



Member Profile | Ontario Mutuals

Back in the mid-1850s, 14 farmers got together in one place and signed a note promising to reimburse one another in case of a barn fire. No one else would offer insurance to these pioneers so they did it themselves. Those are the humble beginnings of one of the world's strongest financial networks, Ontario Mutuals.

Ontario Mutuals is the overarching brand for 40 independent, 100% Canadian, property and casualty insurance companies across the province.

Community based, mutual companies are owned and operated for the benefit of policyholders. There are no shareholders. Each mutuals' board of directors is elected from among the policyholders.

Premiums, together with income from investments, are used to pay losses sustained by the policyholders as well as the expenses of running the company. Any excess surplus generated on a year to year basis either remains in the company's surplus account for the benefit of the policyholders or may from time to time be refunded to policyholders.

It's a concept of mutual trust, and has been the choice of many since the first mutual opened in 1856. Ontario Mutuals cover a lot more than farms today, but the spirit's the same as it was over 160 years ago – "we're in this together."

The Ontario Mutuals brand is managed through its trade association OMIA, (Ontario Mutual Insurance Association) who develops marketing, communication and consumer solutions for its Member Companies. OMIA has a rich history dating back more than 135 years.

To learn more, visit www.ontariomutuals.com