

APPENDIX 1 | 2021 ROMA Delegation Topics

Broadband and beyond: infrastructure to support urban migration to rural Ontario due to COVID-19

“There is a “surge in urbanization” to rural communities known as the migration effect of urban citizens in response to COVID-19. This delegation will explore supports and programs the province could consider to assist in the necessary investments small towns will need to make to accommodate its new residents.

A recent essay published in “The Conversation” notes: Rural Canada is home to more than 18 per cent of the national population and it plays a critical role in the national economy, contributing approximately 23 per cent of the national gross domestic product. Rural Canada also faces significant challenges in terms of investments in critical infrastructure (like broadband), demographic change, greater distance to markets and decision-making centres and the outsize influence of particular economic sectors.

If more people want to call rural Canada home, it could go a long way towards addressing these challenges, but only if this shift is matched by policies and investments that support these transitions. However, most celebrated models of successful rural development are urbanization in disguise.

Rural communities need adaptive, place-based investments that ensure they are not just attractive to potential new residents, but healthy and supportive communities for the people already living there and future generations still to come. Shifting our priorities to purposeful investments in supporting vibrant, inclusive, prosperous and uniquely rural communities will make all of our futures brighter...”

Source: <https://theconversation.com/the-coronavirus-pandemic-is-pushing-canadians-out-of-cities-and-into-the-countryside-144479>

Flooding – Climate Change Adaptation - Affordable Housing

- West Grey and Grey County are encouraging the development of more affordable housing some of which includes more secondary dwellings in basements
- Incidents of flooding are on the rise and will worsen with climate change
- Flooding is very expensive for home owners with the average cost of a flooded basement at over \$40,000
- Home flood protection measures can be implemented with not a lot of expense and not a lot of expertise – good value for investment – big impact.

- With the support of the province, West Grey could educate residents on simple home flooding prevention remedies and fund subsidies for taking certain flood prevention measures

Example of municipalities with flood protection subsidy programs:

Eg: <https://www.intactcentreclimateadaptation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Canadian-Municipal-Subsidy-Program-Formal-1.pdf>

Examples of educational flyers

https://www.intactcentreclimateadaptation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/weathering_the_storm_infographic_FINAL.pdf

https://www.intactcentreclimateadaptation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/3-Steps-to-Home-Flood-Protection_Oct-2020.pdf

Green Infrastructure

- West Grey requires support/funding to assist in incorporating green infrastructure into asset management policy (as required by O. Reg 588/17)

https://mnai.ca/media/2020/01/MNAI_MNAPOntario.pdf

“With the introduction of O. Reg. 588/17, Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure, Ontario became the first province in Canada to regulate asset management planning at the municipal level. In accordance with the regulation, municipalities are required to inventory, value, and integrate green infrastructure, including natural infrastructure and by extension natural assets, into their asset management planning wherever these assets are directly owned by the municipality or included on the municipality’s consolidated financial statements.

O. Reg. 588/17 required all municipalities in Ontario to have a strategic asset management policy in place by July 1, 2019. Policies are to include components such as the goals, policies, and plans supported by a municipality’s asset management plan; a process to consider asset management in the municipality’s budgeting and financial planning processes; principles to guide the municipality’s asset management planning; considerations around climate change and its impacts on municipal infrastructure; a process to align plans with the provincial land-use planning framework; and, a commitment to public consultation.

In addition to their strategic asset management policy, the regulation also requires all 444 Ontario municipalities to prepare an asset management plan for core infrastructure assets by July 1, 2021, and in respect of all other municipal infrastructure assets by July 1, 2023. The definition of core municipal infrastructure found in the regulation includes water, wastewater, and stormwater management assets, including green infrastructure assets, as well as roads, bridges, and culverts. The regulation defines green infrastructure as infrastructure assets consisting of natural or human-made elements

that provide ecological and hydrological functions and processes. Based on this definition, municipalities should be considering natural assets when preparing their asset management plans.”

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/170588>

“green infrastructure asset” means an infrastructure asset consisting of natural or human-made elements that provide ecological and hydrological functions and processes and includes natural heritage features and systems, parklands, stormwater management systems, street trees, urban forests, natural channels, permeable surfaces and green roofs;

<https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/fr/comment/2206>

“The Green Infrastructure Ontario (GIO) Coalition strongly supports the province’s leadership in integrating green infrastructure into its new regulation for municipal asset management planning. Including green infrastructure in the definition of “infrastructure assets” and as a key lifecycle cost management strategy is an important step to support sustainable and cost-effective infrastructure spending in Ontario’s municipalities.”

“Municipalities need to plan and manage new and existing green infrastructure assets and they should be encouraged to use the same framework as they use for grey infrastructure assets.”

<https://greeninfrastructureontario.org/green-infrastructure-recognized-municipal-assets-new-provincial-asset-management-planning-regulation/>

“We are pleased to announce that with the passing of Ontario Regulation 588/17 under the Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act, municipalities will be required to develop asset management plans for municipally owned assets – which will include green infrastructure assets.”

“Under the asset management plan section of the new regulation, it is stated that: *Every municipality shall prepare an asset management plan in respect of its core municipal infrastructure assets by July 1, 2021, and in respect of all of its other municipal infrastructure assets by July 1, 2023.*

“GIO is hopeful that this new regulation will be supported with funding to help enable municipalities to manage green infrastructure as integral infrastructure assets.”

Another source:

<https://www.cleanairpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/DRAFT-Roadmap-for-Green-Infrastructure-in-Ontario-2017-rv51.pdf>

Asset Management: balancing fleet cycle replacement and affordability

This delegation would discuss the costs of replacing municipal vehicles due to age, rather than condition and explore options to extend the accepted life cycle of specific vehicles based on frequency of use and maintenance history.