



ROMA Board - November Highlights

Productive Meeting with Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Paul Calandra attended the ROMA Board meeting in November. The Minister also committed to meeting with the Board quarterly to share ideas, seek feedback and listen to rural municipal needs from the provincial government. The meeting in November included discussion of:

- New resources and funding tools for housing-enabling infrastructure to help address the rural funding gap – including how municipal services corporations and private communal water systems could help.
- The urgent need for a strategic approach to homelessness including wrap-around supports and housing.
- The shortage in primary care providers, emergency room closures, and over-reliance on community paramedicine to fill these gaps. The Minister suggested that Dr. Jane Philpott who is chairing Ontario's primary care action team could benefit from hearing rural concerns.

OPP Billing Relief

The Board discussed concerns related to significant and unexpected municipal OPP rate and fee increases coming in 2025. AMO Policy is engaged with the Ministry of the Solicitor General on financial support to help municipalities manage the increase. Additional information is expected over the next few weeks.

Support for Managing Broadband Projects

As Internet Service Providers (ISPs) work to meet the government's 2025 broadband goals, AMO and ROMA are working to support the municipal sector.

AMO will host a webinar by the end of the year to help municipal staff understand how to navigate the relationship with ISPs using a template [Municipal Access Agreement](#). The ROMA Board approved a request from AMO staff to seek backstop funding from the province if an ISP saddles a municipality with unfair and unreasonable infrastructure construction and management costs.

2025 ROMA Conference

The Rural Routes concurrent sessions have been designed to highlight the rural perspective, issues and the innovations underway across the province in our rural communities. Here are a few highlights of session topics:

- Provincial Offences
- Rural Responses to Mental Health and Addictions
- Negotiating Community Benefit Agreements for Energy Projects
- Agricultural Economic Development
- Cyber Security

[View the full program here](#) and [register for the ROMA Conference today](#).

Get in the Zone

Join your ROMA Board of Director and Zone representative for an update and conversation on ROMA's current priorities at Zone Meet-ups on Sunday, January 19 at the 2025 ROMA Conference:

- Zones 1 to 5 10:30am-11:30am
- Zones 6 to 10 11:30am- 12:15pm

These meet-ups are an opportunity to hear and be heard. Your Zone representative will walk you through ROMA's advocacy priorities and open the floor for feedback and discussion on issues that matter to you.

Find your Zone [here](#).

Check out the [ROMA Zone Map](#) to learn more.

- **Zone 1** – Jamie McGrail, Councillor, Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- **Zone 2** – Steve McCabe, Councillor, Township of Wellington North
- **Zone 3** – Dave Beres, Deputy Mayor, Town of Tillsonburg
- **Zone 4** – Christina Early, Councillor, Town of Caledon
- **Zone 5** – Pam Sayne, Councillor, Township of Minden Hills
- **Zone 6** – Jennifer Murphy, Councillor, County of Renfrew

- **Zone 7** – Carma Williams, Deputy Mayor, Township of North Glengarry
- **Zone 8** – Christa Lowry, Mayor, Municipality of Mississippi Mills* ROMA Chair
- **Zone 9** – Mark Wilson, Councillor, City of Temiskaming Shores
- **Zone 10** – Janet Hager, Councillor, Municipality of Red Lake

AMO Rural Caucus Members

- Nicole Martin, CAO, Township of Amaranth
- Dane Nielsen, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Grey Highlands
- Natasha Salonen, Mayor, Township of Wilmot
- Nathan Townend, Deputy Warden, County of Lennox & Addington
- Tanya Vrebosch, Councillor, City of North Bay

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