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**REPORT TITLE:** 2023 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference Update

**FROM:** Patricia Caza, 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 22, 2023 Regional Council agenda titled "2023 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference Update," be endorsed.**

## **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- The 2023 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference provides an opportunity to advance advocacy priorities that are important to residents and businesses in Peel.
- This report contains a list of delegations with provincial cabinet ministers related to established Council-endorsed positions for key service areas that were submitted to the Province in advance of the delegation meeting request deadline of June 9, 2023.
- The submitted positions were broadly outlined to provide some flexibility on key messages leading up to the Conference in consideration of the current political environment.
- An AMO Conference preparation workshop is scheduled for on July 13, 2023, to ensure the feedback of Members can be incorporated into advocacy notes and other supporting material in advance of the Conference.

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## **DISCUSSION**

The 2023 Annual Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference will be held in London from August 20 - 23, 2023. As an update to the report from the March 2, 2023, Government Relations Committee (GRC) meeting, titled "2023 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference," this report provides more detail on the priorities and proposed approach that will be used by participants in Peel's delegation for this year's conference.

While the provincial government has passed Bill 112 that will begin the process to dissolve Peel Region and make the cities of Brampton and Mississauga and the Town of Caledon independent single-tier municipalities by January 1, 2025, the advocacy priorities regarding Peel services established by Regional Council remain important to Peel residents and businesses, no matter how ultimately delivered. While it is unclear what governance structure will be implemented to deliver the many important services currently provided by Peel Region, it is

## 2023 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference Update

essential that these services continue to meet the needs of the community, now and in the future.

In advance of the delegation meeting request deadline of June 9, 2023, staff submitted Regional Council endorsed advocacy priorities that fall under the following themes:

- Addressing municipal fiscal sustainability
- Funding for infrastructure
- Building affordable housing
- Supporting community-based care
- Investing in sustainable communities

These themes were brought forward and approved by the Government Relations Committee at its March 2023 meeting. In addition to these themes, advocacy positions related to the need for enhanced supports for human services were included.

The advocacy priorities submitted for the delegation meetings were kept at a high level to enable input from Regional Council leading up to the Conference.

### 1. 2023 Peel AMO Delegation Priorities

The table below highlights advocacy themes and policy positions for the 2023 AMO Conference that were submitted by the deadline (June 9, 2023).

<b>ADDRESSING MUNICIPAL FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY</b>		
<b>Advocacy Theme</b>	<b>Council Endorsed Position</b>	<b>Ministry</b>
Municipal Fiscal Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with municipalities in discussion on the need for updated municipal revenue sources and collection tools.</li> <li>• Address the changing needs of local communities.</li> <li>• Address historic underfunding for provincially mandated services in Peel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Infrastructure</li> <li>• Municipal Affairs and Housing</li> </ul>
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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Municipal Affairs and Housing</li> </ul>
<b>FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE</b>		
<b>Advocacy Theme</b>	<b>Council Endorsed Position</b>	<b>Ministry</b>
Infrastructure Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with the federal government to ensure that Peel Region receives sustainable and timely infrastructure investments.</li> <li>• Ensure funding is commensurate with expected high inflation through 2023, to maintain real spending levels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Infrastructure</li> <li>• Municipal Affairs and Housing</li> </ul>

## 2023 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference Update

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	
<b>BUILDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING</b>		
<b>Advocacy Theme</b>	<b>Council Endorsed Position</b>	<b>Ministry</b>
Affordable Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a municipal compensation fund to make Peel Region and the local municipalities financially whole to mitigate the significant impacts of Bill 23 on municipal growth funding revenues and expenditures.</li> <li>• Provide legislative and policy changes at levels to increase local autonomy and improve housing affordability outcomes in Peel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal Affairs and Housing</li> </ul>
<b>SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-BASED CARE</b>		
<b>Advocacy Theme</b>	<b>Council Endorsed Position</b>	<b>Ministry</b>
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 operational 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Long-Term Care</li> <li>• Seniors</li> </ul>
Mental Health and Addictions Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement a funding formula for mental health and addictions services that considers population, demographic factors and 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Mental Health and Addictions</li> </ul>
<b>ENHANCING SUPPORTS FOR HUMAN SERVICES</b>		
<b>Advocacy Theme</b>	<b>Council Endorsed Position</b>	<b>Ministry</b>
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 to service system managers to support the administration of the CWELCC program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education</li> </ul>

