

EOWC News Release - For immediate release: 28 February 2024

The EOWC and FCM urge federal government to invest in next generation infrastructure

Eastern Ontario – While the Government of Canada [announces](#) regular new and welcome [Housing Action Plan](#) investments, the member municipalities of the [Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus \(EOWC\)](#) and the [Federation of Canadian Municipalities \(FCM\)](#) are calling on the federal government to make meaningful and collaborative investment to support the infrastructure needed to service new and existing projects and to provide for our growing and aging population.

Municipalities own and maintain most of the infrastructure that Canadians rely on every day. Still, they have been underfunded for decades, collecting only eight to 12 cents of every tax dollar. Existing roads, bridges, sewers, drinking water treatment systems, community centers, and other critical public infrastructure continue to need regular repair and replacement across the country, especially in rural areas. There are simply not enough financial resources for municipalities to keep existing infrastructure serviceable or to provide new infrastructure for new projects to support our communities.

“We tend to take infrastructure for granted because most of us only think about it when it’s not working,” says FCM President, Scott Pearce. “We expect our first responders to show up when there’s a crisis, our local recreation centre to have space for kids to play, and our busses to get us to work on time but this critical infrastructure and these services costs money. Municipalities can’t be expected to keep raising property taxes to pay for it.”

The FCM and EOWC call on the federal government, in advance of its 2024 budget decisions, to further invest in the infrastructure required to develop and sustain complete communities for Canadian families. All municipalities need to be able to rely on programs such as the [Canada Community Building Fund \(CCBF\)](#) that support growth and rehabilitation of existing assets.

The FCM and EOWC further advocate that *all* orders of government must work together at a single table to develop and agree upon a realistic municipal growth framework for next generation infrastructure.

“Towns, cities, and villages have been funded the same way since Confederation,” says EOWC Chair Peter Emon. “It was a sensible system when horse-and-buggy was the primary mode of transportation and when populations were measured in the thousands, not millions. Things have

changed and it's time we had a modernized municipal growth framework in place to reflect that.”

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Photo:



Caption: Canada needs to invest in infrastructure so more affordable homes can get built for families

Media contact:

FCM Media Relations, (613) 907-6395, media@fcm.ca

EOWC elected officials for interview:

Peter Emon, 2024 Chair, EOWC (Warden of Renfrew County)

613-401-7186

info@eowc.org

Bonnie Clark, 2024 Vice-Chair, EOWC (Warden of Peterborough County)

705-927-4207

info@eowc.org

EOWC staff:

Meredith Staveley-Watson, Manager of Government Relations and Policy,
EOWC

647-545-8324

meredith.staveley-watson@eowc.org