



April 20, 2015

## Government of Ontario Announces New Connecting Links Program

On Monday, April 20, 2015, the Government of Ontario announced that it will be launching a new Connecting Links Program.

The new Connecting Links Program will be a \$1 million annual commitment that will assist municipalities with paying for the construction, repairs and maintenance of sections of provincial highways that run through their communities. Between now and its launch in the Spring of 2016, the province will hold a consultation process to ensure that the revamped program addresses the need of municipalities. The new Connecting Links Program will complement the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund, which provides small, rural and northern communities with funding to build and repair critical infrastructure.

Joe Tiernay, OGRA Executive Director stated "This is good news for the 77 municipalities that maintain more than 350 kilometers of provincial highway that cross their communities."

"The Connecting Links Program was an important example of how municipalities and the province could work together to deliver the infrastructure that Ontarians need to be competitive and prosperous," said OGRA President, Rick Champagne. "We are pleased that the province, having listened to the concerns of OGRA's member municipalities, is taking action to reinstate this program."

OGRA will continue to share information about the new Connecting Links Program as the implementation process progresses.

Full information of the announcement can be found here

<http://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2015/04/ontario-introduces-new-connecting-links-program-to-support-municipalities-improve-infrastructure.html>