



**STEPHEN D. O'BRIEN**  
**DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE**  
**OFFICER - CORPORATE SERVICES**  
**CITY OF GUELPH, ON**

Stephen O'Brien is the Deputy CAO, Corporate Services, for the City of Guelph. He leads a portfolio that includes legislative services, human resources, information technology, legal and court services, strategic communications and community engagement, and internal audit. He has more than 17 years of progressive experience in the municipal sector, including leadership roles with the City of Richmond Hill and the City of Guelph.

Stephen first experienced the value of CAMA through attendance at a CAMA annual Conference as a scholarship recipient. That experience highlighted the important role professional associations play in connecting municipal leaders and supporting professional growth through practical tools, shared learning, and collegial support. Stephen is seeking the Ontario representative position on the CAMA Board to give back to the municipal profession and to help advance CAMA's mission of championing excellence in municipal administration and developing resilient leadership through professional development, networking, partnerships, and advocacy.

What draws Stephen most to CAMA is its focus on the practical work of leadership development. This includes strengthening member engagement, offering innovative professional development opportunities, fostering productive CAO–Council relationships, and supporting succession planning and the next generation of municipal administrators. He is particularly motivated by CAMA’s commitment to serving municipalities of all sizes. Ontario’s municipal landscape is diverse, and Stephen believes CAMA is at its best when its programs, tools, and networks are accessible and relevant to leaders in large cities, mid-sized communities, small towns, and rural municipalities alike.

Stephen believes he is well suited to represent Ontario because his career spans a wide range of municipal environments. He began his career in the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula through an early-career internship program and has thus worked in both small, rural and larger, urban municipalities including Richmond Hill and the City of Guelph. He combines deep governance expertise with a strong “people and systems” perspective. As a former City Clerk and current senior municipal executive, he has extensive experience supporting Council decision-making, transparency, accountability, and sound governance. Stephen also brings board governance experience through his volunteer involvement with organizations connected to the municipal profession, including the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) and the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC).

If elected, Stephen would focus on three priorities: serving as a responsive two-way connector for Ontario members, strengthening professional development and practical tools that support municipal leaders, and advancing mentorship and succession pathways so emerging leaders see municipal administration as a rewarding, values-driven career.

Stephen is a Past President of AMCTO and remains active in that association. He has also served on IPAC’s Southwest Ontario Regional Board. He is a graduate of the University of Guelph, has completed municipally focused post-graduate studies at Western University, and holds an executive certificate in Public Leadership from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He approaches leadership with empathy, curiosity, and collaboration and would be honoured to bring that perspective to the CAMA Board.

