with FCM to design and deliver the next generation of infrastructure in Canada, with a focus on local delivery that meets the needs of Canadians directly in their communities, no matter the size or location.

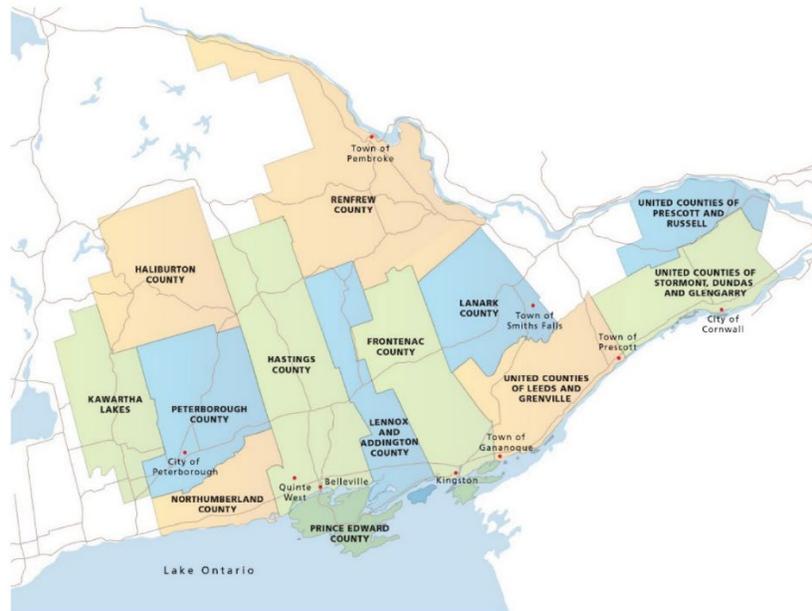
## Who is the EOWC?

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) Inc. is an incorporated non-profit organization comprised of the Heads of Council of 13 municipalities (11 upper-tier counties and two single-tier municipalities). The EOWC covers an area of approximately 50,000 square kilometres from Northumberland County east to the Québec border. The EOWC supports and advocates on behalf of property taxpayers and member municipalities across the region. The EOWC has gained support and momentum by speaking with a united voice to champion regional municipal priorities and work with government, business leaders, the 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



## Contact the EOWC

For advocacy follow-up, please contact Meredith, Staveley-Watson, the Manager of Government Relations and Policy, by phone at 647-545-8324 or by email at [Meredith.Staveley-Watson@eowc.org](mailto:Meredith.Staveley-Watson@eowc.org).

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