

## Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Monday, March 11, 2024

### Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus welcomes the Keeping Energy costs Down Act, 2024

**Southwestern, Ontario** – The Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus are pleased with the announcement by Minister Todd Smith (Energy) regarding the Keeping Energy Costs Down Act, 2024. This legislation is critical to the long-term viability and success of Western Ontario and will aim to keep construction costs down while providing a pragmatic approach towards a net zero energy system in Ontario. This legislation will ensure that stakeholder engagement is increased and that regulatory decisions will incorporate practical considerations supporting economic and social outcomes.

“Modernizing these regulations will reduce delays and costs for economic development initiatives including new industries seeking to locate in Ontario and create jobs, transit projects, community expansion projects, housing developments, as well as residential and business customer connections,” stated Warden Glen McNeil, chair of the WOWC.

“Western Ontario has seen significant growth in the past decade with pressures to build out the gas pipeline network. Many municipalities in our region have lost major investment opportunities because of the delays in getting natural gas to development sites. This legislation will ensure our rural communities will remain competitive and grow,” McNeil concluded.

#### **About**

The ***Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC)*** is a not-for-profit organization representing 15 upper and single-tier municipalities in Southwestern Ontario, representing more than 1.5 million residents. The WOWC aims to enhance the prosperity and overall wellbeing of rural and small urban communities across the region. Caucus members work collectively to influence federal and provincial legislation and programs through advocacy, research, analysis, and education. For more information, visit [www.wowc.ca](http://www.wowc.ca).

## **Media Contact**

Kate Burns Gallagher, Executive Director

T: 519-495-6059 E: [kate@wowc.ca](mailto:kate@wowc.ca)