



Working for Municipalities



July 3rd, 2014

2014 Throne Speech Affirms Pre-Election Commitments

Significant Investments in Infrastructure, Transportation, and Public Transit

Earlier today, Lieutenant Governor David Onley presented the new Ontario government's Speech from the Throne.

The commitments outlined in the speech mirrored those found in the pre-election budget. OGRA is happy to see that the government has made it a priority to build infrastructure and a modern transportation network.

Relevant highlights include:

- \$130 billion on public infrastructure over the next decade on new hospitals, schools, undergraduate campuses, safer roads, better public transit, and all-day, two-way GO Regional Express Rail;
- \$29 billion over the next 10 years for public transit, transportation infrastructure, and other priority infrastructure projects across the province;
 - \$15 billion has been allocated for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area; and
 - \$14 billion for the rest of Ontario;
- \$1 billion to build a road link to the remote resource-rich Ring of Fire region in Northern Ontario. This money is no longer contingent on receiving matching funds from the federal government;
- Reaffirming the commitment to making Ontario fully accessible by 2025; and
- Reintroducing the Public Sector and MPP Accountability and Transparency Act.

OGRA is pleased that the Government of Ontario will continue to address the infrastructure deficit in the province. OGRA remains hopeful that municipalities would be afforded the authority to pursue new revenue tools to address local needs. Such responsibility would reflect the fact that local governments are the most responsive, transparent order of government in Canada. OGRA will continue to advocate for this right in the future.