



# ONTARIO PROVINCIAL STANDARDS FOR ROADS & PUBLIC WORKS (OPS)

*“The Foundation for  
Sustainable Infrastructure”.*



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# Agenda

- About OPS
- Why Use OPS
- Testimonial from the City of Toronto
- Updates from the OPS Community
- Questions?



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# About OPS



- OPS came into existence in the **1970s**.
- Involvement and support of many other organizations representing contractors, consulting engineers, manufacturers, and their associations
- To harmonize the numerous specifications in use and to eliminate any duplication of effort and material by standardizing.
- Evolved into an excellent model of construction standards development, now characterized by consistently well built, cost-effective, safe, and dependable highways and roads in the province.



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# About OPS

## OPS Mandate

The mandate of the OPS organization is to develop and maintain consistent and cost-effective methods to construct and improve municipal and provincial roads and public works in Ontario by providing a comprehensive set of Standards for use by road and public works owners, contractors, and consultants in Ontario.

## OPS Objectives

- Develop and improve the administration, safety and environmental aspects, and cost effectiveness of the design and construction of roads, structures, sewers, watermains and electrical services.
- Review and update all standards with a goal of achieving a five (5) year renewal cycle to ensure they meet the needs of the users and are current with the technology, material, and methods employed by the engineering and construction industry.
- Promote the use of OPS on a province-wide basis.

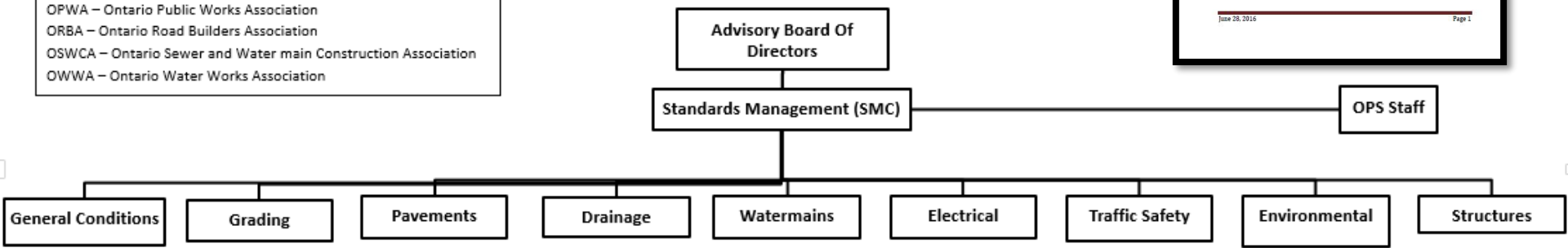
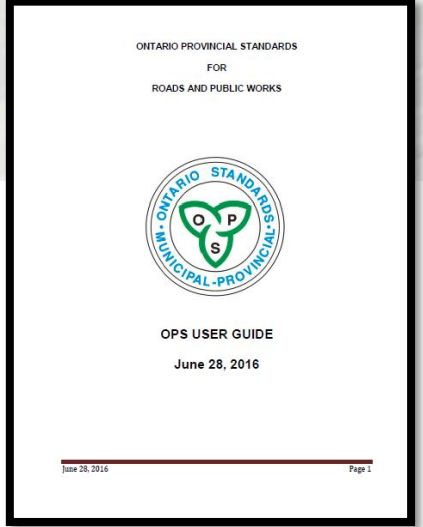


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# About OPS

- CEO – Consulting Engineers Ontario
- ECAO – Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario
- ESA – Electrical Safety Authority
- HCAT – Heavy Construction Association of Toronto
- IMSA – International Municipal Signal Association
- MEA – Municipal Engineers Association
- MTO – Ministry of Transportation Ontario
- OGRA – Ontario Good Roads Association
- OPS – Ontario Provincial Standards
- OPWA – Ontario Public Works Association
- ORBA – Ontario Road Builders Association
- OSWCA – Ontario Sewer and Water main Construction Association
- OWWA – Ontario Water Works Association

