



# Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 28, 2023**

## **WOWC Attends Ministers' Housing Forum**

**Southwestern Ontario** –Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC) Chair, Glen McNeil, and Executive Director Kate Burns Gallagher, participated in the 2023 Ministers' Housing Forum in Toronto on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Chair McNeil met with the Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing along with Associate Minister Rob Flack and Parliamentary Assistant Matthew Rae, to discuss housing in our small and rural southwestern communities.

"The Housing Forum was an opportunity to meet Minister Calandra and ensure that small and rural Southwestern Ontario has a voice at the table," stated Chair Glen McNeil.

Other attendees at the event included municipal representatives, developer associations, non-profits, modular housing builders, as well as the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, Ontario Big City Mayors and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association.

The Forum included several roundtable discussions on topics such as inclusive housing, modular housing, and missing-middle homes.

By working collaboratively with provincial representatives, the Caucus aims to bring about lasting and impactful solutions to the challenges faced by small and rural municipalities in Southwestern Ontario.

" Our communities are leaders in finding solutions to today's housing crisis. We are fortunate that both Associate Minister Flack and Parliamentary Assistant Rae are from Western Ontario and understand the unique challenges and solutions that small and rural communities can bring to the table," stated WOWC Chair Glen McNeil. "Through our combined efforts and ongoing advocacy, WOWC remains committed to working closely with our provincial counterparts."

To learn more about the WOWC's priorities, research, and recommendations, please visit [www.wowc.ca](http://www.wowc.ca).

## **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](http://www.wowc.ca).

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