

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2014
FROM:	GRANT HOPCROFT, DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY LIAISON
SUBJECT:	MINISTERIAL DELEGATIONS, AMO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, CONFERENCE, AND TRADE SHOW 2014

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 2014 BE RECEIVED for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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Corporate Services Committee, October 8, 2013 *Ministerial Delegations, AMO Annual General Meeting, Conference and Trade Show 2013.*

BACKGROUND

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Prior to the AMO Annual General Meeting, Conference and Trade Show which took place in August 2014 in London, Mayor Baechler 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 nine meetings with provincial ministries and opposition leaders. As part of London's host municipality responsibilities the City hosted a welcome reception and an information booth.

The City was represented in the delegations by Mayor Joni Baechler, City Manager Art Zuidema, staff from the Intergovernmental & Community Liaison Division and specific SLT members depending on the subject matter being discussed. This report summarizes the summary of discussions from the delegations.

Summary of Delegations

Minister of Education – Hon. Liz Sandals

Mayor Baechler spoke about the City's support for the province's integrated approach to early learning, child care and education system. The Mayor recommended that to further expedite the implementation of this vision that the Province should facilitate the development of neighbourhood Family Centres in schools; consolidate existing funding for all Family Support programs under the authority of Consolidated Municipal Service Managers; and broaden the scope and depth of early years system integration by establishing an inter-Ministerial expectation that all service providers, regardless of the Ministry that provides funding, participate in the development and implementation of the integrated service plan. The Minister indicated that the province in moving in a direction that will better support community hubs.

NDP Caucus Representatives – led by Catherine Fife

The City met with members of the NDP Caucus – Catherine Fife (Kitchener-Waterloo), Peggy Sattler (London West), Wayne Gates (Niagara Falls) and Michael Mantha (Algoma-Manitoulin) – to outline key priorities. Mayor Baechler sought all party support for the City's ILDS Unlocking Prosperity proposal, Rapid Transit investments and High Speed Rail (HSR). NDP members were interested in the City's partnerships in its existing industrial parks. Caucus members were looking for the City's support for their call for a provincial Bus Replacement Strategy. While the NDP supported the notion of HSR, they appeared skeptical about its future implementation and were still waiting to see the detailed business plan from the province.

Minister of Transportation – Hon. Steven Del Duca

Together with Mayor Zehr (Kitchener) and Councillor Scian (Waterloo), Mayor Baechler met with Minister Del Duca to demonstrate a united front of support for High Speed Rail in the London-Kitchener-Pearson-Toronto corridor. The municipal partners indicated that the HSR proposal would be a significant boost to their local economies. The partners indicated they would like to see the environmental assessments proceed as soon as possible with the municipalities informed along the way. The Minister was pleased to see the support by the affected municipalities, indicated that London-Toronto HSR was an important priority but could not commit to a time frame at the moment to share more information.

Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure – Hon. Brad Duguid

The Mayor provided an overview of the City's Industrial Land Development Strategy to the new Minister. The Minister was interested in the proposal but could not make any commitments. The Minister then proceeded to present a certificate to the Mayor for being the first City to participate in the "Investment Readiness Certification Process".

PC Caucus Representatives – Led by Ernie Hardemann – Critic for Municipal Affairs

The City met with members of the PC Caucus to outline its key priorities regarding the Industrial Land Development Strategy, Rapid Transit and HSR. Caucus members present were Jim Wilson (Interim Leader – Simcoe-Grey), Michael Harris (Kitchener-Conestoga), Ted Arnott (Wellington-Halton Hills) and Ernie Hardemann (Oxford). Caucus members were interested in the ILDS proposal and asked about other government support so far. With respect to transit and HSR, members indicated they are still waiting to see the business case for HSR before they can support it.

Deputy Premier, President of Treasury Board – Hon. Deb Matthews

The City met with the Deputy Premier to encourage the government to move quickly to establish the \$50 million Poverty Reduction Fund that will support finding local solutions to poverty. Mayor Baechler also suggested that the province should allocate funding to municipalities that have adopted a collective, collaborative approach to finding and implementing local solutions targeted at the most vulnerable sectors and that have specific actionable poverty reduction strategies in place. She offered several London examples of projects that would be worthy of provincial funding or consideration as pilot projects. The Deputy Premier indicated that she highly respects the work of Lynne Livingstone (Managing Director, Community Services) and her team and would like to learn more about London initiatives and how they could be modelled to be implemented elsewhere.

Minister Responsible for Seniors – Hon. Mario Sergio

Mayor Baechler and staff met with Minister Sergio to seek additional support for London's Age Friendly Plan and its implementation. The Mayor indicated that the City could do more if there was one-time funding for a variety of projects as well as ongoing funding to resource the age-friendly network. The Minister indicated that London in his view is a leader in age-friendly cities and that they would like to do more with London. The Minister used much of the time to ask staff about various initiatives in London.

Associate Minister of Health & Long Term Care – Hon. Daperla Dipika

The City met with the Associate Minister to learn the status of its application for the Healthy Kids Challenge Grant submitted before the election. The Associate Minister could not comment other than that decisions would be made soon. The City has since learned on September 12, 2014 that its application was successful and it has received the grant. The delegation was also used to urge the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to adopt a Housing First Approach. The Associate Minister was interested in this approach and has asked for more information.

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Hon. Ted McMeekin

The Mayor and staff met with the Minister to discuss the London Plan, Housing First and school closures. The Minister was intrigued by the London Plan and indicated he would like to learn more about it going forward. Minister McMeekin indicated that housing is a passion of his given that the subject of his Master's thesis was on social housing – he is supportive of Housing First and indicated that the upcoming Anti-Poverty Strategy would likely have some direction regarding this approach. The Minister was also in strong agreement that the province, school boards and municipalities must work together with respect to school closures. He feels strongly that there needs to be a new model that recognizes schools as community hubs. A follow-up

meeting between City and Ministry staff has been scheduled for late October.

Key Note Speeches

More information about this year's conference and keynote speeches are available at www.amo.on.ca.

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