

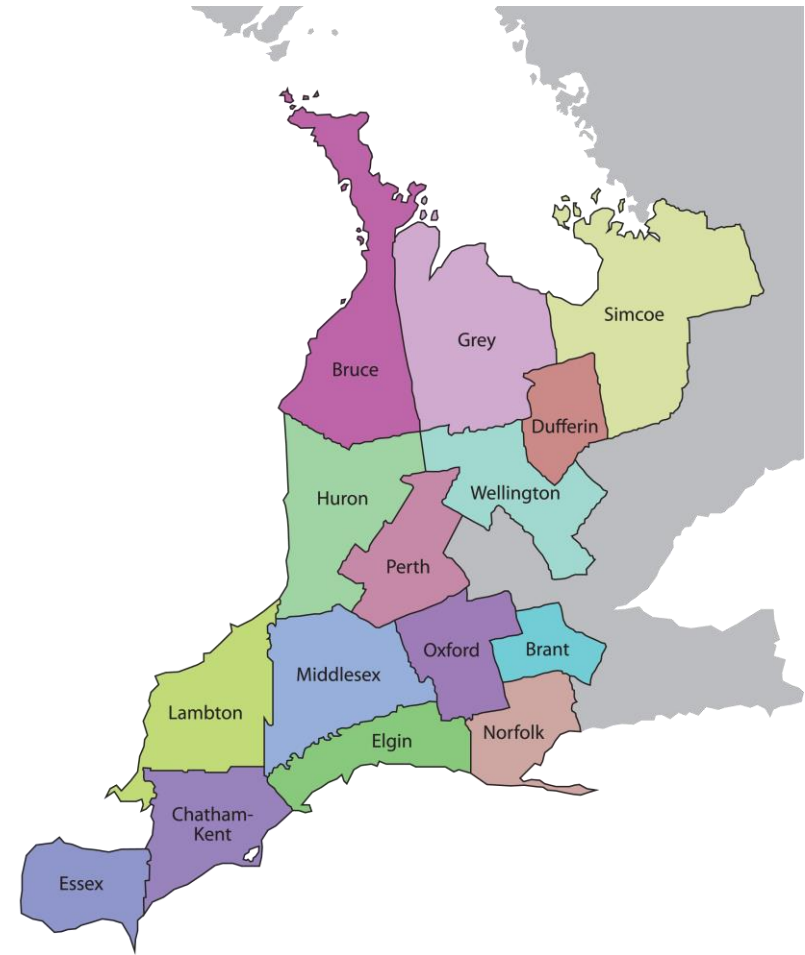
WESTERN ONTARIO WARDENS' CAUCUS

Oxford County Council Delegation
May 24, 2023



WHO IS THE WOWC?

- 16 Upper and Single tier municipalities
- 300 communities
- More than 1.5 million residents
- ½ Million square kilometers
- 90% rural



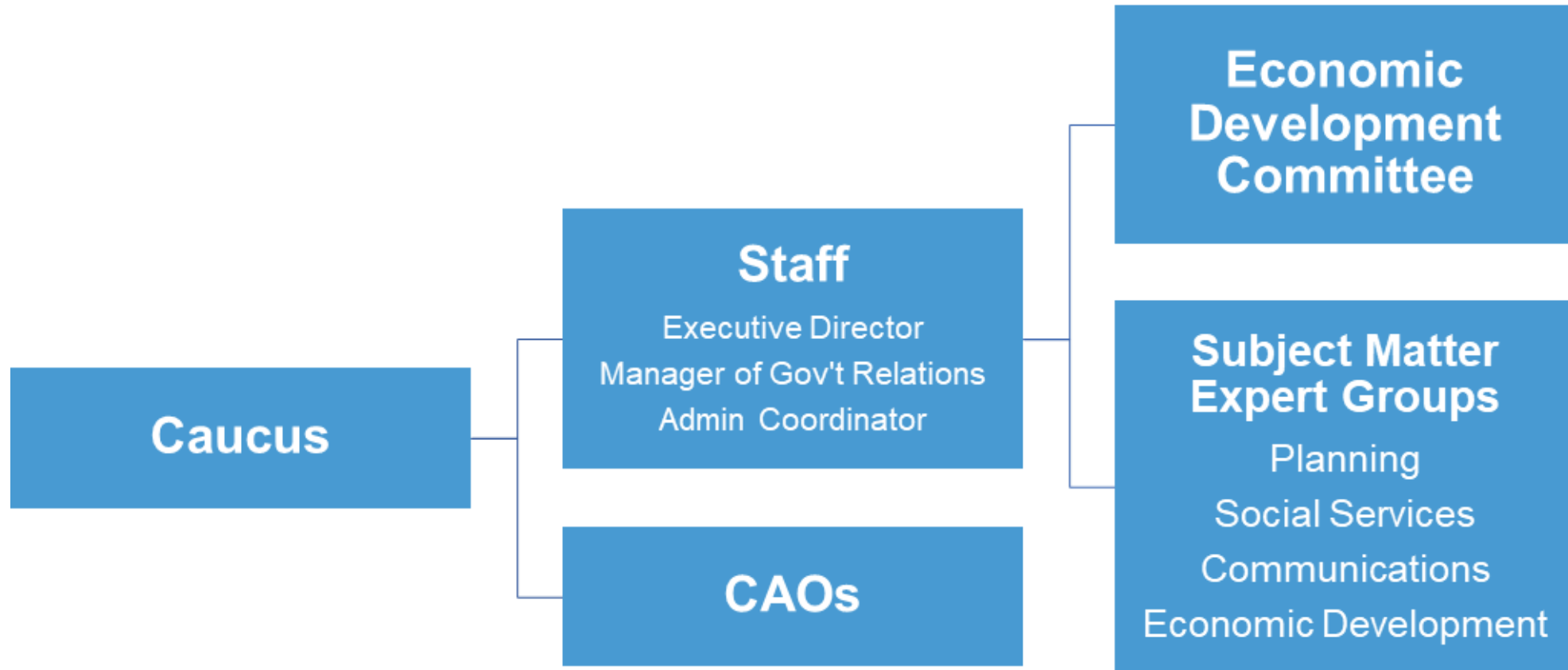
PURPOSE OF WOWC



- To realize Western Ontario's full potential for sustainable economies and communities by presenting a unified voice on behalf of local governments.
- Looking at the big issues that affect all member Counties and how the power of the Wardens can implement positive change in the region



HOW DOES THE WOWC OPERATE?



