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ONTARIO GOOD ROADS ASSOCIATION

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August 30, 2016

Town of Minto 5941 Hwy. #89 Harriston ON N0G 1Z0

Attention: Mayor & Members of Council

Re: OGRA Conference, February 26 - March 1, 2017, Fairmont Royal York Hotel

OGRA has received numerous letters from municipalities endorsing a resolution from the Township of South-West Oxford regarding ROMA's decision to end the OGRA/ROMA Combined Conference partnership. OGRA would like to take a moment to set the record straight.

The OGRA Board of Directors was surprised and disappointed by ROMA's unilateral decision to revert back to running a separate conference, thus ending a very productive, 17 year partnership that served Ontario municipalities well. The Combined Conference was a major success that strengthened both organizations. OGRA remains open to reestablish the Combined Conference partnership with ROMA because that is the best way for both organizations to serve their municipal members.

That said, we also want to take a moment to assure you that the 2017 OGRA Conference will continue to offer a diverse cutting edge program for our delegates. We can confirm that:

- A number of world class keynote speakers have confirmed their attendance;
- The concurrent sessions will cover the wide spectrum of municipal issues and will continue to be both thought-provoking and applicable to OGRA's municipal members;
- For the third consecutive year, OGRA will convene the Small Town Forum;
- OGRA's Emerging Municipal Leaders Forum will also be held for the third straight year;
- OGRA intends to hold a Ministers' Forum and are in discussions with the Ministry
 of Municipal Affairs regarding the scheduling of delegations during the

- conference. The fact that the OGRA Conference will be held later in February when the legislature is sitting, will no doubt facilitate Provincial participation;
- The trade show will be substantially enhanced;
- Additional meals will be included in the basic registration fee; and
- Registration fees will be unchanged from 2016 rates.

Should you or any members of your council have any questions, I would encourage to you contact us.

On behalf of the OGRA Board of Directors, we hope to see you at the 2017 OGRA Conference in Toronto, February 26th – March 1st, 2017.

Regards,

Executive Director