## 2023 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference Update

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide adequate capital funding to support child care expansion to improve access to affordable licensed child care.</li> </ul>	
<b>INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES</b>		
<b>Advocacy Theme</b>	<b>Council Endorsed Position</b>	<b>Ministry</b>
Sustainable Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply a climate lens to economic stimulus investments that considers the impacts of extreme weather and municipal resilience to climate change.</li> <li>• Invest in sustainable energy generation to ensure decarbonization is prioritized as part of plans for economic expansion and growth.</li> <li>• Provide funding to ensure waste management infrastructure keeps pace with anticipated growth in Peel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment, Conservation and Parks</li> <li>• Energy</li> </ul>

## 2. Proposed Approach

Similar to previous AMO Conferences, it is proposed that a solution-oriented and collaborative approach be employed in the development of the supporting material for the delegation meetings. This includes proposing potential solutions or policy recommendations that could contribute to shared provincial/municipal goals as well as focusing on collaboration to achieve these shared objectives. In addition, with housing and related municipal fiscal challenges being Peel's most critical issues, advocacy positions related to these two key areas will be incorporated in the delegation meetings with several relevant ministers during the Conference.

In relation to these two critical priorities, where relevant, Peel's delegation will continue to call on the Province to review 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.

### a) Delegation Meetings

As the delegation meetings are generally 15 minutes in length, the supporting briefing material will be concise with clear messaging aiming to resonate with the Province's goals and priorities. Where possible, to help strengthen messaging, relevant data and compelling evidence will be integrated into advocacy materials.

It is important to note, as the time allocated for these meetings is limited, it is rare that a firm commitment is made during the meeting. However, these meetings are important as it provides the opportunity to continue the conversation at a future meeting(s). For example, as a result of meeting with ministers at previous AMO Conferences, Peel Region has had the opportunity to host roundtables on critical priorities such as mental health and addiction services as well as road safety. During this year's Conference, Peel Region will continue to seek commitments for further discussion on the advocacy priorities raised at the meeting.

## **2023 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference Update**

### **b) Peel MPP Briefing Session**

At previous in-person AMO Conferences, Peel Region has hosted a breakfast meeting with all Peel Ministers/MPPs as well as local municipal councillors in attendance at the conference to discuss Peel-specific issues and raise awareness of advocacy priorities that are important to Peel. These events have proven successful, with strong attendance from Peel's provincial and municipal attendees, and it is recommended that this practice continue at this year's Conference.

### **3. 2023 AMO Conference Preparation Workshop**

To help prepare the delegation meeting material in advance of the Conference, it is proposed that a workshop be held on July 13, 2023. During this workshop, Regional Councillors will have an opportunity to further review and validate the priorities that will be advanced 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 Peel's priorities.

### **4. Coordination with Local Municipalities**

Regional staff are typically notified by Ministers' offices whether delegation requests have 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 provide an opportunity to coordinate appropriate representation at delegation meetings based on conference participants' interest and availability. Regional staff will also work with local municipal staff to seek joint delegations, where appropriate.

## **CONCLUSION**

The 2023 AMO Conference provides a unique opportunity to engage with several ministers and senior staff to help advance key priorities that are important to Peel residents and businesses. It also provides a valuable opportunity to present policy solutions and demonstrate how collaboration on shared goals between municipalities and the provincial government can help strengthen communities across Ontario.

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

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