

# Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus September 2025 Newsletter

September 2025

WESTERN ONTARIO  
**WOWC**  
WARDENS CAUCUS

Monthly  
Update

Your monthly news & updates

**Win Your Way to the Western Ontario Municipal Conference!**

# WESTERN ONTARIO MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

October 17, 2025 | London, ON

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WESTERN ONTARIO MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE!

**CONTEST CLOSSES OCTOBER 4, 2025**

WESTERN ONTARIO  
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[The Western Ontario Municipal Conference](#) (WOMC), hosted by the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC), is taking place in London on October 17, 2025, and you could attend for free!

WOWC is giving away tickets to this one-day event, where municipal leaders, provincial representatives, and industry experts will discuss housing, infrastructure, mental health and economic development.

Enter our ticket giveaway before October 4th for your chance to be there!

Click below to enter on LinkedIn, X, or Facebook, or boost your chances by entering on all three.

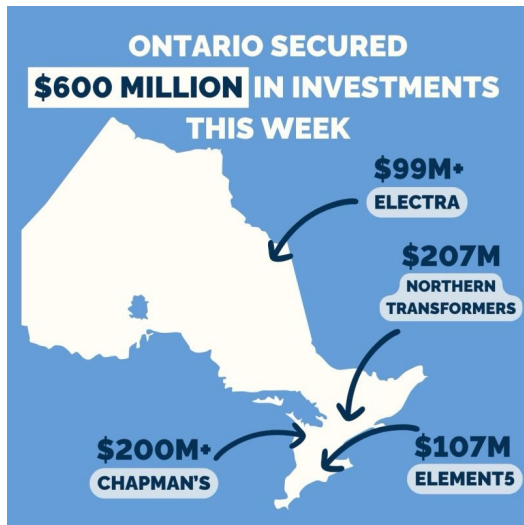
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Looking to help spread the word? Download our [Contest Toolkit](#) and share it on your social channels.

## Western Ontario is Ontario's Economic Engine



Western Ontario has had three major investment announcements in the region, totaling over \$500 M.

### [\\$200 Million Investment by Chapman's in Markdale](#)

Expansion will create 200 new jobs and strengthen Ontario's food manufacturing sector

### [Ontario Supporting \\$107 Million Investment in Mass Timber Manufacturing Sector](#)

Element5's St. Thomas expansion will create 150 new jobs, supporting provincial forestry and manufacturing sectors

### [Ontario Welcomes \\$207 Million Investment in Advanced Manufacturing Sector](#)

Northern Transformer Corporation's expansion in Innisfil will strengthen the province's energy supply chain and create 151 new jobs

## Chatham-Kent Receives \$440,000 through Building Faster Fund



On September 5th, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent was awarded \$440,000 through the second round of the Building Faster Fund, which provides funding to municipalities that achieve at least 80 per cent of their provincially designated housing targets.

Chatham-Kent broke ground on 311 new homes in 2024, which works out to 338 per cent of its 2024 housing target.

This funding will help the Municipality of Chatham-Kent build more homes and community infrastructure and supports the province's plan to protect Ontario by investing in infrastructure to support economic growth and keep workers on the job.

"We're thrilled to once again be receiving funding through the Building Faster Fund. This support is a recognition of the incredible work being done in Chatham-Kent to both meet and exceed our housing targets and keep up with the pace of our growing community," said Darrin Canniff, Mayor of Chatham-Kent. "As more people choose to call Chatham-Kent home, it's essential that we continue to build a variety of housing options that meet the needs of both our current and future residents. This funding helps us do exactly that, and we're grateful for the continued partnership with the Ontario government as we build a stronger more vibrant future for Chatham-Kent."

[Read the full press release](#)

## Revamped tourism website makes it even easier to “Tour Oxford”



Oxford Tourism is making it easier to plan your next trip to Oxford County with the revamped [Tour Oxford](#) website. This updated site supports [Oxford County's 5-Year Tourism Plan](#) and aims to enhance visitor information services to meet the increasing demand for tourism information and business support.

The responsive website design improves the visitor experience and enhances customer service for tourism operators.

### Supporting visitors:

- Sort businesses by community, business amenities and interests
- Browse a dynamic calendar of events
- Use the “My Trip” function to build the perfect itinerary, tailored to your unique interests and share it with friends
- Get help with trip planning through personalized concierge service to help you discover the best of Oxford, from hidden gems to must-see attractions

### Supporting businesses:

- Apply for free listings on the website and submit tourism events
- Easily change your photos to match the season, update listing details, add events and even post offers for consumers or weekly specials
- Resources are available to help businesses add their information

Whether it is trip ideas, information on culinary, farms, places to stay, outdoor recreation, or culture and heritage, [Tour Oxford](#) encourages us to *Embrace our Rural Routes*. Learn more at [www.tourismoxford.ca](http://www.tourismoxford.ca).

