



April 5, 2024

FROM: Hilda MacDonald, Chair
Ontario Small Urban Municipalities

RE: 2024 OSUM Conference

On behalf of the Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM) executive committee, I cordially invite members of Council and senior municipal leaders to attend the 2024 OSUM Conference in Orillia from May 1 to 3, 2024.

OSUM is proud to support the vibrant counties, small cities and towns that connect rural and urban Ontario. We are diverse communities, but we are *all* vital links that make Ontario strong.

Small urban municipalities are expected to deliver big-city services, while at the same time maintaining a small-town quality of life and conserving natural heritage. Like me, you may feel like you're performing a constant balancing act to meet public expectations on a modest property tax base. The good news is that we aren't alone.

The OSUM Conference is the go-to forum for small urban municipal leaders to come together. You can meet peers and colleagues, learn from experts and hear directly from provincial leaders. This is a smaller forum where your voice can be heard.

This year's program is exceptional and the value for dollar is outstanding. Please take a look at the overview attached to this letter. I think you will find there is something for everyone – and many opportunities to take practical tips back home.

Please visit www.osum.ca to learn more and register. I look forward to seeing you in the beautiful host City of Orillia .

Sincerely,

Hilda MacDonald
Chair, Ontario Small Urban Municipalities



Wednesday, May 1: City of Orillia Welcome Reception, 5 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 2: Full day program with lunch, 8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday, May 3: Morning program, 8:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.



Key Speakers

- Don McIsaac, Mayor, City of Orillia
- Hilda MacDonald, Chair, OSUM
- Chief Ted Williams, Chippewas of Rama First Nation
- The Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Bonnie Crombie, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party
- Mike Schreiner, Leader, Green Party of Ontario
- The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario (invited)
- Marit Stiles, Leader of the Official Opposition and NDP (invited)



Topics

- Strategies to address the Big Issues: homelessness, employment, accessible, affordable and sustainable housing
- AMO - Water and Wastewater Pressures Facing Municipalities
- Revitalizing the Local Media Landscape
- Six Years with Premier Ford, Steve Paikin, Host, TVO's The Agenda
- Preparing for a Labour Disruption
- Economic Development in Small Urban Municipalities
- Political polarization
- AMO's Healthy Democracy Project
- The Road to Municipal Politics
- AMO - Social and Economic Prosperity Review
- LAS - Services to support Ontario's Small Urban Municipalities