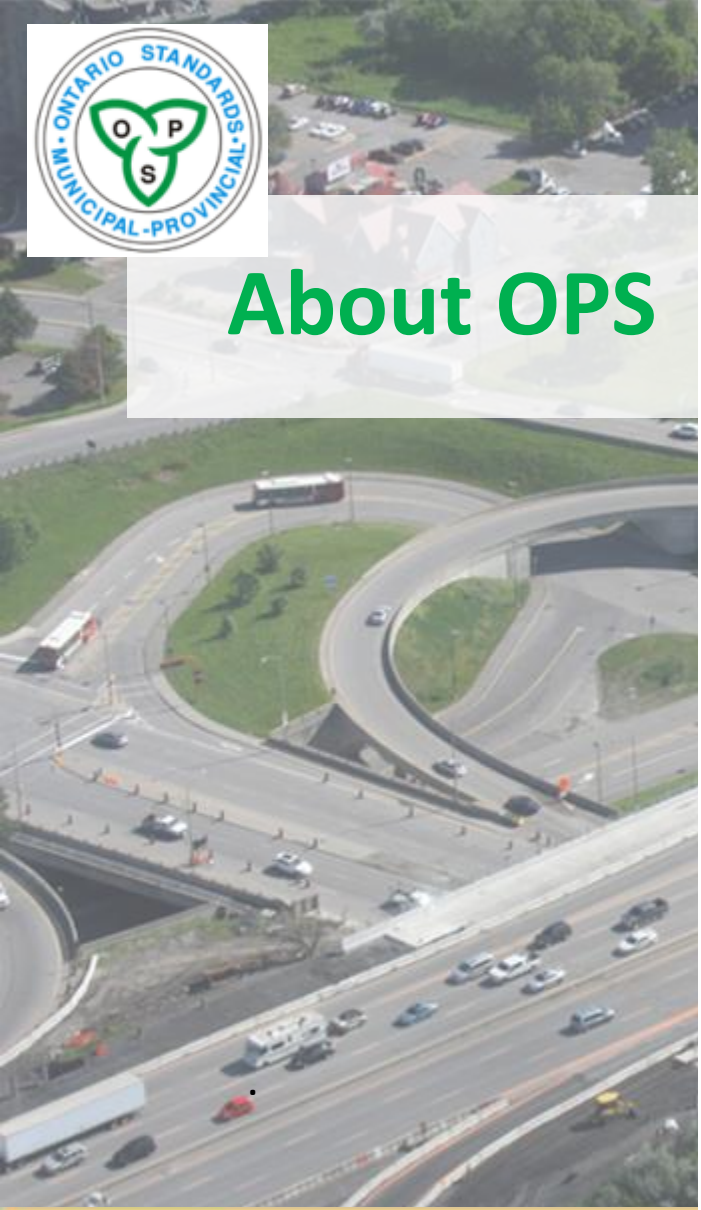


Other supporting agencies that contribute expertise on an ad-hoc basis and are invited to committee meetings as required, include: OSSGA etc.



