

Good Roads

Managing Winter Operations
Workshop



Agenda

Thursday, October 21, 2026
8:00am – 4:00pm
Mississauga Grand Banquet Centre
35 Brunel Rd, Mississauga, ON L4Z 3E8

- 08:00 Welcoming Remarks**
Emcee – Darnell Bernardo
- 08:10 Salt Supply, Procurement & Operational Response**
Bruce Hilborn - Dufferin County
The 2025–26 winter showed how quickly salt supply can become the constraint on everything else. This session looks at the problem from the municipal, supply and alternatives perspectives, covering what worked last season, how contracts and procurement shape your options, and where alternatives realistically fit. Followed by audience Q&A.
- 09:00 Liability, Minimum Maintenance Standards & Defensible Documentation**
Charles Painter - Dolden Wallace Folick LLP
The winter provisions of the Minimum Maintenance Standards are under review, and the outcome will shift what municipalities need to do and what they need to be able to prove. A municipal defence lawyer walks through what is on the table, what it could mean operationally, and what records, photos and operational data actually hold up when a claim reaches court.
- 09:40 Break**
Exhibition Hall, networking time.
- 10:00 Workforce Sustainability, Driver Training & Contractors**
Ken Lauppe - Manager, Emergencies and Operations, Mississauga
Guy Godmaire - Director Road Superintendent, Township of Harley and Kerns
Recruiting, training and retaining a skilled winter operations workforce is becoming increasingly challenging as municipalities face changing workforce expectations, rising contractor costs and a shortage of experienced operators. This session will compare the unique challenges faced by urban, rural and remote municipalities.
- 10:45 Operator Safety and Public Interference**
Kelly Elliott - Executive Director, AORS; Karla Musso-Garcia - Past President, AORS
Municipal operators and supervisors are facing abuse, harassment, threats and interference from the public and, at times, from elected officials. AORS Executive Director Kelly Elliott and Past President Karla Musso-Garcia, Operations Manager at the Township of Oro-Medonte, cover what members are reporting, what AORS is pursuing in the way of stronger legal protections, and what supervisors can do to support staff and respond to incidents in the field.

- 11:50 Lunch**
Exhibition Hall, networking time.
- 13:00 Weather Volatility & AI Forecasting**
Max Perchanok - Senior Technical Manager, Environmental Science - WSP; Marcus Mills - Weather Consulting Scientist - WSP
Winter weather is becoming harder to predict, and forecasting itself is changing quickly. Two weather specialists look at emerging trends in Ontario winters, what AI is actually changing in the forecasts municipalities receive, and how pavement temperature, dew point and road condition data can be turned into practical decisions during a storm.
- 13:50 Technology, Data & Fleet Decision-Making**
Technology is transforming winter operations, providing municipalities with new tools to improve decision-making, enhance accountability and optimize the use of people, equipment and materials. This session will explore how municipalities are leveraging technologies such as AVL/GPS, fleet management systems, cameras, sensors, AI-supported road weather tools and operational data to support daily operations and long-term planning.
- 14:40 Break**
Exhibition Hall, networking time.
- 15:00 Looking Back, Planning Ahead: Municipal Leaders Reflect on the 2025–26 Winter**
We will conclude the day with an engaging panel discussion featuring municipal leaders who experienced the challenges of the 2025–26 winter firsthand. Drawing on the topics explored throughout the workshop, panelists will reflect on the decisions they made, the successes they achieved, the obstacles they encountered, and what they would do differently in future seasons. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, compare approaches with municipalities of varying sizes, and gain practical insights that can be applied to their own winter operations.
- 15:50 Closing Remarks/Draw Prize**
Emcee – Darnell Bernardo

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Program subject to change.
Current as of September 18, 2026