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**REPORT TITLE:**     **2022 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference Update**

**FROM:**             Gary Kent, CPA, CGA, ICD.D, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the approach outlined in the report from the Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services, listed on the June 16, 2022 Government Relations Committee agenda titled "2022 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference Update", be endorsed.**

## **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- The 2022 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference provides an opportunity for the Region to strengthen relations with provincial decision-makers and advance advocacy priorities.
- This report contains a proposed list of delegations with provincial ministers related to Council-endorsed positions for key service areas.
- With the provincial election being held on June 2, 2022, the list of delegation requests may have to be amended to reflect new ministerial structures and the mandates of the new government
- The deadline to make delegation requests is Friday June 24, 2022.
- An AMO Conference preparation workshop is scheduled for July 21, 2022 to ensure the feedback of Government Relations Committee (GRC) members can be incorporated into briefing notes and other supporting material in advance of the conference.

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## **DISCUSSION**

The 2022 Annual Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference will be held in person from August 14 to 17, in Ottawa and will present the first major opportunity to meet with provincially elected officials after the 2022 provincial election. As an update to the report from the March 3, 2022, Government Relations Committee (GRC) meeting, entitled "2022 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference," this report provides more detail on the priorities and proposed approach that will be used by the Region for this year's conference.

In advance of the delegation meeting request deadline of June 24, 2022, staff will submit requests to relevant ministries related to the Council-endorsed advocacy priorities outlined in this report. By the time this report is distributed, the provincial election will have taken place on June 2, 2022. Potential changes to ministerial structures may impact the Region's delegation

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meetings. Staff will also submit meeting requests to meet with the opposition party leaders on the Region's key priority issues.

### 1. Proposed Approach – Build Together Stronger

The Region has an opportunity at the 2022 AMO Conference to leverage the delegation meetings to highlight the need for the Region and the municipal sector as a whole to be critical partners in all economic recovery efforts as Ontario continues to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. With municipalities being responsible for services directly seen as economic drivers such as child care, housing and infrastructure, it is proposed that this year's approach focus on how the Region and the Province can "build together stronger". This includes demonstrating how sustained and predictable funding for Regionally controlled services will help provide residents and businesses the stability needed during times of economic uncertainty.

Further, to address challenges facing Peel's Black, Indigenous and racialized communities due to racism, language barriers and systemic discrimination, which were particularly apparent throughout the pandemic, the Region will integrate an equity lens to its advocacy priorities to highlight the barriers facing Peel's diverse population and call on the new provincial government to correct long-standing funding inequities.

In addition, it is proposed that the 2022 AMO Conference advocacy opportunities be used to raise the importance of reviewing the provincial-municipal relationship and responsibilities. This includes calling for a review of the local share requirement for hospital infrastructure as well as advocating for municipalities to be at the table at the start of discussions on legislative and/or policy decisions that impact municipal service delivery.

If this approach is approved, staff will develop messaging on the council endorsed advocacy positions noted in the table below under the broader theme of "Build Together Stronger".

### 2. Ministerial Delegations

#### a) 2022 Region of Peel Proposed AMO Delegation Priorities

The below table highlights the proposed advocacy themes and policy positions for the 2022 AMO conference delegation meetings. The deadline to submit is June 24, 2022.

Advocacy Theme	Council Endorsed Position	Ministry
Affordable Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage the use of housing for homes.</li><li>• Increase the supply of new affordable housing in complete communities and ensuring the longevity of existing affordable housing.</li><li>• Expand the scope of social programs to assist families in carrying high housing costs.</li><li>• Strengthen the capacity of the Service Manager and community housing sector to respond to rapidly growing need.</li><li>• Provide predictable, stable funding for the Region to maintain housing stock service</li></ul>	Municipal Affairs & Housing

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Advocacy Theme	Council Endorsed Position	Ministry
	levels and gradually build towards a desired service level.	
Local Share for Hospital Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-examine the “local share” hospital capital calculation methodology to better reflect the limited fiscal capacity of municipalities and acknowledge the contribution to health care services municipalities already provide to their communities.</li> </ul>	Finance Health Municipal Affairs & Housing
Support for Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide funding and stronger regulatory requirements and measurement to support emotion-based care and enable dementia friendly design in Long-Term Care.</li> <li>Provide sustainable funding to support the expansion of community support services and wrap-around care at the Seniors Health and Wellness Village at Peel Manor.</li> </ul>	Health Long-Term Care Seniors
Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain existing geographic boundaries of Peel Public Health to ensure local planning and service delivery that is responsive to community needs given Peel’s geography and population size;</li> <li>Maintain Region of Peel Council as the Board of Health for Peel;</li> <li>Maintain the mandate and core functions of local public health as described in the Ontario Public Health Standards; and</li> <li>Achieve 75% Provincial funding and not increase the municipal share of funding.</li> </ul>	Health
Paramedic Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not reduce Provincial funding for Paramedic Services in order to ensure service levels are maintained and do not adversely impact residents in Peel.</li> </ul>	Health
Mental Health & Addictions Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement a funding formula for mental health and addictions services that considers population and demographic factors, community need.</li> <li>Provide targeted, specific and sustainable investments to Peel’s community-based mental health and addictions services to address growing waitlists.</li> </ul>	Health Mental Health & Addictions
Early Years and Child Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and fund a strategy to address Early Childhood Educator workforce crisis.</li> <li>Provide fair, predictable, flexible funding for Peel.</li> </ul>	Education

