

Ontario One Call (OOC) Stakeholder Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes – April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

The following provides meeting minutes from the Stakeholder Advisory Council (SAC) held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, at the Ontario One Call Offices - 104 Cooper Dr Suite 1, Guelph.

### Attendance:

### SAC Members -

 Karen Nesbitt as Chair (AMO), Patrick McManus as Vice Chair (OSWCA), Nameer Rahman (OEA), Nadia Todorova (RCCAO), Moranne McDonnell (Promark-Telecon), Enrico Scalera (City of Burlington), Ryan Quesnel (Thomas Cavanagh Construction), Joe Salemi (Landscape Ontario), Luke Barker (for Tom Aiken - Infrastructure Ontario)

### OOC Officials -

 Jim Keech (CEO and President), Jean Lepine (Chief Strategy Officer), Samantha Pinto (Chief Regulatory Officer), Ian Simpson (Director of Communication and Marketing), Kristian Kennedy (Manager of Stakeholder Engagement and Education), Natalie Schnarr (Senior Project Manager)

## Regrets -

 Teresa Sarkesian (Electricity Distributors Association), Mary Beth Fazzari (MPBSDP, Government of Ontario)

## Agenda Item One - Welcome and Opening Remarks

- The Chair opened the meeting with a recap of key takeaways from the January 2025 session, which included OOC's evolving business model, opportunities for collaboration in the locate process, ways to enhance planning tools and project insights, and strategies for engaging stakeholders in future consultations.
- The Chair welcomed a new member to SAC.
- OOC's Chief Strategy Officer shared a few housekeeping items with the council, including introduction of new OOC member, reminder of April Queen's Park event and October Tradeshow details.

# Agenda Item Two – US Tariffs Implications

- OOC's President & CEO opened the discussion on the impacts of US tariffs and economic uncertainty on infrastructure plans for 2025 and beyond.
- Members noted industry uncertainty, along with slowing construction work, which is affecting the 2025 dig season.
- In addition to tariffs, changes in supplier costs are impacting businesses, with material costs seeing increases despite being domestically sourced. Questions around how these costs are





- being absorbed, and by whom, have introduced risk aversion into contracts and delays in tendering activity further.
- Members emphasized that a clear and proactive declaration from the province is essential to keep infrastructure and housing projects moving forward and to stimulate economic activity in Ontario.
- Slower construction is projected to last until the end of 2026.

## Agenda Item Three- Awareness Research Presentation and Discussion

- OOC's Director of Communications and Marketing shared an Awareness Research presentation and facilitated a discussion on new public and industry research findings.
- Discussions focused on the need to continue to capture industry awareness data and how OOC
  can continue to develop approaches to improve awareness levels surrounding the importance of
  requesting a locate while digging.
- Strong emphasis was put on the need to educate homeowners and landscapers on the importance of requesting a locate even in instances of "shallow" digging.
- An overall sentiment was expressed that more work needs to be done to reduce damages to underground infrastructure for the sake of public safety was expressed.

## Agenda Item Four – 2025 Business Plan Overview

- OOC's Chief Strategy Officer presented an overview of OOC's 2025 Business Plan, outlining the strategic imperatives and initiatives the organization is working towards achieving.
- Substantive interest on the Unified Mapping Strategy and Legislative Reform initiatives was shared, calling for additional information and engagement at early points in both projects.

# Agenda Item Five – OOCs Newly Proposed Safety Awards Program

- OOC's Chief Strategy Officer presented the organization's new safety awards program, with the first awards to be presented at the October 2025 Conference and Tradeshow.
- SAC members were asked to volunteer and participate on the awards selection group.

# Agenda Item Six – Summary and Next Steps

- Members emphasized the value of ongoing discussions and their role in shaping OOC's future direction.
- The Chair formally adjourned the meeting at which point council members held an in-camera session
- The next meeting will be held on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

