



# OFA UPDATE 2025

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# INTERPROVINCIAL

# TRADE BARRIERS

- Ontario Government has taken a lead on labour inter change
- Need to expand and lobby for trans provincial agricultural commodity trade
- Reduce barriers to processing, whether meat or other commodities

# TARIFFS

- Working with industry collaboratively
- Ensure the federal government hears agriculture concerns
- Promoting local food and Ontario/Canada food
- Buy local program
- Using media to have agriculture voice heard across all areas





# WHY WE NEED TO PROTECT FARMLAND

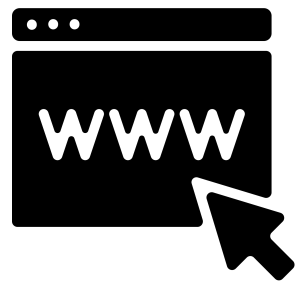
- 90% of the earth's soil will be degraded by 2050 (UNFAO)
- World population by 2050 = 9.7 billion (United Nations, 2024)



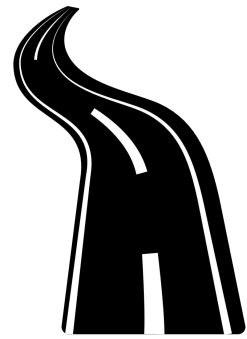
# WHY WE NEED TO PROTECT FARMLAND

- Over half (52%) of prime soils in Canada are in Ontario and farmland makes up less than 5% of land base (OMAFRA, 2016)
- Between 2016 and 2021, Ontario lost 319 acres of farmland per day (Census of Agriculture, 2021)
- Agricultural land is: productive, valuable, essential, finite and non-renewable

# SUPPORTING THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR



Reliable broadband internet for business development and utilizing precision agriculture technology.



Roads, bridges and culverts to transport farm equipment and distribute agri-food products.



Access to natural gas to attract and retain businesses in rural communities.



# HYDRO ONE CORRIDOR

## London to St Thomas Line:

- Route has been selected - 24 land owners
- Best based on natural environment, socio-economic, indigenous culture, land use and cost
- Draft environmental assessment report released May 28 with 30 day comment period

## Longwood to Lakeshore Line:

- Route has been selected - over 300 land owners
- Costs will be announced once details finalized



# WIND TOWERS

- 300 ft high + 70 ft for blades
- Concrete base proposed 10 ft (3-4 m) deep
- Constructed with concrete and rebar
- Estimated production = 6 MW per tower
- Landowner concerns:
  - Removal of base at end of life
  - Proposal is to only remove 1 m of concrete from base – this is not enough to return land to production





# RAILWAYS

- \$45M to improve safety nationally
- Railways refuse to acknowledge Drainage Act
- Farm crossings upgrade costs

