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September 24, 2019

Chair and Members
Corporate Services Committee

RE: Report from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference – Ottawa, ON, August 17-21, 2019

OVERVIEW

The Annual Conference of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) met from August 17-21, 2019 in Ottawa. AMO is an important voice for local government in Ontario, representing 443 municipalities across the province. The Annual Conference hosts a number of signature opportunities for delegates to connect with the peers from across the province as well as provincial officials, decision-makers and party leaders. The Conference presents content for municipal officials across a broad spectrum of local and provincial issues. In addition, the AMO Annual Conference presents an opportunity for the London Council to advance important priorities directly to provincial decision-makers through delegation meetings with ministers and their staff. London took a focused approach to the 2019 AMO Annual Conference. The outcomes of this advocacy will meaningfully impact the progression of important local priorities.

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Throughout the conference there were a wide variety of workshops, study tours, and keynote speakers exploring key issues with direct overlap of London priorities. For example, affordable housing, infrastructure, cannabis implementation, cyber security, and climate change were topics of numerous engagements throughout the conference.

The AMO Annual Conference hosted nearly all of the provincial Cabinet and all four provincial party leaders: Premier Doug Ford, NDP Leader Andrea Horwath, Interim Liberal Leader John Fraser, and Green Party Leader Mike Schreiner. With a heavy provincial legislative agenda, the message from AMO was clear: municipalities stand ready to partner with Ontario to develop solutions that work in our communities.

THE TEAM LONDON APPROACH

Nine members of Council attended this year's AMO Annual Conference. Our delegation was supported by Civic Administration, including our City Manager and Deputy City Manager. Team London secured and delivered on 10 delegation meetings – seven with provincial ministers and senior staff from their departments and three with opposition parties and members of their caucus. These focused delegations targeted critical local priorities such as transportation, housing affordability, health and long-term care, job creation and municipal financing. Meaningful follow-ups were identified out of each delegation and Civic Administration is already at work leveraging these commitments.

In addition to our delegations, London Council members and staff also led important province-wide discussions throughout the Conference. I was honoured to moderate a

panel discussion on the future of Ontario's housing environment alongside colleagues from across the province. Councillor Turner delivered a highly engaging information session to members of the Large Urban Caucus on opioids in our community. This session included training municipal leaders on recognizing the signs of overdose and administering naloxone in a crisis. Councillor Pelozo moderated a meeting of the Climate Caucus, a non-partisan network of elected local leaders in Canada sharing solutions and strategies to address global warming and climate change. Jay Stanford also provided his wisdom as keynote speaker in a session sponsored by the Plastics Association of Canada, showcasing London's efforts toward achieving zero plastic waste.

STRENGTHENING LONDON'S REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

I was appointed London's representative on the Board of Directors of AMO with the goal of strengthening London's regional leadership across the province. This year I embraced the role of Chair of the Large Urban Caucus on the Board. Ensuring that the needs of large cities are reflected in AMO's policy and advocacy work is my top priority. I believe the work of the Team London delegation moved this yardstick forward and I am tremendously thankful for the dedication of time from my colleagues – both those of you who attended the Conference and for the advice and input from those that could not be present.

As we look toward hosting the 2021 and 2023 AMO Annual Conferences here in our great city, I know that we will be ready to welcome Ontario's largest municipal gathering to our community.

Respectfully submitted by:



Anna Hopkins
Councillor, Ward 9
Member AMO Board of Directors and Chair of the Large Urban Caucus