



Media Release

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WOWC Advocacy Retains Rural Federal Seat Count

Southwestern Ontario – Western Ontario will retain their rural federal seat count as part of the federal riding redistribution plan.

In the fall of 2022, the WOWC advocated strongly to the Commission to ensure communities of interest remain whole and the importance of maintaining the current rural seat count for the region.

Under the original proposal, multiple rural communities across the region would not have been kept whole, including but not limited to: Dawn-Euphemia, Zorra, Tillsonburg, Warwick, and Chatham-Kent.

“While the WOWC understands that the location and density of population growth required the Commission to move boundaries, the originally proposed federal electoral districts unnecessarily fragmented many of our region’s communities – and jeopardized our rural seat count in Southwestern Ontario,” stated Chair Glen McNeil. “We are pleased to see that the Commission considered our suggestions and kept communities whole while maintaining the rural seat count in Western Ontario.”

Municipal community organizations will now be able to continue to engage with one federal government representative and the risk of contradictory positions by area MPs where they represent competing political parties, is greatly diminished.

About

The ***Western Ontario Wardens’ Caucus (WOWC)*** is a not-for-profit organization representing 15 upper and single-tier municipalities in Southwestern Ontario, representing more than 1.5 million residents. The WOWC aims to enhance the prosperity and overall wellbeing of rural and small urban communities across the region. Caucus members work collectively to influence federal and provincial legislation and programs through advocacy, research, analysis and education. For more information, visit www.wowc.ca.

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