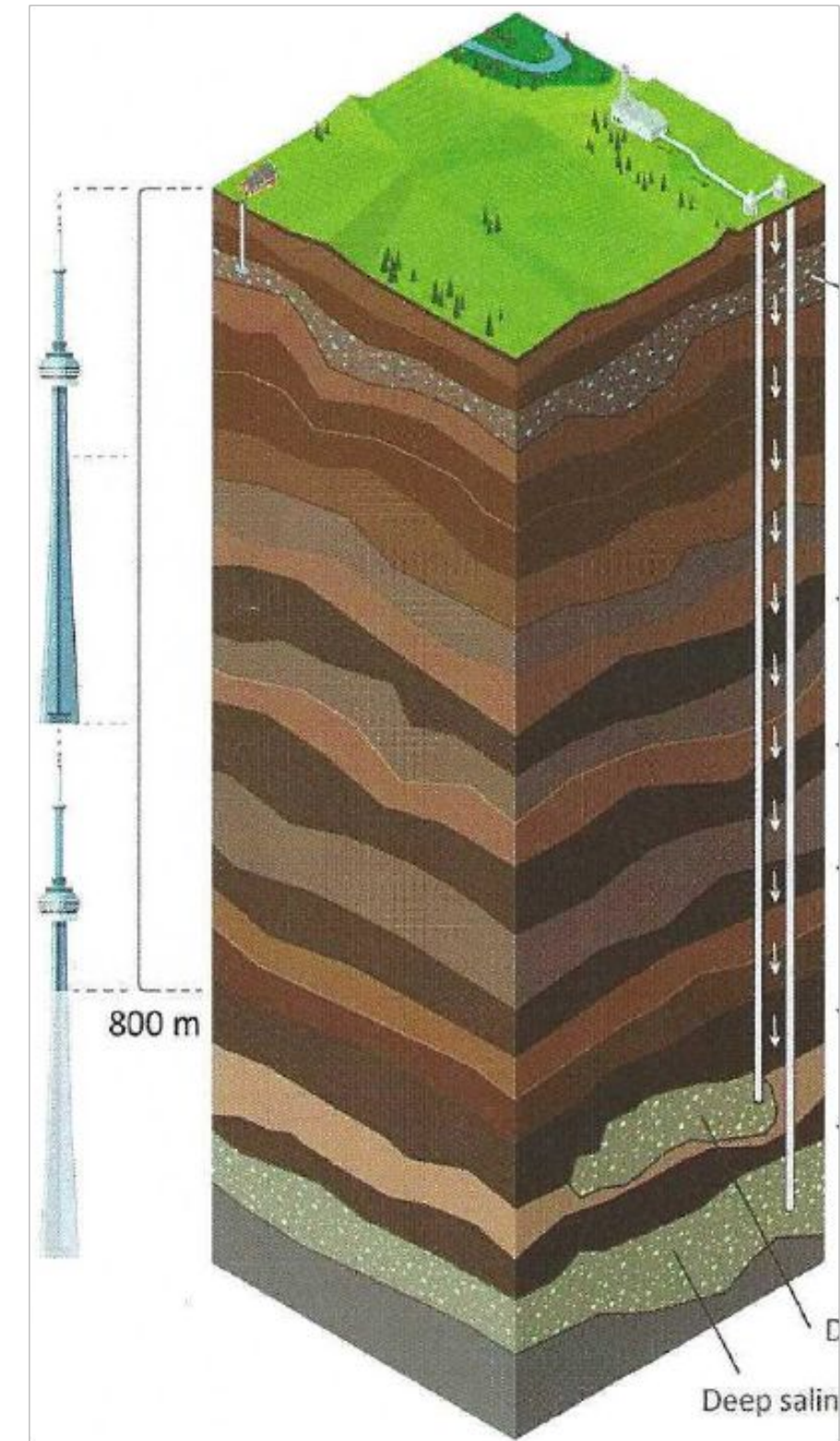
# CARBON STORAGE

## Recommendations:

- Recognize landowner rights / concerns
- Need more info / education
- Need to keep companies accountable
- Understand long term impacts

## Questions:

- CO2 leakage into water
- Transport of CO2
- Who assumes long term risk and responsibility



# BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

- Lots of unknowns
- Could lose up to 2.2M acres of land
- Fire suppression
- End of use (recycling vs landfill)
- Estimated Ontario will need to expand from 42,000 to 88,000 MW by 2050

