OCSI RELEASES REPORT ON
WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS ASSESSMENT (WINA) PROJECT

January 13, 2015 – The Ontario Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure (OCSI) is pleased to announce that the report resulting from its research and consultation on the Wastewater Infrastructure Needs Assessment (WINA) project is now available.

The Province provided OCSI with funding for a Wastewater Infrastructure Needs Assessment project to evaluate the sector need for a risk-based wastewater infrastructure prioritization framework for municipalities, in the context of sustainability planning and asset management.

The report, "*When the Bough Breaks: Helping municipalities prioritize infrastructure investment to build resilient wastewater and stormwater systems,*" is presented in three parts: 1) Risk-Based Prioritization; 2) Related Initiatives and Resources; and 3) Findings and Recommendations.

"Fighting climate change and working to keep our air, land, and water clean will ensure Ontario's prosperity and quality of life for today and for future generations. We have already seen the impacts of climate change on our communities, from more severe storms to flooding and extreme temperatures. Forward-looking projects such as this demonstrate local and provincial leadership in adapting to the realities of climate change now and in the years to come," stated Glen R. Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

Carl Bodimeade, Chair of OCSI, remarked, "The WINA project enabled OCSI to fulfill one of its strategic objectives by researching and promoting the use of such risk-based tools to optimize infrastructure investments. We are pleased with our outreach to more than 75 municipalities, and other stakeholder organizations, that participated in the project at area-based workshops, one-on-one interviews, through an on-line survey or at the Technology Transfer Workshop."

The key recommendations of the report are to:

1. Develop **self-assessment rating and report card** (dashboard) of the sustainability and resiliency of wastewater and stormwater systems.

2. Develop **guidelines to build resilient wastewater and stormwater systems** which include adaptability to climate change and growth (e.g. resiliency condition assessment).

3. Identify what additional data on **stormwater system performance monitoring and reporting** would be useful to identify future infrastructure needs (or operational needs) to enhance the health of the watershed and to develop better stormwater systems in the future.

4. Pilot a **risk-based prioritization tool** with variety of municipalities (size and location) to develop a standard approach for municipalities to evaluate and prioritize infrastructure needs for wastewater and stormwater systems for inclusion in Asset Management Plans.

5. Identify **learning needs** for Asset Management Planning and Sustainability Plans, e.g. big picture benefits of Asset Management Plans. Develop training that meets the learning needs and enhances the municipality's ability to work together across departments. For example, attendance at training to include three representatives from the municipality (e.g. operations, engineering and finance).

6. Develop terms of reference and on-going support for **"peer-to-peer" municipal groups** for wastewater and stormwater Asset Management Planning and Sustainability Plans.

7. Develop a **best practices guide for small communities adapting to extreme rainfall**. The guide should share tools, tips and templates to help small communities better address the risks in their wastewater and stormwater systems associated with extreme rainfall.

8. Develop **communication tools** targeted to the general public and elected officials to promote understanding and value of infrastructure and the need for investment to build resilient wastewater and stormwater systems.

9. Promote the principles of **life-cycle costing** and the benefits of **full-cost recovery** for water, wastewater and stormwater services.

10. Advocate for a systems approach in managing drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems that includes a watershed approach, as defined by **integrated water resources management**.

OCSI looks forward to sharing these recommendations and continuing to bring OCSI's voice to the conversation about the needs and priorities of Ontario's municipalities in their delivery of wastewater and stormwater services.

The complete results of the on-line survey are published in the appendix to the report.

"*When the Bough Breaks: Helping municipalities prioritize infrastructure investment to build resilient wastewater and stormwater systems*" can be downloaded at www.on-csi.ca.

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 infrastructure issues and who collectively connect with 96% of Ontario municipalities.

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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**.

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