



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

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NEWS RELEASE

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### **EOWC hosts successful meeting with Federal MPs**

Earlier this week, members of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) welcomed their federal representatives from across the region to a breakfast meeting on Parliament Hill to discuss priorities and partnership opportunities that would directly benefit rural Eastern Ontario.

Warden Peter Emon, Chair of the EOWC, and MP Mike Bossio, Chair of the National Rural Caucus, delivered the opening remarks on behalf of their respective groups. Both spoke at length about the importance of a regional approach and the need for increased collaboration and partnership between the federal government and rural municipalities.

"Municipalities are your best partner, and the EOWC has a proven track record of providing accurate research to upper levels of government and completing projects on time and on budget, such as the Eastern Ontario Regional Network," Chair Emon told his federal counterparts. "With its history of success, Eastern Ontario can be the model that the rest of Canada benefits from."

The regional priorities discussed Monday, May 30 include stable infrastructure funding for roads and bridges – rural Eastern Ontario's public transit network – through continued support for the federal gas tax contributions; economic development resources to support both small businesses and large industries in rural sectors, with funding from the Eastern Ontario Development Program (EODF) being distributed through an existing network of fifteen Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) across the region; economic growth through improved digital infrastructure, by closing the cellular network coverage gaps that exist in many small and rural

communities; and support for a strong regional transportation network that focuses on export and reduces greenhouse gas emissions by focusing on the ports at Picton, Prescott and Cornwall.

“The federal government demonstrated a willingness to continue working together with rural municipalities to improve their infrastructure and grow their economy, and this week’s meeting was further proof of the mutual collaboration between both sectors,” added Chair Emon.



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