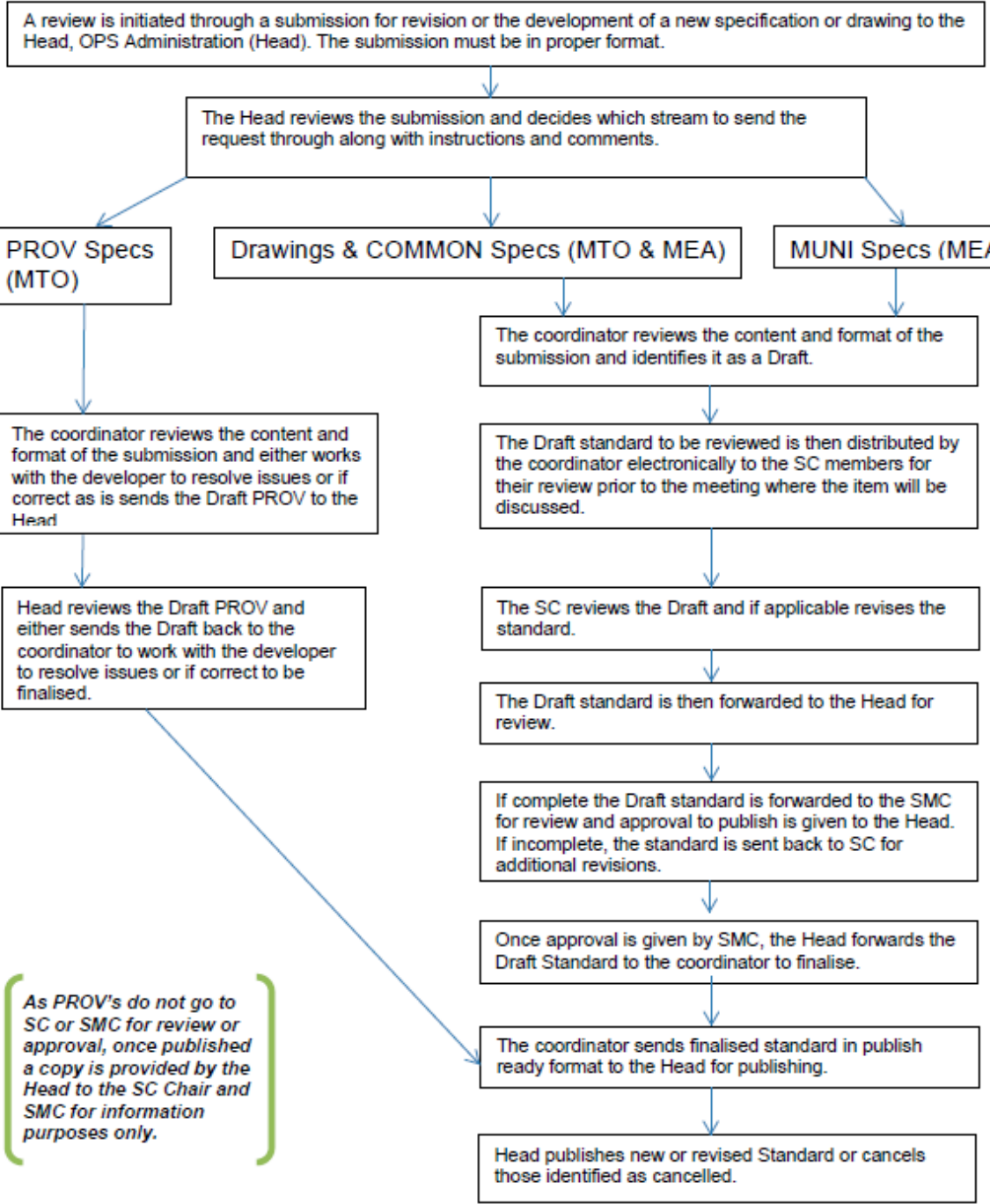


# About OPS



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## OPS SPECIFICATION OR DRAWING REVIEW PROCESS





## About OPS

- 90+ Committee Members
  - 2 Owners and 11 Partners
  - 90+ Meetings Per Year
  - 9 Specialty and 2 Management Committees
  - 2 Publications Per Year (April and November)
  - 280+ Standard Specifications (OPSS)
  - 760+ Standard Drawings (OPSD)
- 



**All add up to enhancing billions of dollars of capital infrastructure in Ontario per year.**



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# Why Use OPS?

- Cost effective for owners and contractors & maximizes return on infrastructure investment.
- Streamlining of processes, best practices & specifications resulting in time savings, better quality work and less maintenance costs.
- Reduces possible risks associated with un-vetted & unfamiliar specs.
- Products can be sold to a broader area, reducing costs associated with customizing and inventory.
- Easy to read and understand; clear and concise.
- Uniformity in contracts allows for ease of communication and interpretation.
- Consistency in training across the province.
- Standards are updated regularly by practitioners and subject matter experts.
- Quality standards that have been time tested and have a great track record.



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# Why Use OPS?

- Join a committee:
  - Stay informed
  - Be influential
  - Sharing of information
  - PEO PEAK Hours
  - Public and private sector participation
  - Appreciation certificates

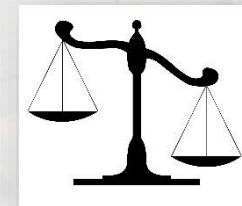
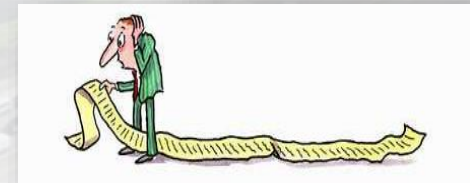


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## City of Toronto - Penelope Palmer – Manager, Business Improvement & Standards

- Pre-amalgamation, the former municipalities would take the OPS and modify to satisfy local requirements, creating a substantive list of standards & drawings within the City
- It becomes a challenge to manage these standards, especially while tracking changes to the OPS
- Anecdotally, the City's tender prices tend to be higher than neighbouring municipalities partly due to different standards that contractors have to become familiar with
- The city's intent going forward is to be in step with other Ontario municipalities by adopting the OPS and standardizing, to benefit from the apparent efficiencies and be more cost effective





## City of Toronto - Penelope Palmer – Manager, Business Improvement & Standards

- Where the City's standards are the same as OPS, it's simple
- For standards that have changed or differ from OPS – undertake a review
  - Why the change was made?
  - Is the reason still valid?
  - Would accepting OPS have a significant impact?
- The City supports the OPS and all the work that is being undertaken through;
  - Representation on the OPS Advisory Board
  - Representation through the MEA on a number of OPS committees including the GC committee
- **The City encourages other municipalities to join them in standardizing with the OPS and ensuring that there is consistency across the province!**
- **“We have drunk the OPS Kool-Aid”...**



