EOWC

2025 PARLIAMENT HILL ADVOCACY PACKAGE

October 21, 2025

EOWC
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

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About the EOWC

The EOWC is a non-profit organization advocating for **103 small urban and rural municipalities** across eastern Ontario. **Covering 50,000 square kilometres and serving 1.1 million people, or 1 in every 40 Canadians**, the EOWC unites local voices to champion regional priorities and work with governments, businesses, non-profits, Indigenous leaders, and the public.

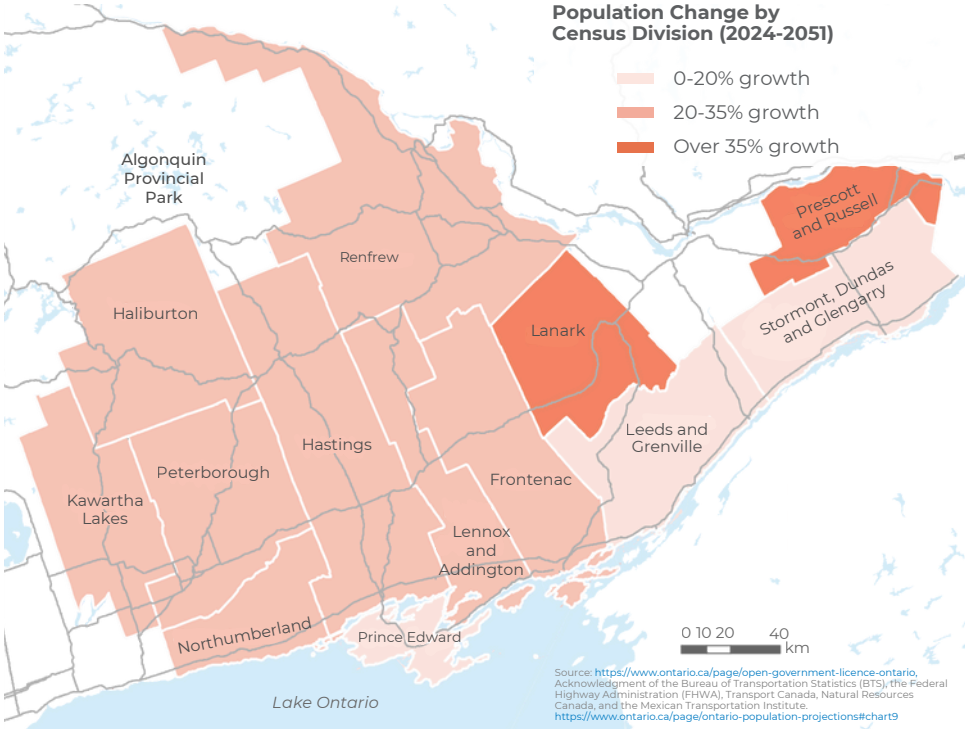
Members

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

Strategic Priorities

- Economic Resilience
- Municipal Infrastructure
- Housing
- Health Care

By 2051, in eastern Ontario the population is expected to grow by 25%



Source: https://www.ontario.ca/page/open-government-licence-ontario, Acknowledgment of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Transport Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and the Mexican Transportation Institute.
https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-population-projections#chart9

EOWC Municipalities Manage

$12 B

in Physical Assets and Spend More Than

$403 M

Annually on Maintaining Them

Figure excludes new infrastructure investments for housing, transportation, water and wastewater systems, recreation, and community services.

Same Tool, Big Difference in Revenue Generation

What a 5% increase in municipal own-purpose revenue would look like: one city vs. 103 municipalities

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Recommendations For Federal Action

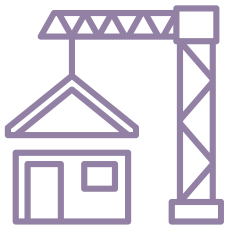
Federal-Municipal Partnerships to Drive Growth

- That the federal government work with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and municipalities to **build a strong, reliable fiscal framework** that empowers local governments to deliver results and build more prosperous Canadian communities.
- That the federal government deliver on Prime Minister Carney's promise to **"make municipalities whole"** and **ensure rural and small urban municipalities receive tailored support necessary to deliver on mutual goals** around housing, infrastructure and growth-related projects.

Housing and Infrastructure

That the federal government support municipalities to deliver projects and maintain assets by:

- **Investing in trade and transport-enabling ports across eastern Ontario to strengthen the 'Highway H20'** corridor and enhance both national and international trade competitiveness.
- Ensuring that **municipalities of all sizes are included in the design and implementation of Build Canada Homes.**
- **Recognizing and supporting Ontario municipalities around their unique legislative responsibilities to own and operate community housing, as well as municipal long-term care homes.**



National Defense

That the federal government make strategic **investments in municipalities and related industries to advance the commitment to allocate 1.5% of GDP toward critical defense and security expenditures**, including ports, roads, bridges, water-wastewater, housing, telecommunications, emergency preparedness systems, airports, and other infrastructure identified in the Defense Investment Pledge.

