



MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE

Information previously distributed / Information distribué auparavant

TO: Transportation Committee

DESTINATAIRE : Comité des transports

FROM: Laine Johnson  
City Councillor, Ward 8

Contact :  
Laine Johnson  
Elected Representatives  
613-580-2478  
laine.johnson@ottawa.ca

EXPÉDITEUR : Laine Johnson  
Conseillère municipale, Quartier 8

Personne ressource :  
Laine Johnson  
Représentants élus  
613-580-2478  
laine.johnson@ottawa.ca

DATE: November 16, 2023

16 novembre 2023

FILE NUMBER: ACS2023-OCC-CCS-0137

**SUBJECT: OGRA 2023 Annual Conference Delegate Report (Councillor Johnson)**

**OBJET : Le rapport du délégué du congrès annuel de OGRA 2023 (Conseillère Johnson)**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to report to Committee following attendance at the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) Annual Conference.

Pursuant to Section 4 of the Council Expense Policy, Members of Council who undertake City-funded travel must submit a written report to the appropriate Standing

Committee detailing their experiences, what they learned at the conference and how the City's position or interests were advanced.

## BACKGROUND

The City of Ottawa is the fourth largest city in Canada and the second largest city in Ontario. As a leading municipality, Ottawa is a member of several municipal organizations responsible for advancing important priorities and engaging with upper levels of government. Our participation allows the City to influence policy development at the provincial and national level, while networking and learning from our peers. To this end, Members of Council are invited to attend various conferences, conventions, and meetings both within and outside the municipality, including the Ontario Good Roads Association (also known as Good Roads or OGRA).

OGRA is an organization focused on improving roads and other infrastructure in Ontario. They host an annual multi-day conference for different levels of government in Ontario to connect and discuss topics such as municipal transportation and infrastructure.

OGRA held their annual conference from April 16-19, 2023 in Toronto, Ontario. Councillor Johnson attended this conference along with Councillor Steve Desroches, the Council-appointed representative to OGRA.

## DISCUSSION

Councillor Johnson attended the Good Roads conference on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, as the plenary speaker focused on road safety, and there was an orientation session for new Councillors on good governance at the municipal level. The number one concern coming through the Ward 8 office is traffic and speeding, and Councillor Johnson saw that Good Roads was offering much on the subject.

Johnson learned about joint and several liability in road accidents, and its impact on municipalities insurance premiums. She learned many municipalities are looking inward at increasing road safety to decrease the likelihood and overall severity of accidents. She learned about the road safety audit process. She learned about LIDAR technologies. She learned about the line of sight between asset management, levels of service and your corporate strategic objectives. She expanded her understanding of how we can interrogate the notion of levels of service of our road assets.

Since then, Councillor Johnson has advocated for increased investments in road safety that are decoupled from complete infrastructure renewal for outer urban communities

that are seeing a significant percentage of overall collisions. She is calling for greater investments in infrastructure to address the backlog of warranted signalized intersections and PXOs as a matter of liability. She is also following the speed policy review in earnest, and the future of the ASE program in Ottawa.

## CONCLUSION

It is through the commitment of Members of Council, to attend conferences like the 2023 OGRA Annual Conference, that the City of Ottawa's interests are advanced.

Laine Johnson  
Councillor, Ward 8 College