

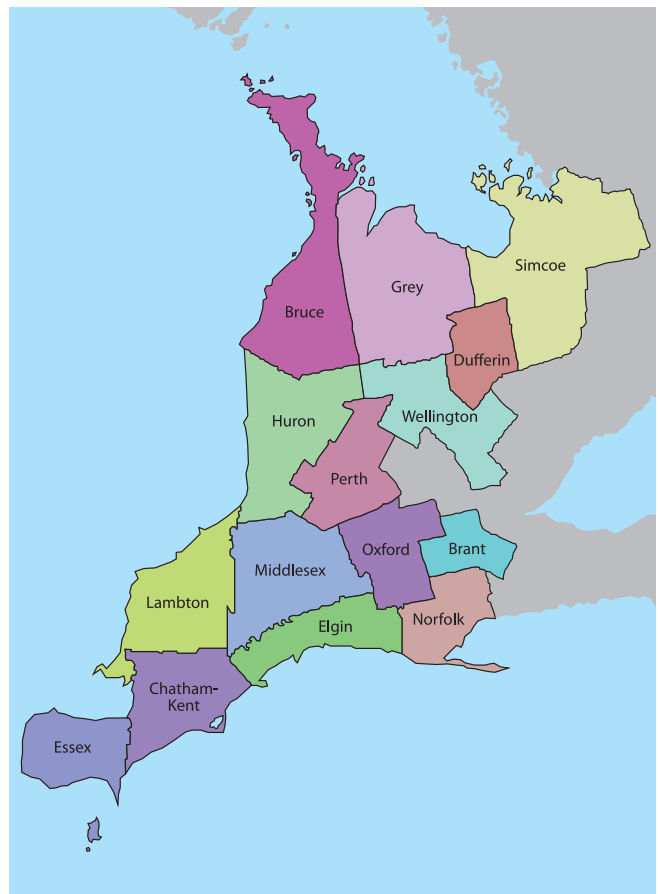
The Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. (WOWC) is a not-for-profit organization representing 15 upper and single tier municipalities in southwestern Ontario with more than one and half million residents. Its purpose is to enhance the prosperity and overall wellbeing of rural and small urban communities across the region. Caucus members work collectively to influence federal, provincial and municipal legislative, regulatory and program initiatives through advocacy, research, analysis and education.

Collectively, the municipalities represent approximately 300 communities, and almost half a million square kilometres of territory, more than 90% of it rural.

The WOWC adopted its strategic approach for advocacy in 2022 and early 2023 and identified a series of key priorities for the coming year.

- Affordable and Attainable Housing in Rural Areas
- Workforce Development through the Implementation of the Western Ontario Workforce Strategy
- Continued Broadband Infrastructure Investment and Advocacy
- Mental Health and Addictions

The Caucus will continue advocating for Long-Term Care and Seniors Funding as well as ensuring that municipalities are included in the Ontario Health Teams governance.




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## AFFORDABLE & ATTAINABLE HOUSING

As confirmed by the Western Ontario Workforce Strategy, the Western Ontario region requires 173,000 new housing units by 2041. The Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus' strategy for attainable housing consists of five primary areas: model policies, developer interactions, a resource centre, rental programs, and overall program promotion/marketing.

**173,000**  
NEW HOUSING UNITS  
REQUIRED BY 2041 

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Confirmed by the Western Ontario Workforce Strategy, there will be an estimated 214,000 jobs to be filled across the region between 2020 and 2030.

WOWC member municipalities are committed to working together to ensure there is sufficient workforce today and tomorrow to achieve the region's economic potential and support key industry sectors.

**214,000**  
JOBS TO BE FILLED  
BY 2030 

## BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT & ADVOCACY

The Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus is committed to improving access to high-speed internet services across Southwestern Ontario

through SWIFT in partnership with member municipalities and the governments of Ontario and Canada.

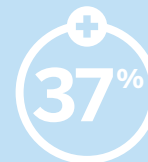
**63,932**  
PREMISES PASSED  
(TARGET: 50,000)



**4,250**  
SERVED ROAD KMS  
(TARGET: 3,095KMS)



**\$270M**  
TOTAL INVESTMENT  
(TARGET: \$197M)



## MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS

Our region is facing ever growing numbers of opioid overdoses and the strains of mental health and addictions on our rural communities. The WOWC

is committed to encouraging coordination and collaboration between all stakeholders to improve the health outcomes of our most vulnerable.