

REPORT TITLE: **2020 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference**

FROM: Kathryn Lockyer, Acting Commissioner of Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the approach outlined in the report of the Acting Commissioner of Corporate Services, titled "2020 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference," be endorsed.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2020 AMO Conference will take place August 16 – 19 in Ottawa.
- The Conference provides an opportunity to continue to engage with provincial ministers, parliamentary assistants, opposition party leaders and senior provincial staff.
- Regional staff will request delegations with provincial ministers with the goal of advancing Regional Council's advocacy priorities.
- This report includes proposed Region of Peel advocacy priorities that will be advanced with the provincial decision-makers, including ministers, senior staff and opposition party leaders at the 2020 AMO Conference.
- Staff is proposing that an AMO Conference preparation workshop be held in mid-July to ensure the feedback of Government Relations Committee (GRC) members can be incorporated into the briefing notes and other supporting materials (e.g., advocacy documents, speaking notes, etc.).

DISCUSSION

1. Background

The AMO Annual Conference (Conference) will take place August 16 - 19, 2020 in Ottawa. The Conference includes several keynote addresses by subject matter experts, provincial party leaders and cabinet ministers. In addition, a Ministers' Forum is usually held, during which cabinet ministers answer questions from municipal elected officials in attendance.

The Conference also offers concurrent educational sessions covering a wide range of municipal issues as well as opportunities to connect with municipal colleagues from across Ontario and to learn and share experiences from a wide range of municipal perspectives.

A key feature of the Conference is the opportunity for municipal delegations to meet with ministry representatives, including ministers and senior staff, and opposition party leaders. The Region of Peel has used these delegation meetings to strengthen relationships and advance the Region's priorities. Opportunities for ministerial delegations are expected to again be available at this year's Conference and staff will lead the coordination and

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development of materials to support discussions with relevant ministries and opposition leaders.

2. Ministerial Delegations

Delegation meetings provide Regional Councillors and staff with opportunities to:

- Develop and/or strengthen relationships with key provincial decision-makers, including ministers, parliamentary assistants, opposition party leaders and their staff;
- Promote important Regional Council advocacy priorities with the provincial government and other stakeholders; and,
- Promote the Region as an innovative and trusted partner to advance key provincial initiatives.

a) 2019 Region of Peel Proposed Advocacy Priority Themes

If this year's Conference provides opportunities to meet with municipal delegations, these meetings will focus on the continued advancement of Regional Council's prioritized advocacy positions, the majority of which align to Term of Council Priorities. Staff recommends delegation requests be made to ministries/ministers as presented in the table below.

Ministry	Minister	Advocacy Priorities
Infrastructure	Hon. Laurie Scott	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long Term Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure Funding and Planning
Children, Community and Social Services	Hon. Todd Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable Funding to Support the Region's Strategy to Address Human Sex Trafficking• Improving Ontario Works Service Delivery Model
Finance	Hon. Rod Phillips	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Municipal Fiscal Health and Sustainability• Sufficient Cannabis Legalization Funding (including funding for opt-out communities)
Long-Term Care	Hon. Merrilee Fullerton	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhanced Dementia Supports across the Long-Term Care Sector• Funding Supports for Home and Community Care Services and Personal Support Workers• Funding for the Redevelopment of the Peel Manor site• Implementation of Systems-Level Coordination between Health and Social Sectors

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Health	Hon. Christine Elliott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Region's Position on Public Health Transformation & Paramedic Services Modernization
Mental Health and Addiction Services	Hon. Michael Tibollo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of Mental Health and Addictions System Planning and Service Delivery Historical Funding Inequities for Mental Health and Addictions Services in Peel
Education	Hon. Stephen Lecce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase-in of Changes to Provincial Funding for Early Years and Child Care Proactive Consultations with Service System Managers on Funding and Policy Changes Human Sex Trafficking
Transportation	Hon. Caroline Mulroney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GTA West Corridor Sustainable Transportation
Municipal Affairs and Housing	Hon. Steve Clark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal Fiscal Health and Sustainability Funding for Affordable Housing
Environment, Conservation and Parks	Hon. Jeff Yurek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Funding and Support for Municipal Climate Change Initiatives Blue Box Program Transition Province-wide Single-use Plastics Strategy
Solicitor General/MPP Dufferin-Caledon	Hon. Sylvia Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GTA West Corridor/Sustainable Transportation Funding for Peel Manor Improvements Human Sex Trafficking

The priorities identified to discuss with the Ministers and their staff are based on current Council endorsed advocacy positions. It is important to note that given the rapidly shifting nature of the provincial political environment, these proposed themes may have to be amended as the provincial government implements its mandate and policy objectives.

b) AMO Conference Preparation Workshop

To help prepare for the Conference, staff recommends that a workshop be held in mid-July to review the advocacy priorities and draft briefing materials with GRC members. The purpose of meeting in advance of the Conference is to ensure that staff can incorporate the feedback received from GRC members into the briefing materials and other documents being prepared. Staff leads from the various departments will also be in attendance to provide further information on the advocacy priorities, if required.

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Subject to the availability of committee members, staff recommends that the workshop be held on July 16, 2020.

c) Coordination with Local Municipalities

The Region is usually notified by Ministers' offices whether the delegation request has been accepted approximately one to two weeks prior the start of the AMO Conference. As meeting delegations are confirmed, to avoid scheduling conflicts, Region of Peel staff will coordinate Mayor/Councillor participation in the specific meetings with staff from Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga. This will also provide an opportunity to assign meetings based on Mayor/Councillor interest and availability.

The Region will also work with local municipal staff to seek joint delegations, where appropriate.

3. Additional Initiatives

Additional advocacy opportunities that will be pursued as part of the Region's process to prepare for the AMO's Annual Conference include:

- Hosting an event/meeting with all Peel-area Ministers/MPPs attending the conference to discuss Peel-specific issues;
- Requesting individual delegation meetings with leaders of the opposition parties and other key officials.

CONCLUSION

The Region of Peel has traditionally been an active participant in all aspects of the AMO Conference. The 2020 AMO Conference presents valuable opportunities for the Region to advance its priorities and strengthen relationships with provincial cabinet ministers and Peel MPPs.

Following the Conference, the Chair of the GRC and staff will provide the Committee with an update on conference activities, follow up action items and future opportunities to advance Regional priorities.

For further information regarding this report, please contact Keith Medenblik, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations, ext.4777, keith.medenblik@peelregion.ca

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Reviewed and/or approved in workflow by:
Department Commissioner and Division Director.

Final approval is by the Chief Administrative Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nancy Polsinelli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "N".

N. Polsinelli, Interim Chief Administrative Officer