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## OPS General Conditions Updates – OPSS.MUNI 100

- The OPS GC Committee was re-established in 2016
- Comprises of 3 MEA, 1 CEO, 1 MTO, 1 OSWCA, 1 ORBA and supported by an MEA and MTO coordinator
- Mandate: Update the 2006 OPSS.MUNI 100 to reflect any significant changes since the last update in **November 2006**
- Conducted a jurisdictional scan of municipalities' GCs and completed an initial review of the 2006 document in December 2017
- The draft GCs with revisions made available for comments until March 31 2018
- Committee reconvenes afterwards to review the comments
- Updated version publishing in **November 2018** - Training TBC



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## OPS General Conditions Updates – OPSS.MUNI 100

- Some sections of the amended Construction Lien Act also now known as the **Construction Act** Proclaimed on July 1, 2018
- The review of the current GC document is conducted in isolation of the new Construction Act amendments
- Impacts from the new legislation will be reviewed in conjunction with the comments received
- Please visit the [MEA website](#) for the Final Draft GC MUNI 100 document
- Any questions or comments should be sent to [hilda@ogra.org](mailto:hilda@ogra.org) with the subject line “OPS MUNI 100 GC Comments”

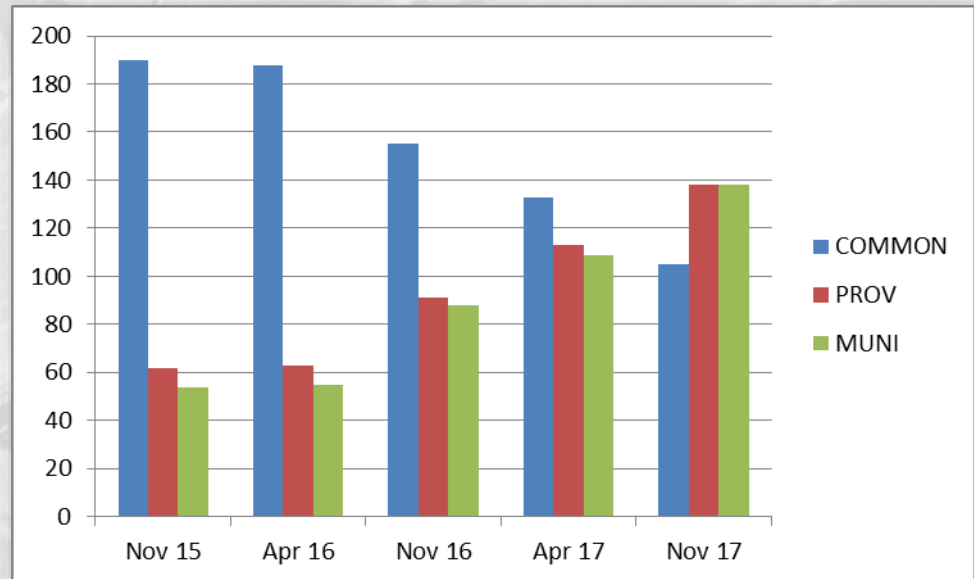


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# Updates from the OPS Community

- A goal for the OPS community with each publishing is to continue to work towards the elimination of the COMMON's.
- Possibly within 2 to 3 years
- To have PROV & MUNI.
- Standards that represent municipal interests only.



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# Updates from the OPS Community

- OPS 101 Course Coming Soon
  - Introductory contract preparation & OPS
  - May Include training on revised OPS GCs
- OPS Website Modernization (<http://www.ops.on.ca/>,  
<http://www.raqsb.mto.gov.on.ca/>)
  - MEA, OGRA and MTO
  - Make more user friendly and AODA compliant
  - Forums
  - Provide news and updates
  - Survey
- Ontario Civil Infrastructure Alliance (OCIA)
- Continued OPS Outreach
  - Update presentations
  - Articles
  - Social media
  - Marketing materials



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# Take the OPS Survey

- How does your municipality/organization use OPS?
- If you don't use OPS, what do you use and why?
- What feedback do you have on OPS?
- What would you like to know about OPS?
- Provide main contact for your municipality/organization for updates.



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**THANK YOU!**

**QUESTIONS?**

**Contact Us**  
**<http://www.ops.on.ca/>**



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