

**ROMA Conference update**  
**January 22 – 24, 2023**  
**Toronto**

CAO Bellchamber-Glazier, Mayor Kenneth Craig, Councillor Doug Kennedy

Delegations:

- Minister of Infrastructure – Hon. Kinga Surma
  - Highlighted the importance of any Inverhuron water / wastewater project
  - Necessity of multi-governmental approach to financing such a significant work
- Minister of Energy – Hon. Todd Smith
  - Asked that he address the hydro supply deficiency at new Tiverton development
    - Received a response even before we were back home
- Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs – Hon. Lisa Thompson
  - Expressed our appreciation for hospital financing (MRI and associated expansion)
  - Expressed our need for multi-governmental support for infrastructure builds
  - Expressed our willingness to work with the Board of Education in siting school
- Minister of Health – Hon. Sylvia Jones
  - Expressed our desire for the Provincial Government to act upon recommendations to fund nurse practitioners, doctor recruitment (and the legality of incentivizing practices), and expanding international recruitment efforts within all medical fields
- Random thoughts:
  - Heard excellent panel discussion from rural councils and staff about perspectives on Asset Management Plans
  - Had a great conversation with the Multi-cultural lead from Stratford
  - Thought provoking key-note presentations from Indigenous advocate Jesse Wenthe and cultural philosopher Dr Thomas Homer-Dixon
  - Exhibitors have gone from “mom and pop” production groups to big insurance, big pavement, big data, big water, etc companies
  - Heard from leaders of all political parties, all of whom have the right answers to pressing issues
  - Heard a compassionate panel discussion on homelessness and the complex issues perpetuating this particular challenge