



CRAIG KELLEY
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
COUNTY OF RENFREW, ON

I serve as Chief Administrative Officer for the County of Renfrew, an upper-tier municipality in Eastern Ontario that provides a wide range of services across a large geographic area and many diverse communities. Our responsibilities include paramedic services, long-term care, housing, planning, infrastructure, economic development, and corporate services — work that directly affects the quality of life and well-being of residents across the region.

My path to municipal leadership has included a range of public service and leadership roles beyond traditional municipal administration, providing a broader perspective on community needs, organizational performance, and change management. My leadership approach is grounded in purpose and has been influenced by Simon Sinek’s “Start With Why” philosophy, which emphasizes that organizations are most effective when people understand the deeper reason behind their work. In municipal government, that purpose is service; helping communities be safe, resilient, and able to thrive. I try to lead with that perspective, focusing on trust, relationships, and long-term outcomes.

Working in a large rural system requires close collaboration with lower-tier municipalities, Indigenous partners, provincial ministries, and federal agencies. I have also been actively involved in regional initiatives through the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, including serving as Secretary-Treasurer for three years. Many of the issues facing municipalities today - housing, infrastructure renewal, workforce pressures, climate resilience, and evolving service expectations - cross boundaries and require coordinated solutions. Much of this work happens through steady relationship-building and practical problem solving rather than highly visible initiatives.

I am also committed to strengthening organizational culture and supporting future leaders in the municipal profession. Effective local government depends on capable, motivated people who feel respected and connected to a meaningful mission. In recent years, this has included guiding teams through significant change, supporting service modernization, and exploring new tools such as artificial intelligence in ways that enhance, rather than replace, human judgment in public service.

Why I am seeking this Board position

I am seeking the Ontario Representative role as an opportunity to contribute to the profession at a broader level and to support colleagues across the province. The CAO role can be both rewarding and demanding, and CAMA provides an essential forum for peer connection, practical learning, and professional support.

If elected, I would bring a regional perspective, a collaborative approach, and a commitment to listening carefully to the diverse experiences of municipalities across Ontario. Communities vary widely in size, resources, and challenges, and it is important that the Association's work reflects that diversity.

My goal would be to help ensure that CAMA remains practical, relevant, and supportive for members navigating increasingly complex responsibilities while upholding the values of professionalism, integrity, and non-partisan public service.

It would be an honour to serve on the Board and to contribute to the continued strength of the Association and the municipal profession across Canada.

