

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 2013
FROM:	GRANT HOPCROFT, DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY LIAISON
SUBJECT:	MINISTERIAL DELEGATIONS, AMO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, CONFERENCE, AND TRADE SHOW 2013

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director of Intergovernmental and Community Liaison, the following report with respect to the Ministerial delegations at the AMO Annual General Meeting, Conference and Trade Show for 2013 BE RECEIVED for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

Board of Control, November 12, 2008; December 9, 2009; July 21, 2010
 Finance and Administration Committee, December 15, 2010; October 19, 2011
 Finance and Administration Committee, *Host 2014, 2015, 2016*, October 19, 2011
 Finance and Administration Committee, *AMO Annual General Meeting 2014*; April 16, 2012,
 November 5, 2012

BACKGROUND

Prior to the AMO Annual General Meeting, Conference and Trade Show which took place in August 2013 in Ottawa, Mayor Fontana and members of Civic Administration requested the opportunity to meet with provincial ministers on issues of concern to the City of London. The City was successful in organizing four meetings with provincial ministries and opposition leaders. As part of London's host municipality responsibilities for the 2014 AMO AGM, Conference and Trade Show, the City staffed an information booth at the trade show and hosted a reception.

The City was represented at the Conference by Mayor Joe Fontana and Councillor Denise Brown. City Manager Art Zuidema attended along with other staff from the City Manager's Office.

This report summarizes the summary of discussions from the delegations and the outcomes of the City's booth and reception.

Parliamentary Secretary Mauro – Municipal Affairs & Housing

The discussion with the Parliamentary Secretary was primarily about affordable housing. The City raised concerns with shelter allowance and rent/utility scales and concerns about expiry of federal social housing agreements. Mayor Fontana also spoke to his role as the Chair of FCM's Big City Mayors' Caucus Working Group on Affordable Housing and the campaign it is launching this year around affordable housing. The delegation also sought the Parliamentary Secretary's support to work with Infrastructure Ontario to address the outstanding issues with the London Psychiatric Hospital Lands and Normal School, and to seek support for a proposal by Fanshawe College to use some of the LPH lands for its horticultural program.

Minister Naqvi – Labour

Mayor Fontana sought Minister Naqvi's support to address interest arbitration issues in the province. Concerns were raised by London that the current system was broken and it appeared all parties were not working together to address the problem. Mayor Fontana conveyed his support for AMO's position that relate to timelines, panel decision making and capacity of a municipality to pay. Minister Naqvi listened to London's concerns and indicated that the province plans to hold consultations with stakeholders to seek a solution.

Tim Hudak – Leader of the Official Opposition, Progressive Conservative Party

Mayor Fontana met with Tim Hudak and two of his fellow Caucus members – Jim Wilson and Steve Clarke. Mayor Fontana asked that Mr. Hudak work with the government to pass the arbitration legislation. Mr. Hudak indicated he disappointed that the PC sponsored *Ability to Pay Act* was defeated in the provincial legislature. He indicated that work needs to be done to convince the other parties to address this issue.

Mayor Fontana also briefed Mr. Hudak on the City’s proposed Industrial Land Development Strategy. Mr. Hudak expressed support for infrastructure funding that supports new employment opportunities and indicated he looked forward to learning more when a full proposal was ready.

Andrea Horwath – Leader of the New Democratic Party

Mayor Fontana met with Andrea Horwath and members of her Caucus – Cindy Forster and newly elected MPPs Peggy Sattler and Percy Hatfield. The Mayor provided the NDP members with an overview of the City’s proposed Industrial Land Development Strategy. The proposal was well received and Ms. Horwath indicated she would be open to learning more when the proposal is ready.

The Mayor also discussed interest arbitration with Ms. Horwath. He indicated that municipalities are looking for all party support to address this issue. Members of the NDP Caucus suggested that they were not convinced arbitration was the issue but rather that it might be a lack of control about how the service is carried out.

AMO 2014 Hosting Responsibilities

As part of the City’s responsibilities in hosting the AMO AGM in London in 2014, the City had a booth in the trade show to showcase London as a destination. Staff provided information to delegates about accommodations, the conference venue, potential study tours, and places of interest in London. Delegates were enthusiastic to return to London next year. The City’s reception was also well attended. Art Zuidema was the MC for the event and Mayor Fontana and AMO President Russ Powers made some remarks to highlight London as the conference destination for 2014.

More information about this year’s conference is available at www.amo.on.ca.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
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