



## Welcome to ROMA's quarterly e-newsletter

ROMA represents the voice of Ontario's rural municipalities. The ROMA Insider provides quarterly updates on our efforts to address the shared interests and challenges of Ontario's rural communities.

If you are new to Council or would like to learn more about ROMA, visit [www.roma.on.ca](http://www.roma.on.ca).

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## ROMA Interim Chair and Board Elections



ROMA will hold board elections on Monday, January 27 at the 2019 Annual ROMA Conference, to fill vacancies following the municipal election. Nominations to serve as a Board Zone representative closed on December 31, 2018. A report on the nominations will be emailed and posted online shortly. Your participation in the election will ensure that rural Ontario has strong voices at the table to serve and strengthen our communities.

At the ROMA Board's November meeting, Caledon Mayor Allan Thompson was named interim Chair of ROMA, until the newly formed Board selects a Chair. Special thanks to former Chair, Ron Holman, who led the Board to many wins and successes during four years at the helm.

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## 2019 ROMA Conference:

### Pressing the Province on rural matters

ROMA's annual conference brings municipal leaders together to discuss common challenges, share ideas and network. This year is shaping up to be the biggest yet.

Coming six months into the new provincial government's mandate, the conference is a critical moment for municipal officials to learn, share ideas and meet with the Province. Many people don't realize just how much impact provincial policies and regulations have on municipal services and costs. With municipal governments

collecting just 9-cents of every household tax dollar in Ontario, provincial funding is also vital to our communities. Traditionally, the Premier and leaders of all provincial parties speak at the ROMA conference. You will also hear from other Ministers and have an opportunity to ask direct questions during the popular Ministers' Forum.

The Conference is well known for local meetings with various Ministry officials. This year, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing received nearly 460 delegation meeting requests, far more than previous years. If your municipality submitted a request, you will be hearing directly from the Ministry.

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## Key conference topics: cannabis, labour, energy

The ROMA Conference's main stage will feature sessions on pressing matters facing rural communities. On cannabis legalization, staff from the Ministry of Attorney General and Alcohol and Gaming Commissions of Ontario will share the latest on licensing and related matters.

As well, this past fall we saw movement on critical labour matters that affect municipal government services and budgets. Labour and employment law professionals will give a practical review of recent changes to provincial legislation - covering everything from interest arbitration and double-hatter firefighters, to the potential impact of changing retirement rules for paramedics.

Canadian Energy Research Institute President and CEO Allan Fogwill will talk about natural gas expansion, a critical priority in rural Ontario. Allan will talk about how Ontario fits into national plans, including immediate benefits and future prospects.

The [Program At A Glance](#) is now available for more information on other plenary and concurrent sessions.

[Register](#)

## Spotlight on LAS: ONE Investment

A strong investment portfolio can have a substantial impact on the municipal bottom line. ONE Investment has offered turnkey, compliant investment solutions for municipal governments for 25 years. Focused on municipal priorities, ONE is a not-for-profit formed by two established Ontario associations, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Municipal Finance Officers Association (MFOA). With internal expertise, ONE is committed to providing investment advice to help municipalities grow their investment revenue and take pressure off tax dollars. Learn more about [ONE Investment's services](#).