



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCSI PROJECT MOVES FORWARD: WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROJECT (WINA)

April 28, 2014 – The Ontario Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure (OCSI) is pleased to announce that it has moved forward on one of its key strategic initiatives for 2014 in working collaboratively with the Province. Earlier this year, OCSI entered into an agreement with the MOE to deliver a project “Wastewater Infrastructure Needs Assessment” (WINA), helping municipalities prioritize investment in wastewater infrastructure.

The Province is providing the Ontario Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure with funding for a Wastewater Infrastructure Needs Assessment project to evaluate sector needs for a risk-based wastewater infrastructure prioritization framework for municipalities in the context of sustainability planning and asset management.

By engaging municipal sector stakeholders, OCSI will be evaluating and providing feedback for the development of a risk-based prioritization process for wastewater systems which could assist municipalities in identifying critical projects. Over the next few months, OCSI will develop and implement surveys, workshops and consultations with municipalities and other wastewater stakeholders. The project will focus specifically on municipal wastewater facilities within the Great Lakes Basin.

“The OCSI Project is an important initiative for the Coalition to work on collaboratively with the Province and draw upon the expertise of its six member associations,” said Carl Bodimeade, P.Eng., OCSI Chair. “There is an increasing need for municipalities to deliver safe and sustainable infrastructure. Through this project we will be providing support to municipalities, especially the smaller ones, on their asset management journey.”

A Technical Advisory Team will be established to review and provide feedback throughout the project. Results of the project will be shared in a technology transfer workshop later in the year

“Congratulations to the Ontario Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure for undertaking important work which will help municipalities reduce harmful pollutants that flow from their wastewater and stormwater systems into waterways. These efforts will help protect our environment, and particularly the Great Lakes,” said Environment Minister Jim Bradley.

The Ministry of Environment (MOE) agreed to provide OCSI (through the Municipal Finance Officers’ Association, one of our member organizations) with funding to build capacity,

Ontario Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure

Municipal Engineers Association (**MEA**), Municipal Finance Officers’ Association (**MFOA**)
Ontario Good Roads Association (**OGRA**), Ontario Public Works Association (**OPWA**)
Ontario Water Works Association (**OWWA**), Water Environment Association of Ontario (**WEAO**)



primarily in small and rural municipalities, to advance the Goals of Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy.

OCSI is an umbrella organization that is uniquely qualified to provide the necessary technical expertise through representation from six well-established Ontario associations with a strong focus on municipal and water/wastewater issues that collectively connect with 96% of Ontario municipalities.

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Contact:

Darla Campbell, P.Eng., Executive Director OCSI
416-562-9082, ExecutiveDirector@on-csi.ca

About the Ontario Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure (OCSI): OCSI brings together the combined resources of six well-established organizations to work toward sustainable infrastructure in Ontario. The coalition comprises: Municipal Engineers Association (MEA), Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA), Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA), Ontario Public Works Association (OPWA), Ontario Water Works Association (OWWA) and Water Environment Association of Ontario (WEAO). The mission of OCSI is the promotion of "Safe and Sustainable Infrastructure". For more information go to www.on-csi.ca.