

WESTERN ONTARIO  
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# ONTARIO WEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE 2024

October 25, 2024 | Chatham-Kent, ON



# PROGRAM

## 7:30 AM Registration and Breakfast

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## 8:30 AM Welcoming Remarks

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- Richard Drouillard, Emcee
- Mayor Amy Martin, Norfolk County
- Warden Glen McNeil, Huron County
- Mayor Darrin Canniff, Chatham-Kent

**Location:** Main Ballroom

## 9:00 AM Keynote Speaker

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### Keynote Address by Paul Wells, Acclaimed Political Journalist

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*Sponsored by Enbridge*

Prepare for an insightful and engaging keynote address by Paul Wells, one of Canada's leading political journalists, who brings over 25 years of experience covering the nation's political landscape. With a career spanning eight federal elections and four prime ministers, Paul offers a unique and authoritative perspective on the inner workings of Ottawa and beyond. Known for his fresh, funny, and incisive commentary, he will discuss Canada's position in the global economy, current political dynamics, and provide an insider's look at what's happening within the Parliament buildings.

## 10:00 AM Networking and Information Fair

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- Opportunity to network with colleagues and visit the information Fair.

## 10:15 AM Concurrent Sessions

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### Housing: Enhancing Resources and Streamlining Processes

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Join us for an insightful panel discussion on housing resources. Facilitated by Ian Kerr, MMAH, this session will feature experts who will delve into innovative solutions and strategies to address housing challenges in Ontario.

**PANELISTS:**

- Claire Basinski, OPPI Chair
- Kezia Cowtan, Rural Ontario Institute
- Claire Dodds, Bruce County Commissioner of Community Development

**Location:** Main Ballroom

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## **Mental Health, Addictions, & Homelessness: Addressing Rural Challenges**

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Facilitated by Darryl Wolk, Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, this panel will explore the intersection of mental health, addictions, and homelessness in rural areas. It will provide a comprehensive understanding of the unique challenges and innovative solutions being implemented and will feature insights from leading experts in the field.

### **PANELISTS:**

- **Ian Hanney**, Social Services Division, Lambton
- **Dr. Carrie Anne Marshall, Ph.D.**, Western University

**Location: Meeting Room 1A**

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## **Workforce: Enhancing Community Attraction Programs**

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This panel will delve into innovative community attraction programs designed to strengthen local workforces and foster economic growth. Facilitated by Mark Nonkes, Huron County, this session will feature key leaders who are successfully implementing initiatives to attract newcomers and residents into their communities.

### **PANELISTS:**

- **Jason Stubitz**, Municipality of Chatham-Kent's Community Attraction and Promotion Division
- **Matthew Slotwinski**, Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership
- **Deepika Gupta**, Local Immigration Partnership Manager, Grey Bruce

**Location: Meeting Room 1B**

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### **Economic Development: The Nuclear Industry in Western Ontario**

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This panel will explore the significant role of the nuclear industry in driving economic development in Western Ontario. Facilitated by Barb Fischer, Bruce Community Futures Development Corporation, this session will bring together industry leaders to discuss the current landscape, innovations, and future opportunities within the nuclear sector.

**PANELISTS:**

- **John Peevers**, Bruce Power
- **Chad Richards**, Bruce Power Nexus Research Centre
- **Michael Pahor**, South Bruce Nuclear Waste Management Organization

**Location: Meeting Room 3**

*Sponsored by Bruce Power*

### **11:15 AM Networking and Information Fair**

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Opportunity to network with colleagues and visit the information Fair.

**Location: Freedom Hall**

### **11:30 AM Concurrent Sessions**

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#### **Housing: Innovative Housing Solutions in Our Communities**

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Join us for an engaging panel discussion on innovative housing solutions that are making a significant impact in our communities. Facilitated by Karen Kirkwood-Whyte, former Municipal Councillor, Chatham-Kent, this session will feature leaders who are at the forefront of developing and implementing creative housing strategies to address various community needs.

**PANELISTS:**

- **Tammy Vandenheuval & Tracy MacDonald**, Lambton Supportive Transitional Housing
- **Dave Holmes & Mike Kloepfer**, Titan Trailers Schafer House
- **Graham Cubitt**, Indwell

**Location: Meeting Room 1A**

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## **Infrastructure: Expanding Servicing in Western Ontario**

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This panel will focus on the critical aspects of expanding infrastructure services in Western Ontario, encompassing electricity, natural gas, water, and wastewater management. Facilitated by Belinda Wick Graham, EDCO, this session will feature key experts who will discuss current projects, challenges, and future plans for enhancing regional infrastructure.

### **PANELISTS:**

- **Candida D'Costa**, Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)
- **Brian Lennie**, Enbridge
- **John Kingsbury**, Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA)

**Location: Meeting Room 1B**

*Sponsored by IESO*

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## **Workforce: Innovative Solutions**

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This panel will explore cutting-edge approaches to addressing workforce challenges, with a focus on innovative solutions that enhance workforce development and integration. Facilitated by Charlene Hofbauer, Workforce Planning West, this session will feature experts who are making significant strides in their respective fields.

### **PANELISTS:**

- **Matthew Seniuk**, Blue Branch
- **Matt Lubberts**, Now Housing
- **Michelle Drew**, Salford Group

**Location: Meeting Room 3**

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### **Economic Development: EV Investments in Western Ontario**

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This panel will explore the transformative impact of electric vehicle (EV) investments in Western Ontario, focusing on how these investments are driving economic growth and innovation in the region. Facilitated by Nancy Creighton, Ministry of Economic Development Job Creation and Trade, the session will feature leading companies at the forefront of the EV industry.

**PANELISTS:**

- **Brent Hinson**, PowerCo
- **Brendan Sweeney**, Trillium Network for Advanced Manufacturing

**Location: Main Ballroom**

*Sponsored by Trillium Network for Advanced Manufacturing*

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### **12:30 PM Lunch**

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Railway Safety presentation by CN

**Location: Main Ballroom**

*Sponsored by: CN*

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### **1:30 PM Networking and Information Fair**

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Opportunity to network with colleagues and visit the information Fair.

**Location: Freedom Hall**

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## 2:00 PM Plenary Speaker

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### **Fireside Chat with Western Region Ministers and MPPs**

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Facilitated by Mayor Amy Martin, Norfolk County, join us for an interactive Fireside Chat with prominent Ministers and MPPs from Western Ontario. This session offers a unique chance to gain insights from key policymakers. Attendees can ask questions, engage in dialogue, and discuss pressing issues in the region.

#### **PANELISTS:**

- **Honourable Lisa Thompson**, Minister of Rural Affairs
- **Honourable Rob Flack**, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
- **Matthew Rae**, Parliamentary Assistant of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- **Honourable Trevor Jones**, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response

**Location: Main Ballroom**

## 3:00 PM Plenary Speaker

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### **Politicians Behaving Badly**

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Join us for a plenary session with John Mascarin, Partner at Aird & Berlis and expert in municipal law. In “Politicians Behaving Badly,” John will explore the challenges of maintaining integrity in local government. Drawing on his experience as Integrity Commissioner and Municipal Ombudsman, he will share insights into addressing misconduct and ensuring ethical governance. This session is essential for anyone interested in municipal governance and accountability in public service.

**Location: Main Ballroom**

## 4:00 PM Closing Remarks

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- **Richard Drouillard**, Emcee
- **Mayor Amy Martin**, Chair, Ontario West Municipal Conference

**Location: Main Ballroom**

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