

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 2017
FROM:	KATE GRAHAM, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC INNOVATION
SUBJECT:	CITY OF LONDON REPRESENTATION ON VARIOUS MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATIONS

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director, Community & Economic Innovation the following report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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None

BACKGROUND

The City of London's 2015-2019 Strategic Plan Vision outlines a commitment to establish London as "a leader in commerce, culture, and innovation – our region's connection to the world." City Council has set clear priorities on initiatives that will require partnerships with federal and provincial governments. Council's Strategic Plan identifies four strategic areas of focus: strengthening our community; building a sustainable city; growing our economy; and, leading in public service.

The City of London undertakes numerous activities and initiatives to ensure that local and regional perspectives are brought to the attention of provincial and federal governments. One of the most impactful advocacy avenues available to the City of London is our membership on various municipal associations, committees and task forces. While the mandates of these groups differ based on a variety of factors, these organizations all focus on strengthening, enhancing and coordinating the voice of municipal government in Toronto and Ottawa.

There are three important municipal associations that currently include elected representation from London.

1. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

a. *Mandate*

FCM represents over 2000 municipalities across the country and provides the voice for municipal government to the Government of Canada. FCM provides information and best practice sharing opportunities between municipalities from across Canada. As the national voice for cities and communities, FCM works in partnership with the Government of Canada, provincial/territorial municipal associations and national industry and non-governmental organizations to ensure that federal policy, programming and regulation respect the perspectives of Canada's local governments.

b. *Membership*

The City of London has long been a member of FCM. Councillor Usher currently serves as a committee member and works with the National Board of Directors to ensure perspectives from London and the region are represented at the decision-making table. Board and committee members are elected by the membership of FCM (local elected representatives) at the Annual Conference held in June each year. Each year, the President of FCM takes steps to ensure that the Board includes a balance of geographic location, gender, and municipal size.

c. *City Inputs*

The National Board of Directors meets four times per year – three board meetings in September, November and March followed by the Annual Conference in June. FCM Board members shape national policy and advocacy strategies for the municipal sector in Ottawa. Representatives from London are tasked with bringing the local and regional lens to the conversations at the Board table. The input into this process often includes established council policies, projects/initiative examples, regional impact assessments, etc.

In addition, Councillor Morgan will be serving as the City of London Council liaison with the FCM 150 Community Leaders program.

d. *Reporting*

Following each meeting of the Board of Directors, a Report to Council is sent to each Board and committee member to share with their local councils. Information on key decisions and intelligence from Ottawa is shared in these reports. FCM also provides member e-newsletters and other member updates to communicate important updates on a regular basis.

2. **The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**

a. *Mandate*

AMO is the leading provincial voice for municipalities in Ontario. AMO provides a similar policy, advocacy and best practice sharing function to Ontario municipalities as FCM provides nationally. However, given the highly integrated and interconnected constitutional relationship between municipalities and the province, AMO focusses on a much wider diversity of municipal issues within its mandate. AMO further administers a number of provincial and federal programs that deliver services directly to municipalities. The most notable example is the federal Gas Tax Fund, where AMO serves as the project administrator on behalf of the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario.

b. *Membership*

There are several ways that municipalities like London can be involved within the AMO structure.

i. Board of Directors

The Board is comprised of elected officials from across the province. Board members are elected in various blocks to ensure proportional representation based on municipal size and other considerations. Each board member serves for a 2-year term, with the next board election set for August 2018 at the Annual Conference.

ii. Task Forces

In addition to the Board of Directors, AMO also desires input from its membership through ad-hoc or issue-based task forces. Currently, Councillors Ridley and Helmer have sat, or currently sit on AMO task forces for Long-term care and Health respectively. These task forces are populated on a voluntary basis with no formal requirements for length of service. Task forces provide strategic policy and advocacy advice to the AMO Board as required. Recruitment to these ad-hoc bodies is undertaken directly by AMO staff.

c. *City Inputs*

While London does not currently have a Board member on the AMO Board of Directors, Council and City Administration work closely with Board members from across the Southwest Ontario to ensure that the London perspective is included in these discussions. London Councillors sitting on AMO Task Forces provide direct advice, project examples and information to the Board through these voluntary bodies.

d. *Reporting*

AMO maintains a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Province of Ontario which restricts the amount of direct member communication that can be shared between Board members and senior administration and the membership of AMO. However, AMO provides regular member e-newsletters to the municipal sector on matters within the public domain.

3. **The Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA)**

a. *Mandate*

The OGRA mandate is focussed on representing the transportation and public works interests of municipalities in Ontario to the Provincial government. OGRA's activities focus on four primary areas: advocacy, education services for members, promotion of asset management practices, and program development opportunities for members.

b. *Membership*

The Board of Directors of OGRA is primarily organized around geographic region. The Board includes the President, First and Second Vice-Presidents, and 11 additional directors. Of these 11 directorships, 3 must come from Southwest Ontario. Directors are elected for a 1-year term at the Annual Conference which takes place in February each year. The Board meets at least 7 times per year including the Annual Conference in February. OGRA covers the costs of travel and accommodation for Board members.

c. *City Inputs*

Councillor Virginia Ridley currently serves as a Director of the Board. In this position, Councillor Ridley is tasked with ensuring the London and Southwest Ontario voice is heard at the Board table.

d. *Reporting*

Following each Board of Directors meeting, OGRA sends out a report to council to each board member. Like FCM reports to council, these are submitted through the appropriate Council committees for consideration.

The above organizations offer opportunities for individual municipal elected officials to serve on provincial and federal municipal bodies. Importantly, each of these organizations invite members to participate individually and not as a formal representative of the municipality.

In contrast to this, there are two other municipal organizations that include a formal position for individual cities. These are the Big City Mayor’s Caucus (BCMC) and the Large Urban Municipal Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO). Both BCMC (federal focus) and LUMCO (provincial focus) provide a forum for the consideration of the unique issues at play in large urban centres. On both of these bodies, the Mayor of London serves as the official city representative. BCMC and LUMCO create their own policies and priorities yet significant amount of policy and advocacy integration remains between BCMC and FCM as well as LUMCO and AMO.

The Mayor of London also currently chairs the Mayors of Southwest Ontario (MOSO), an informal forum for information-sharing by mayors of the urban regions across the region. The advocacy of the MOSO mayors is informed by existing policies and direction given by individual Councils represented therein.

Finally, the City of London maintains membership on dozens of staff-level municipal organizations as well. These include the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA), and the Municipal Finance Officers’ Association of Ontario (MFOA) to name a few. These organizations focus on sharing information, best practices and advice on implementing municipal, provincial and federal policies and programs.

Conclusion

The City of London will continue the commitment within the Strategic Plan to explore and seize every opportunity to reinforce our City’s vision of a “leader in commerce, culture and innovation – our region’s connection to the world.” Membership and participation in these type of municipal organizations are a valuable tool in London’s toolkit.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
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