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Subject ROMA Will Deliver a Stand Alone Municipal Conference in January 2017

For the past 16 years the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) has partnered with the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) to host the OGRA/ROMA Combined Conference each February.

We have valued this partnership. At the same time, we know there is frustration from all four corners of province and from rural municipalities of all sizes. We need to come together, harness this energy and ensure that we are heard. There is no doubt that rural Ontario needs its own forum to explore solutions and press for meaningful change. To that end, we have decided that ROMA will return to its roots by hosting its own, dedicated conference.

ROMA hosted its first rural municipal conference in 1934 and they were an important tradition for more than 65 years. By reviving this tradition, we believe rural priorities can be better aligned, better understood, and better addressed.

So, mark your calendars: **Sunday, January 29 to Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel.**

As ROMA works to strengthen our voice and renew our focus on advocacy, we'll be reaching out to rural municipalities. Our goal is to develop a high-impact, three-day program that reflects your priorities and speaks to your needs.

Given the important work that OGRA does, particularly regarding rural transportation and public works, we look forward to OGRA's continued support for rural Ontario and cooperation between the two associations on matters of shared interest.

Please stay tuned for more information and opportunities for input. We look forward to charting this course with you.

Sincerely,
Ron Holman, Chair
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Mayor, Township of Rideau Lakes