

ROMA 2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM



ROMA: Connecting Rural Ontario will provide a robust two-day program that addresses topical and important issues facing rural municipalities. To help you plan your participation, below is a program outline of the topics that will be explored.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

5:00 – 6:00pm Zone Networking Meetings

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

8:00am	Welcome
8:10am	Opening Keynote: Chantal Hébert
8:50am	ROMA Update and AGM
9:10am	Economic Recovery in Rural Ontario
9:30am	Break
10:00am	The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario (invited)
10:15am	Graydon Smith, AMO President
10:30am	Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Official Opposition and NDP
10:45am	The Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (invited)
11:00am	Ministers' Forum: Health and Human Services
11:45am	Lunch Break
12:30-1:45PM	CONCURRENT SESSION A

Come Hell or High Water: Actions to Mitigate Flooding

The purpose of this session is to offer participants practical examples of actions being taken to better prepare for flooding. Participants will hear about the recent work in Chatham Kent that identified the science, public process and resulting policies to deal with rising Lake Erie water levels. MNRF flood will outline their mapping project that has recently started and how it can help avoidance and preparedness. Hear how Ottawa is looking to improve infrastructure as well as better cross jurisdictional communications to help reduce flood emergencies.

Broadband –Policy

Broadband and cellular connectivity is a necessity, not a luxury. Rural, remote, and northern communities are disproportionately affected by the digital divide, and is something that needs to change. Better connectivity is a

driver for economic prosperity, COVID-19 recovery, and quality of life for all communities. Join the conversation on what policy options are out there for municipal governments.

2:00-3:15PM:

CONCURRENT SESSION B

Now What? An Open Conversation on Community Safety and Well-Being Plans

Now more than ever municipal governments have been called on to support the health, wellbeing and safety of their communities. The pandemic has heightened awareness and coordination needed for Community Safety and Well-Being Plans to effectively address a range of community issues. In this session, learn how communities across Ontario are completing their plans, tackling implementation, and how these plans can be a living document for improved services coordination.

Rural Digital Transformation: Scalable Solutions for Municipalities

During the pandemic, many municipalities would prefer to simply 'CTRL-ALT-DELETE' their problems. During this session, several rural municipalities will share how they are overcoming the challenges that the pandemic has revealed or exacerbated. Scalable digital solutions designed for rural municipalities are available and will help you move along the path towards more efficiency and effectiveness while ensuring municipal business continuity during the current global crisis.

Broadband - Solutions

Municipal governments have options when it comes to telecommunications. Learn from three different companies on what solutions are available to municipalities, and how they can help provide connectivity in the short- and long-term.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

8:00am	Steven Del Duca, Leader, Liberal Party of Ontario (invited)
8:15am	Michael J. Smither Question Box Panel
9:00am	COVID Health Update: The Hon. Christine Elliott (invited)
9:15am	Mike Schreiner, Leader, Green Party of Ontario
9:30 - 9:45am	Break
10:00am	The Hon. Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development
10:30am	The Hon. Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (invited)
10:45am	Ministers' Forum
11:30am	Lunch Break
12:30-1:45PM	CONCURRENT SESSION A

The Pathway to Full Producer Responsibility of the Blue Box For years, municipal governments have advocated for the Blue Box program to transition the management of packaging and products to those who make them, producers. The Province has listened, and the regulation for the Blue Box is being finalized (TBC January 2021) Discussions on how producers will deliver this service and what if any role your municipality will have are going to occur. Come learn from experts in the field about what decisions your Councils need to consider, and by when.

Governing New OPP Detachments Boards

The Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 prescribes a new OPP detachment board framework in order to provide each municipality and First Nation receiving OPP policing services with greater civilian governance. This session will discuss the regulations around reconstituted OPP detachments boards by discussing local considerations around the size, representation, roles and responsibilities for board members, and improving police governance.

Community Paramedicine in Ontario: Opportunities and Challenges

Community paramedicine is an effective and innovative way to provide health care services to residents in Ontario's communities. It helps in rural areas where access to other primary health care services may be lacking. The provincial funding program has morphed from a pilot to ongoing programming in many Ontario municipalities employing various models that meet local need and circumstance. Recently the government announced an expansion to help people on wait lists for long-term care stay in their homes longer. Overall, there are both opportunities and challenges for community paramedicine in Ontario that will be explored in this session.

2:00-3:15PM: CONCURRENT SESSION B

Seniors Services & Aging in Rural Communities

Seniors (65 years and older) are the fastest growing age group in Ontario. It is important to understand the living and care options that seniors in rural Ontario have, and to find solutions that enhance the quality of seniors care regardless of where they live. Learn from experts about innovative care models that are possible in your communities.

The High Cost of Inaction – A Municipal Lens on the Cannabis Regime and Designated Production Sites

Rural communities across Ontario continue to voice their concerns around the proliferation of designated cannabis production sites. There is a growing need to establish stronger mechanisms and controls for municipal governments on medical grow operations. This session will look at the present challenges related to designated production sites and discuss a feasible path in addressing these concerns moving forward.

The Science Behind Implicit Bias

Government-Wide Implicit Bias Awareness' Training Program applies the modern science of bias to decision-making; it educates training participants on the impact of implicit bias on their perceptions and gives them the skills they need to reduce and manage their biases. Municipal governments are the primary centres for essential and community services and all our governmental agencies have a responsibility to deliver quality public policy to all community members, fairly and impartially. This session will help participants understand that even well-intentioned people have biases; explore its impact; and, provide tools to help recognize conscious and implicit biases, and implement behavioural responses.

**topics are subject to change*

› 2021 ROMA Conference

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