ADVOCACY

- The WOWC's advocacy work has been executed through:
 - Meetings with Ministers and senior government officials
 - Partnerships with local and regional municipalities and organizations, and joint projects/advocacy with stakeholders
 - Letters, financial analyses and pre-budget submissions
- The WOWC monitors government legislation and provides research and analysis on issues affecting Western Ontario
- Where applicable, the WOWC supports and partners with other organizations such as SWIFT, AMO, FCM, EOWC, etc.



2023-24 PRIORITIES: HOUSING

ISSUE

Housing affordability, particularly in rural areas, continues to remain a strong focus within the region. Given the current housing and rental market, it is crucial to focus on increasing the supply of affordable housing, of all forms.

The Asks

1. We are asking for a definition from the Province on the promise to “keep municipalities whole”
2. Regarding the Building Homes Faster Act, WOWC would respectfully request numbers from the province, regarding how many new homes are expected in each County



2023-24 PRIORITIES: WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC GROWTH



Issue

There has been an ongoing focus for the WOWC over the past few years on workforce retention and expansion. This has been highlighted in the collaborative regional work through the Western Ontario Workforce Strategy.

The Ask

We ask that the OINP will continue to be tailored to meet the needs of Western Ontario by including in-demand jobs for our region.



2022-23 PRIORITIES: MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTIONS & HOMELESSNESS

ISSUE

Funding for our rural communities is a necessity. We are less equipped with fewer resources than our urban counterparts to tackle the growing mental health and addictions crisis.

The Asks

1. Reiterated our support and request to the provincial government for permanent funding of the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) program across Ontario
2. We are requesting that funding be allocated specifically for our rural communities as part of the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP).



BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE



Project Results

63,932

PREMISES PASSED



4,250

SERVED ROAD KMs

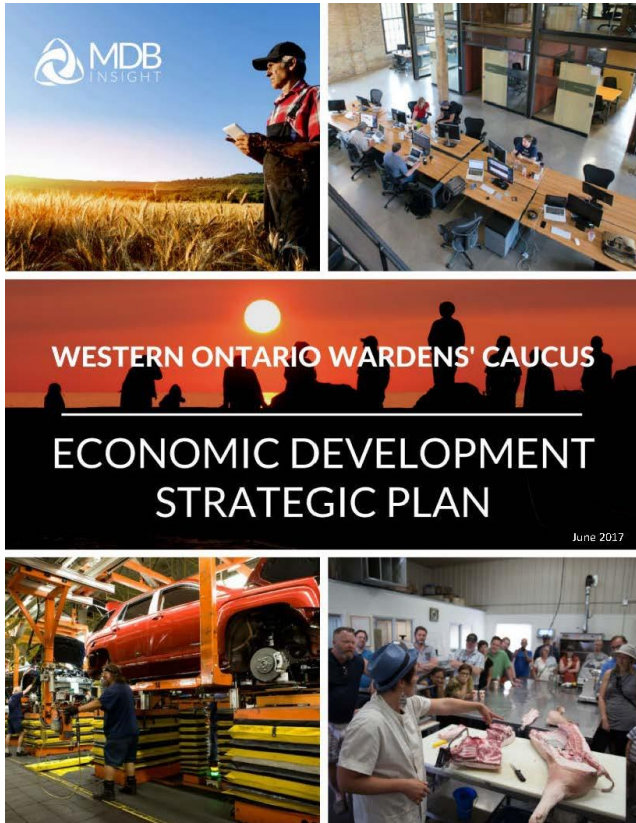


\$270M

TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



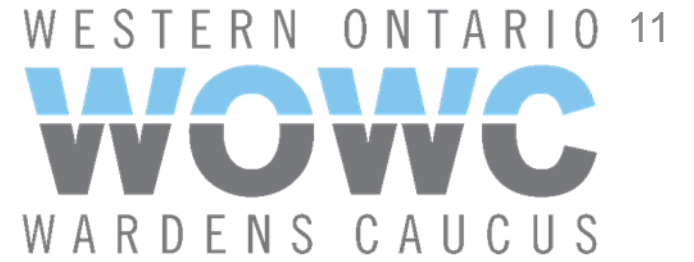
The WOWC in partnership with the Community Futures Western Ontario continues to implement the actions of the regional Economic Development Strategic Plan.

The Project

- Identify opportunities to advance the economy of Southwestern Ontario that also leverages the ongoing efforts of WOWC.
- Improve the underlying conditions for economic development throughout the region.
- Generate a series of actions at the regional level that enables the creation of jobs, wealth and investment across the region.



REGIONAL PARTNERS



RESOURCES

www.wowc.ca

Newsletters and Press Releases

Twitter @wowcinc

Facebook



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



- A seat at the regional table, representing our rural communities
- Advocacy to the provincial and federal governments
- Staff support networks through Subject Matter Expert teams
- Regional projects and resources including data tools such as ConnectON and the new Rural Housing Information System.



THANK YOU

Kate Burns Gallagher

Executive Director

Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus

kate@wowc.ca

519-495-6059

