

**Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in  
Advance of the 2023 Ontario Government's Budget**

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

February 9, 2023

## **EOWC Recommendations**

### **Recommendation 1:**

That the Ontario 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 Ontario 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 rental housing plan can be leveraged across its communities.

### **Recommendation 3:**

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

### **Recommendation 6:**

That the Ontario Government commit to funding a regional stream for the next five years with preferred terms and conditions (e.g., 50% provincial contribution versus 15-20% for private businesses).

# **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 and is aligned with the Ontario Government's goal of building 1.5 million homes by 2031. 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, 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 plan 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 the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Steve Clark, to share the project. Since that time, the EOWC has met with Federal and Provincial Ministers, Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament, 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 February of 2023, the consultant in partnership with the EOWC will develop a regional business case on the '7 in 7' to ensure the plan 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.

Recently in January during the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) 2023 Conference, the EOWC met with Associate Minister of Housing, the Honourable Michael Parsa, the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, the Honourable Merrilee Fullerton, as well as other Ontario Government Parliamentary Assistants and Members of Provincial Parliament to share the '7 in 7' plan and next steps where feedback was positive and the EOWC was encouraged to move the plan forward.

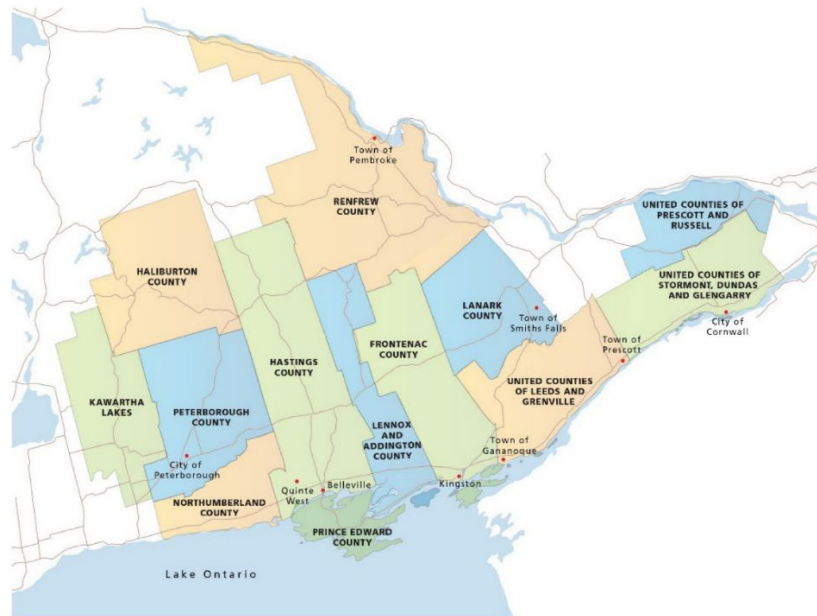
## Who is the EOWC?

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).

For general and/or media inquiries, please contact the EOWC at [info@EOWC.org](mailto:info@EOWC.org)