



## Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 23, 2024**

### **Municipal leaders set to convene in Chatham-Kent for the return of the Ontario West Municipal Conference**

**Southwestern Ontario** – Hundreds of participants representing municipalities and organizations from across Western Ontario will attend the Western Ontario Municipal Conference on Friday, October 25, 2024, at the John D. Bradley Convention Center in Chatham-Kent, Ontario.

Returning after a six-year hiatus, the annual Western Ontario Municipal Conference is an opportunity for municipal officials from across the region to work together on solutions to today's challenges, to learn and to create new opportunities that benefit our communities.

The Conference will feature a keynote presentation by Paul Wells, one of Canada's leading political journalists. For 19 years, he was the lead political columnist at Maclean's magazine, and he's also written for the Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star, and the National Post. Paul is a bestselling author and a regular political commentator on both the French- and English-language CBC networks. His new subscription newsletter is already one of the most widely read political newsletters in Canada.

This year's event features 30 speakers reflecting on the top issues of responsibility for our municipalities. Session topics will focus on the key priorities of the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus including, housing, mental health & addictions, workforce, infrastructure, and economic development, including a fireside chat with Associate Minister of Housing the Honorable Rob Flack and Parliamentary Assistant for Municipal Affairs and Housing MPP Matthew Rae.

"We are thrilled to be hosting the return of the Ontario West Municipal Conference and look forward to welcoming our colleagues from across Western Ontario to learn and collaborate together," stated Mayor of Norfolk County Amy Martin, Chair of the 2024 Ontario West Conference Committee.

Registration is now open with early bird rates available.

## **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).

## **Media Contact**

Kate Burns Gallagher, Executive Director  
Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus  
T: 519-495-6059 E: [kate@wowc.ca](mailto:kate@wowc.ca)