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	Ensure vulnerable families have access to the new child care system.	
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support for key strategic transit projects across Peel.</li> <li>• Allow the use of AMPS to process Automated Enforcement violations and direct the net revenue from Automated Enforcement penalties.</li> <li>• Request to the Province that money budgeted for the HWY 413 be instead invested into regionally connected transit, active transportation, and other sustainable modes of transportation.</li> <li>• Improve driver education through the license and testing program on safe interactions with pedestrians and cyclists, and micro-mobility services and systems.</li> <li>• Convene a stakeholder task force group to advise on how a province-wide Vision Zero strategy can be developed and implemented in Ontario to provide consistent guidance to municipalities.</li> </ul>	Transportation
Climate Change, Energy and Waste Management	<p><u>Climate Change &amp; Energy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set the legislative and policy framework to phase-out all fossil fuel natural gas-fired electricity generation, enable district energy and other decentralized models of electricity generation while meeting Ontario's growing electricity needs.</li> <li>• Provide sustained funding to reduce GHG emissions and address climate change risks to critical municipal infrastructure.</li> <li>• In collaboration with utilities, create programs which provide funding for low-carbon retrofits in high rise buildings.</li> <li>• Develop policy in partnership with municipalities that establishes adaptation targets and defines municipal resilience to climate change.</li> <li>• Invest in developing Ontario's clean tech and low-carbon transportation sectors to address supply chain and market availability issues and develop domestic talent for the low-carbon economy which will be needed in the coming years.</li> </ul> <p><u>Waste Management</u></p>	Environment, Conservation & Parks Energy

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Advocacy Theme	Council Endorsed Position	Ministry
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage recycling innovation through the transition of the blue box program to full producer responsibility.</li> <li>Develop a harmonized, Ontario-wide single-use plastics strategy.</li> <li>Invest in waste infrastructure to increase resource recovery and strengthen end-markets for recovered resources.</li> </ul>	
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide sufficient funding for ongoing COVID-19 response, including the Region's Mass Vaccination Program.</li> <li>Provide funding to offset the Region's incremental costs and loss of revenue associated with the pandemic, as well as additional funding to re-instate programs that were paused during the pandemic.</li> <li>Update funding for provincially mandated services to keep pace with inflation and population growth.</li> </ul>	Finance Infrastructure Municipal Affairs & Housing
Infrastructure	<p><u>Program Funding Program Design</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase infrastructure funding to stimulate Peel's economic recovery, including green infrastructure projects.</li> <li>Implement funding programs using an allocation model to distribute stimulus funds expeditiously.</li> <li>Revisit transfer payment agreement terms and conditions to allow for more relaxed parameters that align with realistic infrastructure planning and implementation cycles and project management timelines.</li> </ul> <p><u>Support for community growth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase growth capital and economic stimulus funding to help address unprecedented capital cost escalation.</li> <li>Provide dedicated provincial/federal grants-in-lieu of DCs or legislated statutory exemptions for not-for-profit health care related facilities, such as Hospitals, long Term Care Homes and Hospices.</li> <li>Provide dedicated provincial/federal grants-in-lieu of DCs or legislated statutory DC exemptions for not-for-profit affordable housing developments.</li> <li>Provide predictable, stable funding for the Region to maintain housing stock service</li> </ul>	Finance Infrastructure Municipal Affairs & Housing

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	levels and gradually build towards a desired service level.	
Municipal Fiscal Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review federal-provincial-municipal cost-sharing to ensure each government's funding responsibility is proportional to its revenue sources. Such a review should be undertaken with the goal of removing income-redistribution programs, such as Affordable Housing, from the property tax.</li> <li>Engage with municipalities in discussion on the need for updated municipal revenue sources and collection tools to address the changing needs of local communities. This includes discussion around vacant home tax designation, best practices and opportunities to enhance the existing legislative framework.</li> </ul>	Finance Municipal Affairs & Housing
Sustainable Funding to Support Peel's Strategy to Address Human Sex Trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide long-term sustainable funding to help increase awareness of human sex trafficking through coordinated prevention and education programming.</li> </ul>	Children, Community and Social Services

### b) 2022 AMO Conference Preparation Workshop

As the Region continues to face a dynamic external environment, it is proposed that a workshop be held on July 21, 2022, to provide an opportunity to further review and validate the priorities that will be advanced by the Region at this year's conference. This workshop also provides members of the Government Relations Committee to provide input on the approach proposed by staff.

Staff will incorporate feedback from this session in the development of Advocacy briefing notes and other supporting materials. Feedback from the workshop will also be incorporated into outreach efforts to Peel MPPs in advance of the conference to spotlight the Region's priorities.

### c) Coordination with Local Municipalities

The Region is typically notified by Ministers' offices whether the delegation request has been accepted approximately one to two weeks prior to the start of the AMO Conference. Following receipt of delegation meeting confirmations, Regional staff will coordinate Mayor/Councillor participation in the specific meetings with local staff to minimize scheduling conflicts. This will also

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provide an opportunity to coordinate appropriate representation at delegation meetings based on conference participants' interest and availability.

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

### **d) Additional Initiatives**

As noted at the March Government Relations Committee meeting, staff will move forward with additional advocacy opportunities including:

- Hosting a briefing session with Peel MPPs prior to the conference to help raise awareness and solicit support for the Region's priorities.
- Requesting delegation meetings with leaders of the opposition parties and other key officials.

## **CONCLUSION**

The 2022 AMO Conference presents the first major opportunity to meet with newly elected ministers, senior staff and opposition party leaders following the 2022 Provincial Election, and renew advocacy efforts to advance the Region's priorities. It also provides a valuable opportunity to present policy solutions and demonstrate how the Region can collaborate with the new provincial government as it begins to implement its mandate and focuses on economic recovery efforts to address the impacts of the pandemic.

If approved, staff will submit delegation meeting requests to discuss the advocacy priorities listed in this report with relevant ministers and opposition party leaders.

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

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