Health Care and Paramedic Services

That the federal government **support the modernization of paramedic services** municipalities provide by:

- Injecting targeted investments to relieve pressure on paramedic systems
- Strengthening federal coordination to expand the role of paramedics in national health and emergency response
- Establishing a national focal point for federal leadership and collaboration

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The EOWC's Recommendation

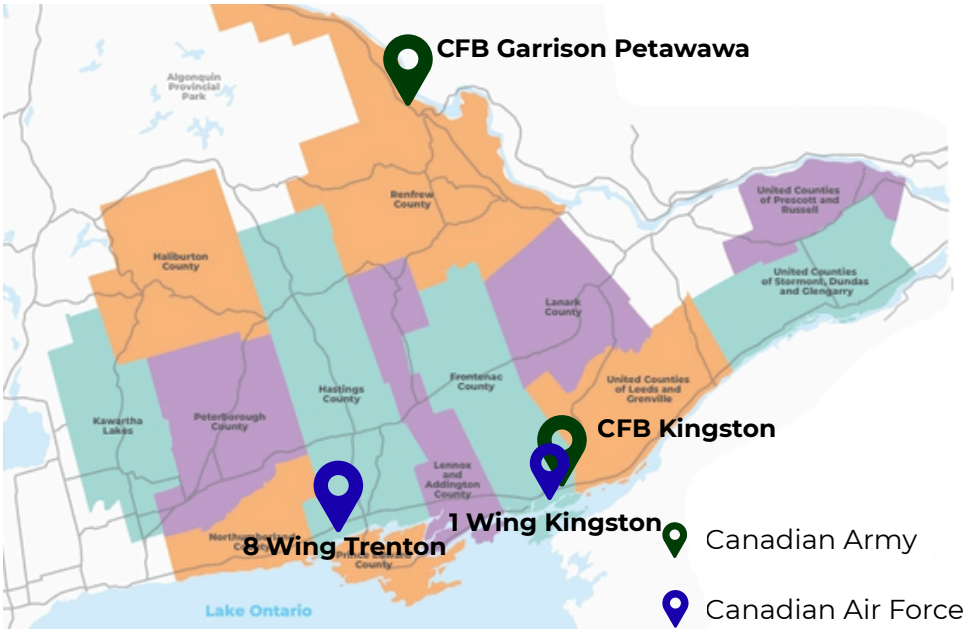
That the federal government consider **making strategic investments in municipalities and related industries to advance the commitment to allocate 1.5% of GDP toward critical defence and security** expenditures to meet Canada's NATO 5% target.

This includes ports, roads, bridges, water-wastewater, housing, telecommunications, emergency preparedness systems, airports, and infrastructure identified in the Defence Investment Pledge.

Why Eastern Ontario?

- **3 out of 34 major Canadian military bases** are located in eastern Ontario.
- Eastern Ontario is home to **Canada's largest Air Force Base, 8 Wing Trenton,** and **one of the largest Canadian Army Bases, Garrison Petawawa.**
- Eastern Ontario is close to the U.S. border, Ottawa, and major transportation routes, making it **strategically valuable for logistics and mobilization**.
- Rural areas provide **the space needed for future military expansion**.

Canadian Forces Bases in Eastern Ontario



Invest in Defence, Building Stronger Communities

As Canada expands its defence presence, small urban and rural eastern Ontario offers a strategic location with strong potential. To ensure the success and sustainability of these investments, it is essential that the the federal government also consider plans for housing, infrastructure, and services that **support military operations, its workforce, local communities, and residents**.

Manufacturing facilities that support defence rely on local infrastructure and strong communities to attract and retain workers.

By aligning defence investments with thoughtful community development, we can create lasting benefits that **strengthen national security and rural prosperity in eastern Ontario**.

Our region is ready to help meet the NATO 5% target and is **Ready to Work, Ready to Grow**.

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Recommendations for Paramedic Services

That the federal government **invest in targeted federal initiatives to relieve pressure on Canada's paramedic systems.**

- Adding federal support across multiple departments, including: Health Canada, Public Safety, Indigenous Services Canada, and Employment and Social Development Canada.
- Enhancing paramedic workforce mobility across jurisdictions by addressing regional service gaps through coordinated action.

That the federal government **strengthen its federal coordination to expand the role of paramedics in national health and emergency response.**

- Paramedics are critical responders to complex emergencies such as the opioid epidemic, natural disasters and public health crises.
- Federal investment should focus on expanding paramedic capacity in emergency and community-based care by improving system integration between federal, provincial, and Indigenous health services.
- Real-time data sharing is essential to enable faster responses to overdose hotspots and emerging health threats.

That the federal government **establish a national focal point for federal leadership and collaboration on paramedic system modernization.**

- Currently, no federal body is dedicated to lead coordinated paramedic system modernization.
- A new federal coordinating body should be established to:
  - Lead national policy development and system innovation.
  - Serve as a convening hub between:
    - Provinces and territories
    - Indigenous governments
    - Relevant federal departments
- Drive alignment on standards, training, and system planning across jurisdictions.

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