



EASTERN ONTARIO COUNTIES COMPARED TO WESTERN ONTARIO COUNTIES

ISSUE:

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus believes that Eastern Ontario is financially disadvantaged when compared with other similar regions of Ontario, specifically the fifteen counties comprising Western Ontario.

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

The findings of this comparable study between Eastern Ontario counties and Western Ontario counties supports the EOWC's case for new funding programs and fiscal arrangements with both the federal and provincial governments.

BACKGROUND:

In 2005 the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus engaged the firm of Allan & Partners Inc. to complete a comparable study of the financial ability of the thirteen counties of Eastern Ontario and the fifteen counties of Western Ontario to provide services.

Eastern Ontario Counties

Frontenac
Haliburton
Hastings
Kawartha Lakes
Lanark
Leeds and Grenville
Lennox and Addington
Northumberland
Peterborough
Prescott and Russell
Prince Edward
Renfrew
Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

Western Ontario Counties

Brant
Bruce
Chatham-Kent
Dufferin
Elgin
Essex
Grey
Haldimand
Huron
Lambton
Middlesex
Oxford
Perth
Simcoe
Wellington

The following chart summarizes the reports findings:

	Eastern Ontario	Western Ontario
Land Area	45,313 square kms	40,168 square kms
Population	979,732	2,161,299
Population Density	21.62 people/square km	53.81 people/square km
Taxable Assessment	\$46 billion	\$103 billion
Assessment Per Square Kilometre	\$1 million	\$2.5 million
Commercial Weighted Assessment	\$3.402 billion	\$8.958 billion
Industrial Weighted Assessment	\$1.504 billion	\$6.192 billion
Average Annual Assessment Growth	6.35%	7.1%
Average Commercial and Industrial Growth	4.21%	7.61%
Average Earnings Per Person	\$28,295 per year	\$30,868 per year
Downloaded Highways	1993.7 kms (1 km per \$23 million assessment) (2.04 kms per 1000 residents)	2016.0 kms (1 km per \$51 million assessment) (.93 kms per 1000 residents)

Overall the comparison of Western and Eastern Ontario highlights how increasingly difficult it is for Eastern Ontario to generate taxes to provide for the required provincially downloaded services.