## Newly Formed - Southwest Ontario Data Consortium

### Founding Members



The Four County Labour Market Planning Board announced the newly formed Southwest Ontario Data Consortium.

6 regions have formed a partnership as founding members; The Four County Labour Market Planning Board (Lead), The City of London (Co-Lead), Workforce Collective (Niagara), Workforce Windsor-Essex, Sarnia Lambton Workforce

Development Board, and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

This regional partnership has allowed our organizations who did not previously have a data consortium to join; access to valuable data which will increase support for economic and workforce research efforts. As a data consortium this allows our founding and community members access to the Community Data Program that would not have been possible without this collaboration.

Four County serves, Bruce, Grey, Huron and Perth counties and will be seeking interest from local partners who wish to learn more or want to know how to join as a member. Further communications will be posted for information sessions to come in October or November. Feel free to reach out to us directly or follow our newsletter at [www.planningboard.ca/news](http://www.planningboard.ca/news) to ensure you receive updates.

As the lead organization for this consortium should you have any questions on how this works for other regions or are not sure who to contact you can apply directly online with the Community Data Program [www.communitydata.ca](http://www.communitydata.ca) or reach out to [info@planningboard.ca](mailto:info@planningboard.ca) or 519-881-2725.

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## Municipal Climate Internship - Recruiting Municipal Hosts Extended to October 2



The Municipal Climate Internship (MCI) offers young environmental leaders the opportunity to gain firsthand experience and knowledge in municipal climate and environmental issues as well as local decision-making processes. At the same time, the program helps provide capacity to municipalities looking to advance their climate goals and priorities.

Going into its third year, Environmental Leadership Canada (ELC) is looking for host municipalities that are interested in having an intern work with them on climate-related projects for a **6-month placement - January to**

**July 2026.** Interns are supervised by municipal staff (e.g. CAO or Senior Manager), paired with an elected official as a mentor and take part in ELC leadership and professional development programming. For more information about the program, **take a look at our [MCI Backgrounder](#) and [FAQ](#).**

To apply as an MCI Host Municipality, fill out this [Expression of Interest](#).

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### Ontario Breaks Ground on New St. Clair Transmission Line

The Ontario government announced that Hydro One is breaking ground on the St. Clair Transmission Line, a major infrastructure project that supports the province's plan to protect Ontario by



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

### Government of Canada supports Northern Transformer's Innisfil expansion

Electricity grids across the country are undergoing a historic wave of investment, driven by population and economic growth, aging infrastructure, and ever-increasing demand for electricity. Large power transformers (LPTs) are important for maintaining and upgrading the

securing provincial energy supplies, fuelling economic growth and creating good-paying jobs. The new 64-kilometre, double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line will connect the County of Lambton and Municipality of Chatham-Kent, while expanding the existing Chatham Switching Station and Lambton Transformer Station (TS) and converting the existing Wallaceburg TS to 230 kV by 2028.

“Southwestern Ontario is thriving, and reliable energy is essential to keep that momentum going,” said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines. “The St. Clair Transmission Line will deliver the affordable, clean power our communities and businesses need to grow and stay competitive. This project is a major step forward in our government’s plan to protect Ontario by building a stronger, self-reliant energy system that creates jobs and powers our economy for generations to come.”

[Read the full press release](#)

nation's power grid, supporting economic growth and urbanization, enabling the transition to renewable energy, and ensuring national energy security. That is why the Government of Canada is investing in modernizing our energy infrastructure, to ensure Canadians have the power they need for a thriving future economy and society.

On September 18th, the Honourable Evan Solomon, Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario ([FedDev Ontario](#)), announced an investment of \$6 million for [Northern Transformer Corporation](#), a leading manufacturer of high-voltage power transformers, as the company breaks ground for a new state-of-the-art Large Power Transformer (LPT) facility in Innisfil, Ontario.

[Learn more](#)

## BizLink Program Set to Expand Across Western Ontario



Community Futures Western Ontario (CFWO) in partnership with the Orillia Area Community Development Corp. announced their plan to invest in the redevelopment and regional expansion of the BizLink Program - an innovative business transition support platform designed to connect businesses, buyers and seller with confidence and confidentiality.

Originally launched as pilot project in Simcoe County in 2018, BizLink was designed to fill the gap in business transition support.

Learn more about this exciting new program [here:](#)

[#CommunityFutures](#)

[#businesssupport](#)

[cfwesternontario.ca](#)

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