

# Government Relations Advisor

## The Organization

Good Roads (also known as the Ontario Good Roads Association or simply OGRA) is dedicated to improving municipal roads and associated infrastructure in Ontario. Today, we have 417 municipal members and 18 First Nations members. Good Roads exists to connect our members to each other, to other levels of government, to academia, and to relevant private sector interests. We also provide our members with training, knowledge, political advocacy, and solutions to their most pressing problems. This work is important because the management of roads and transportation are changing faster than ever.

## The Opportunity

The Government Relations Advisor, working alongside the Manager of Public Policy & Government Relations, will focus on four key areas: government relations, policy analysis, communications, and event coordination. The Government Relations Advisor will represent and advance the transportation & infrastructure interests of Ontario's municipalities & First Nations. It is an opportunity to make a difference in a sector which the public relies on.

Good Roads is searching for a candidate that understands the public policy development process and the key players involved. We need someone who is equally comfortable and competent talking with political staffers, technical experts, and the media. The ability to build meaningful relationships that advance Good Roads' policy positions will be a key determinant of success. A high level of political acuity is required.

Complementing this skillset is the ability to clearly communicate policy positions through a variety of channels. This will include generating content for newsletters, briefing notes, publications, media advisories, press releases, social media, and podcast.

An integral part of this opportunity will constitute planning and executing events which will advance the association's government relations and advocacy objectives. This will include planning an annual lobby day at Queen's Park and playing a significant role in securing speakers for the association's annual conference.

## Responsibilities

1. Actively monitors the legislative process including government announcements, Question Period, bills, and proceedings at Queen's Park.
2. Identifies emerging issues, trends, and opportunities for the municipal transportation & infrastructure sector.
3. Provides rigorous and innovative analysis, research, and commentary when necessary.
4. Supports the development and refinement of Good Roads' advocacy and government correspondence strategy.

Good Roads

5. Proactively engages and liaises with key stakeholders within local/provincial/federal governments, the private sector, and academia.
6. Leads media relations activities including pitching stories to reporters, preparing media advisories, press releases, etc.
7. Creates and procures content for Good Roads communications channels including quarterly publication, podcast, social media, and newsletter.
8. Leads planning and execution of annual lobby day at Queen's Park.
9. Supports Manager of Public Policy & Government Relations in development of program for annual conference including plenary, concurrent, and technical sessions.
10. Performs other duties as required/assigned.

## Knowledge and Skills

### Must Have

1. University degree in Political Science, Public Administration, Public Policy, or related discipline.
2. Three to five years of experience in public policy analysis, government relations, communications, and a clear understanding of the provincial policy development process and municipal government structure.
3. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
4. Strong research and analytical skills and the ability to quickly and thoroughly learn new issues and brief others.
5. Experience in media relations as part of an advocacy strategy.
6. Ability to think strategically, identify opportunities, and connect with key stakeholders.

### Nice to Have

7. Knowledge of municipal transportation, infrastructure, and asset management issues
8. Past experience in an association or government setting.
9. Experience planning and executing events.
10. A positive attitude and good sense of humour.

## Work Environment

The Government Relations Advisor, reporting to the Manager of Public Policy & Government Relations, will join Good Roads' hybrid work environment based out of Oakville, ON. Currently, employees are expected to be in the office three days per week.

Good Roads is a "horizontal" organization and emphasizes outcomes over processes. The right candidate will be granted sufficient autonomy to achieve desired outcomes. We are dedicated to diversity, equity, and inclusion and will tolerate no form of discrimination in our workplace.

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## Compensation

Good Roads offers a competitive salary alongside a generous vacation and benefit package. The successful candidate will also be enrolled in the OMERS pension plan, have access to professional development funds, and receive an annual wellness benefit.

The starting salary for this position is **\$79,640.92**.

## How to Apply

Please submit your resume and cover letter to Thomas Barakat, Good Roads' Manager of Public Policy & Government Relations, at [thomas@goodroads.ca](mailto:thomas@goodroads.ca).

The deadline for application is Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

# Good Roads