



A Coalition of Ontario Associations Supporting Safe and Sustainable Public Infrastructure

March - 2019

What is OCSI?



- A leading voice of public infrastructure in Ontario, the OCSI is a coalition of associations which advocates for the support of safe and sustainable **transportation, water and sewer** systems and other public **infrastructure**.
- Through its members, OCSI represents approx. **10,000 private and public** professionals and organizations from across Ontario.
- We facilitate the **sharing of information** among member organizations and coordinate approaches to common issues.
- OSCI seeks to be an authoritative, **consolidated professional voice** on infrastructure matters in Ontario.

Who is OCSI?



Established in 2004, the coalition includes:

- Municipal Engineers Association (MEA)
- Municipal Finance Officers' Association (MFOA)
- Ontario Public Works Association (OPWA)
- Water Environment Association of Ontario (WEAO)/Ontario Pollution Control Equipment Association (OPCEA)
- Asset Management Ontario (AM Ontario)

(with others to come in 2019)

What we do...



- OCSI helps form opinion and policy towards safe and sustainable infrastructure in Ontario.
- “Courageous Conversations” Forum Series (2014-2017), Queen’s Park Day (2020)
- Policy support
- Outreach and collaboration



PHOTO COURTESY OF OCSI. PHOTO COURTESY OF OCSI.

Ontario Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure (OCSI) sets strategic plan to become province’s guiding voice for environmentally and fiscally sustainable infrastructure

STAFF UN/77R
PHOTO COURTESY OF OCSI



OCSI chair, **Carl Bodnar**; Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, **Glen Murray**; **Actual Media Inc.**, president, **Todd Latham**; and OCSI executive director, **Daria Campbell**. PHOTO CREDIT: ANS COMMUNIS.

“Nearing its 10-year anniversary, the Ontario Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure (OCSI) is moving forward with a new strategic plan to become the province’s guiding voice for infrastructure that is environmentally and fiscally sustainable, providing reliable service to residents and businesses. OCSI works with both the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure to ensure this new way of thinking is entrenched in decision-making. This work includes the development of a municipal infrastructure strategy to help local governments better prepare and plan. “Good asset management is at the basis

government. Bodnar says he is cautiously optimistic on the heels of October’s election about the new federal Liberal’s platform promise to work more consultatively with the province and to move away from the ad hoc funding and project announcement models that have become the norm. “Part of sustainability for infrastructure is sustained and predictable funding. The province and many municipalities are under deficits without additional money to spend. We want to be sure what they do spend is done in a sustainable way.” This kind of sustainable investment and spending also allows municipalities to better plan and prepare for coming projects more effectively than previous ad hoc announcements. This in turn may also trickle down to contractors who can then also better plan and prepare for labour and

upfront cost for design and construction can significantly reduce these heavier long-term the past several years to resolve their infrastructure deficit. Past under-investment

OCSI
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JOIN THE CONVERSATION
Leveraging Infrastructure Investments for Economic Growth in Ontario
HOSTED BY: ONTARIO COALITION FOR SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE
MAY 26, 2016 TORONTO 10AM TO 3 PM
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What's New with OCSI?



- OCSI Operational Guidelines and new Governance Structure, Coordinated member association policy priorities and 3-Year Work Plan (2019-2022)
- Work Plan includes website refresh and communications strategy, creation of policy briefs and coordinated government meetings and industry workshops to advocate shared priorities.

OCSI Policy Priorities



General OCSI Policy Principles

- Sustainable Infrastructure with **lifecycle principles**
- Continuous public works resourcing to support economic growth in Ontario
- Removing regulatory burden
- Ensure effective programs and legislation to support sustainable infrastructure
- Effective advocacy

OCSI Policy Priorities



Specific OCSI Policy Priorities

- Continue with established municipal **asset management planning policy** as set out in *O. Reg.588/17*
- Provide continuous public works **resourcing to support economic growth** e.g. Gas Tax, OCIF, municipal stormwater fees provincial guide for small communities and OMPF.
- Remove regulatory burden by **reforming the MCEA**, i.e. reduce duration to deliver infrastructure rapidly.
- **Harmonize financial planning requirements** under the asset management regulations, and the drinking water and wastewater regulations.

OCSI Letter to Ontario 2019 Budget



February 8, 2019

The Honourable Victor Fedeli
Minister of Finance
c/o Budget Secretariat
Frost Building North, 3rd Floor
95 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Z1

Minister Fedeli –

The Ontario Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure (OCSI) is a group of six industry associations in Ontario representing over 10,000 private and public organizations in every community across the province. On behalf of our collective membership, the OCSI has supported economic growth in Ontario by advocating reasonable, workable legislation and investment that relates to the safe and sustainable construction, maintenance and operation of critical infrastructure for taxpayers in Ontario.

On behalf of OCSI, Ontario's infrastructure advocacy group, we would like to submit our recommendations in advance of Government of Ontario's 2019 Budget. Specifically, OCSI encourages the Ontario government to:

- Continue with established municipal asset management planning policy as set out in *O. Reg. 588/17: Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure* and approach future infrastructure development with rigorous asset management and lifecycle principles.
- Provide continuous public works resourcing to support economic growth via existing provincial funding programs such as the Gas Tax, the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF), municipal stormwater fees (provincial guidelines for small communities) and the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF).
- Remove regulatory burden and cut red tape by reforming the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) to enable efficient procedures and reduce approval duration which will ensure municipalities can deliver infrastructure projects in a timely manner.
- Harmonize financial planning requirements under the asset management planning regulations and the drinking water and wastewater regulations.

Finally, OCSI offers to work with the Ontario government to ensure effective programs and legislation for public infrastructure design, building, financing, maintenance and operation across the province by:

- Fostering partnerships between provincial government and municipalities to develop and achieve shared goals on policies, provincial programs and legislation.
- Support the practical implementation of Low Impact Development (LID) standards and guidelines, respecting regional variances on the guidelines.

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- Reduce inflow and infiltration (I/I) on sanitary sewer systems through the update and development of new provincial design standards.
- Reduce regulatory burden for new technologies through provincial support for research, pilot projects, and partnerships.

The members of OCSI can help the Ontario government provide ways to work smarter, spend smarter and reinvent the way public services are delivered. We are interested in working with your government to explore innovative and cost-effective ideas to build, maintain and operate our infrastructure – including helping the government with ideas for shovel-ready stimulus, job creation and asset management projects spending as part of the 2019 Budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Latham', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Todd Latham
OCSI Board Member
416-722-8109

Together, we are OCSI:



**MUNICIPAL
ENGINEERS
ASSOCIATION**



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