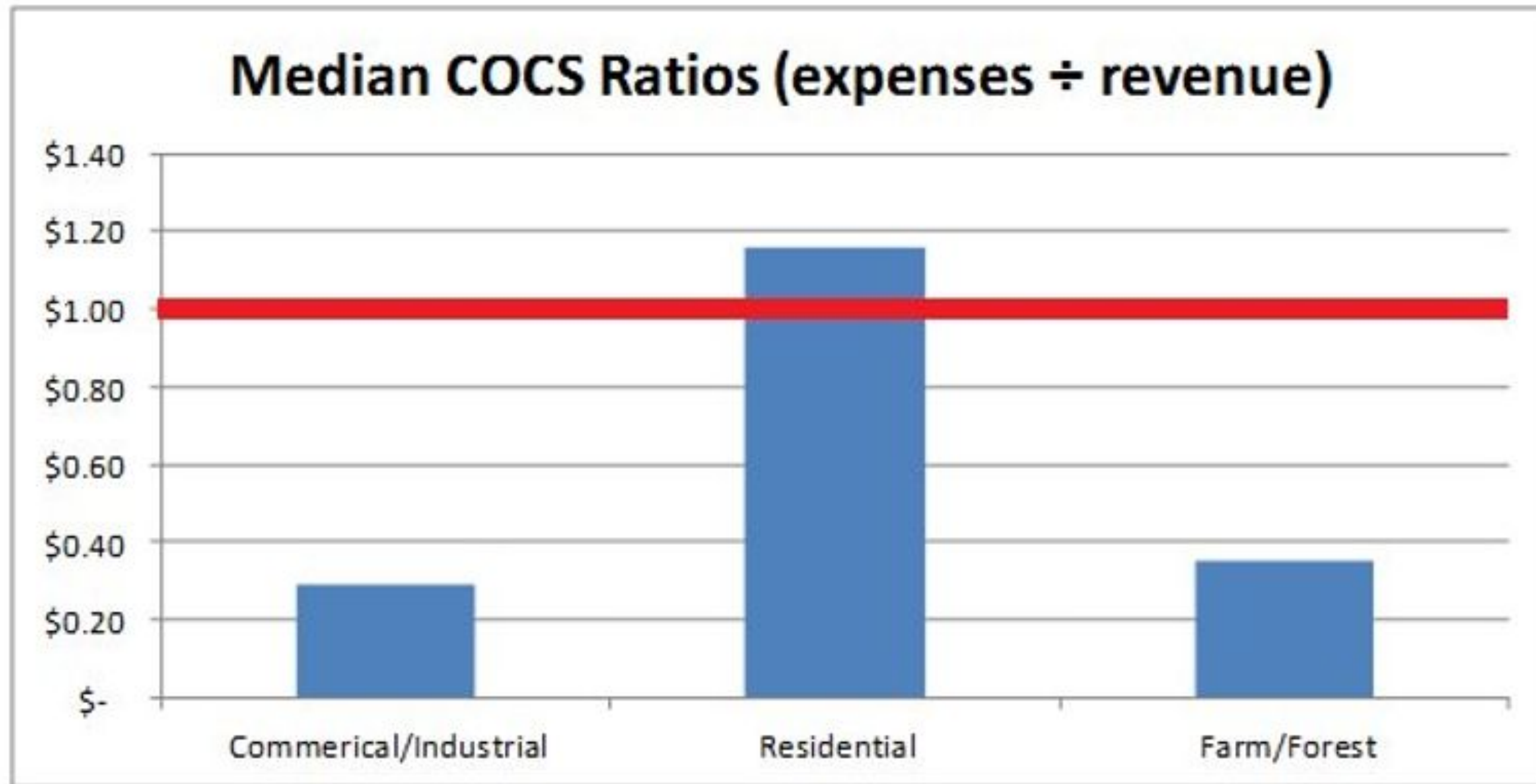


# COST OF COMMUNITY SERVICES (COCS)

- Developed by the American Farmland Trust and used in OFA Case Studies.
- Calculates government's revenues versus expenditures by land-use type.
- Compares tax revenue a municipality receives and how it is spent on community services.
- Inform municipal land-use planning by showing the fiscal impacts of land-use.



