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One Stop Solution for Rural Housing Information

GUELPH, ON, June 30, 2023 – The Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) and founder Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus (EOWC) announce the launch of the Rural Housing Information System (RHIS), an innovative, centralized data tool designed to fill the housing information gap.

“Currently, in rural Ontario, there is a shortage of salient housing data. A lack of adequate data is a barrier to the planning and construction of affordable housing in rural regions,” says Kezia Cowtan, Rural Housing Information System Project Manager at ROI.

“To address housing needs in rural Ontario, the RHIS was built by consolidating available information through eastern Ontario municipalities’ existing resources,” says Meredith Staveley-Waston, Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus Project Lead. “By having access to a centralized source of critical housing data, the RHIS will enable rural communities throughout Ontario to more easily apply for funds to construct social and affordable housing.”

The RHIS harnesses data through an automated and easy-to-use dashboard, that includes:

- demographic and economic trends (population, growth, age and income)
- average home and market rental information
- available zoned land
- available incentives like municipal grants or incentives
- housing assets and amenities
- ability to compare municipalities’ housing data to one another

As the tool grows there will be opportunities to expand data collection from multiple stakeholders across the province.

“In the medium to long-term, information available through the RHIS will be used to appropriately strategize housing development plans, bring suitable affordable housing to the region and keep residents in their communities of choice,” says Ellen Sinclair, ROI Executive Director.

At present, the RHIS is accessible to rural Eastern municipalities, and we are in the process of expanding the tool to include the rural municipalities of Western Ontario. In the coming months, ROI will be promoting the site to builders and developers to see more affordable housing developments in rural municipalities of Ontario.

This rural housing project is funded through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Housing Supply Challenge.

ABOUT

The Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) is a non-profit organization committed to developing leaders, informing decision makers and connecting communities. ROI delivers the renowned Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP) entering its 40th year of operation, and the Rural Change Maker program, a youth leadership initiative for young rural, emerging leaders to address local priorities. We provide data research and analysis on rural trends and demographics. Information is disseminated in our Rural Ontario Facts products - factsheets and accompanying dashboards. Currently, ROI is engaged in a rural housing initiative that will help communities to address the housing and homelessness crisis being faced by thousands of Canadians.

ASSOCIATED LINKS

[RURAL HOUSING INFORMATION SYSTEM](#)

[EASTERN ONTARIO WARDEN'S CAUCUS](#)

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