

## Welcome to ROMA's new quarterly e-newsletter!

We will be updating you on our efforts to make sure the shared interests and challenges of Ontario's rural communities are better understood and better addressed.



### 2019 ROMA Conference: Rural Matters

*January 27-29, 2019*

Change is expected across Ontario. Coming six months into the new provincial government's mandate, the third annual ROMA Conference is a critical moment for municipal officials to learn, share ideas and meet with the Province. A great opportunity for new Councillors. Early bird registration ends November 15. [Don't miss it.](#)

[Register Here](#)

## Recreational Cannabis is Now Legal

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Besides deciding if they want to "opt out" of cannabis retail, Councils will also need to look at other local priorities and policies like public smoking, HR policies and by-law

enforcement. Listening to feedback from your community will be key. All orders of government will be adjusting as they learn and gain experience. Check out AMO's online [cannabis resource](#) section for more info. ROMA, working through AMO, is now focused on new regulations to safeguard municipal input on retail siting.

## Rural Ontario Institute

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ROI is dedicated to developing rural leadership and knowledge. ROMA often collaborates with the institute to get data needed for our advocacy work. Check out their [2017 Rural Fact Sheets](#) for demographics that can help you understand how your community fits into rural trends.

## Infrastructure Funding

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ROMA and AMO are pressing the Province to move quickly on federal infrastructure funding. The 2018 season was lost to the provincial and municipal elections. With the federal election expected in later 2019, there's only nine months to get projects lined up, approved and funded. If not, another year will be lost. Our goal would be to have the project intake ready for this December.

## Stay Tuned: OPP Court Costs and Energy Matters

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You may have been wondering about the recent OPP notice that put a hold on the final 2018 grant for court security costs. We are seeking information on the notice and what it means for both OPP-policed communities and others.

We are also getting clarification on Bill 32 and expectations around community contributions to natural gas expansion. It's important these costs don't end up on the property tax bill.

ROMA wants to further protect property tax payers from unexpected costs related to the repeal of the Green Energy Act. We want to make sure the province will be responsible for complaints about green energy operations and costs if a company goes bankrupt.

## LAS: Road and Sidewalk Assessment Program

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Better info makes for better decisions. This [LAS Program](#) provides municipalities with high quality, objective data on your roads and sidewalks. It helps meet legislated requirements, set priorities and budget, and plan for the long-term care of valuable community infrastructure.