# MEDIAN RESULTS OF THE 151 COCS STUDIES



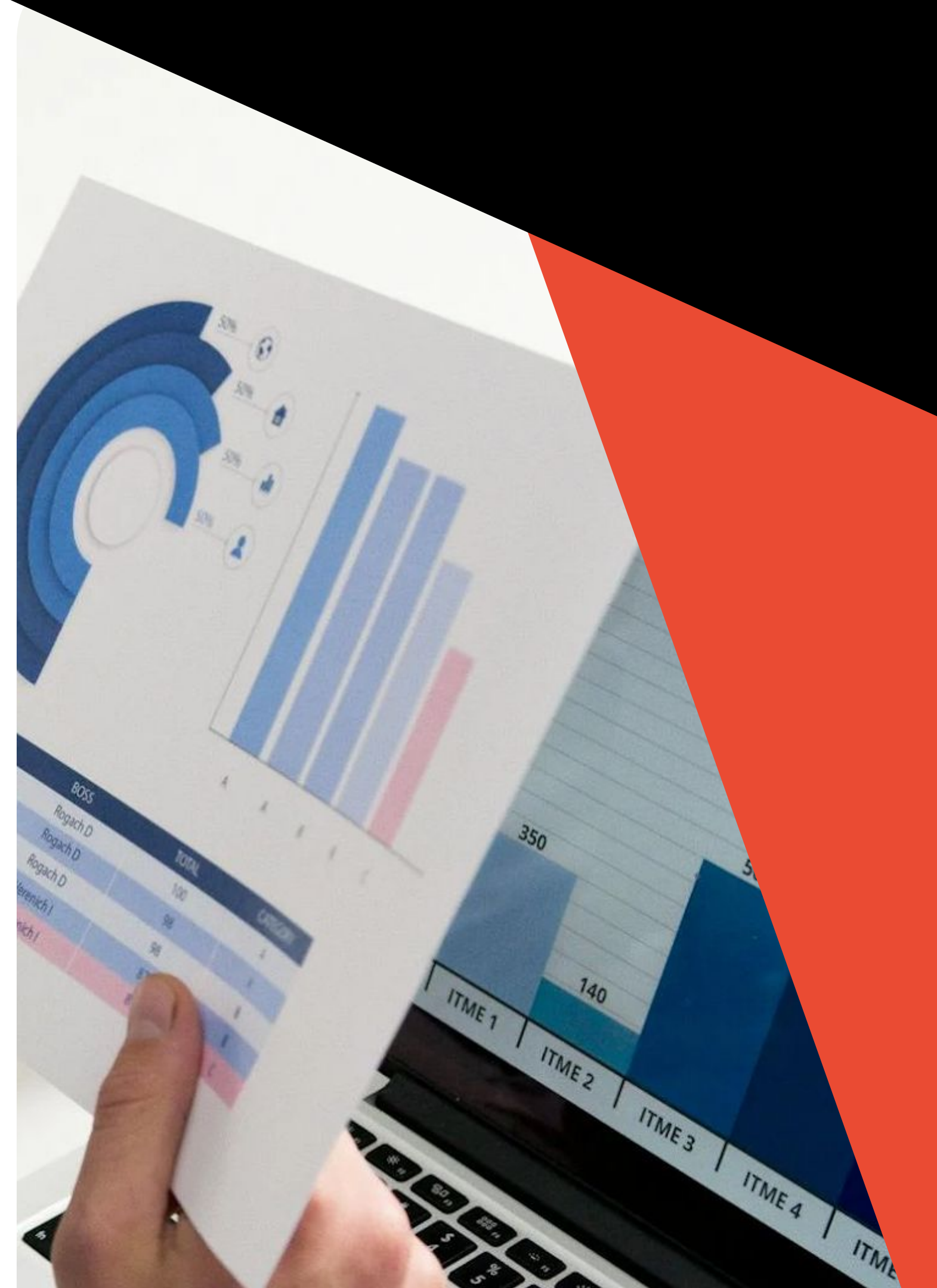
# INTERPRETING RESULTS

- One-year snapshot of a single local government's revenues versus expenditures categorized by land-use type.
- The AFT has published Median (not average) results of Service Expenditures:

**Residential: \$1 Rev : \$1.16 Exp**

**Agriculture: \$1 Rev : \$0.37 Exp**

**Business: \$1 Rev : \$0.30 Exp**



**Thank  
you!**



**Ontario  
Federation of  
Agriculture**

