

Memorandum

Date: September 17, 2019

To: Members of Council

From: Devan Lobo, Senior Analyst, Corporate Initiatives, Strategic Initiatives

Subject: AMO Conference Update

On August 18-21, 2019 the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) was held in Ottawa. As part of this conference, municipalities had the opportunity to request delegations with specific Ministries, political and ministry staff, as well as representatives of the opposition parties to advocate on local and shared issues and challenges requiring provincial support. The AMO conference also provided an opportunity for delegates to attend Minister speeches and workshops as well as network with municipal representatives from across Ontario.

The Caledon delegation consisted of Mayor Thompson, Regional Councillor Downey, Area Councillor Early, Regional Councillor Groves, Regional Councillor Innis, Area Councillor Kiernan, Area Councillor Rosa and Regional Councillor Sinclair. In addition to Members of Council, the delegation included CAO Mike Galloway and General Manager of Strategic Initiatives, David Arbuckle.

Caledon delegations were held with:

- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing,
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry,
- Ministry of Infrastructure,
- Ministry of Transportation,
- Associate Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction,
- Liberal Party,
- Green Party, and
- New Democratic Party (NDP).

This memo provides a summary of those delegations and next steps.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Town of Caledon's delegation met with MPP Parm Gill, Parliamentary Assistant (Housing) to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The first issue that was brought forward was regional governance. Our delegation advocated on the importance of maintaining effective rural representation and that rural Ontario is considered carefully in the decisions related to regional governance. The delegation noted the service delivery costing analysis conducted by Ernst & Young. Parliamentary Assistant Gill acknowledged Caledon's submission to the Regional Government Review and advised a decision regarding regional governance will come forward in Fall 2019.

The second issue that was presented was regarding affordable housing challenges for single households, seniors and persons with disabilities. We discussed finding ways to bring diverse housing options to the community. Caledon asked that the Province provide incentives and funding to incentivize the private sector to build affordable housing. The Province noted the newly passed Ontario Housing Supply Action Plan which seeks to address different housing challenges.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

The Caledon delegation met with the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, John Yakabuski regarding the issue of Aggregate Rehabilitation Master Plans. We focused on the need for flexibility with the Aggregate Resources Act (ARA) and planning policies to allow for innovation when identifying reuses for aggregate sites. The Ministry advised that the issue is timely as the Province has sought feedback on Ontario's Aggregate Reform and at the Aggregate Summit earlier in March. The Ministry invited the Town to further discuss the legislation and regulatory amendments brought forward by the Town.

Ministry of Infrastructure

The Caledon delegation met with the Minister of Infrastructure's Chief of Staff, Jenn Bell, regarding broadband access. The Ministry acknowledged our challenges with accessing broadband and the need for dependable and affordable internet access. Caledon requested that the Province make broadband an essential service and continue to provide funding to municipalities and partnerships.

The second issue presented was natural gas expansion and affordable energy. Caledon asked for the Ministry's support of natural gas expansion and affordable energy such as geo-thermal to deliver affordable, clean energy.

Ministry of Transportation

The Caledon delegation met with Minister Caroline Mulroney regarding defining Highway 427 extension and Highway 410 alignment as priority elements while completing the GTA West Corridor EA Study. The Ministry invited Caledon and businesses to submit letters of request for lands to free up as part of the Study.

In addition, the Caledon delegation brought forward the issue of Bolton GO Bus and Rail Service. The Ministry listened to our concerns and request for support in extending Bolton GO Bus service beyond 2020. The Ministry inquired with respect to Caledon's request and advised that the Greater Golden Horseshoe Transportation Plan aims to look at long-range goals for the area's entire transportation system.

Associate Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction

The Caledon delegation met with the Associate Minister for Small Business and Red Tape Reduction, Prabmeet Sarkaria. Delegates provided an overview of small business in Caledon and some of the challenges faced.

Caucus Meetings

The Caledon delegation also had separate meetings with following caucuses:

- Liberal Party Interim Leader John Fraser and the Liberal Party team;
- Green Party Leader Mike Schreiner and staff; and
- Deputy Leader for the NDP Sara Singh and the NDP team.

Caledon presented all issues that were highlighted at the Ministry meetings. Each caucus had a number of follow up questions. We committed to reaching out to the parties as the issues progress.

Next Steps

As part of the Town of Caledon's government relations efforts, Town staff provided copies of all of the briefing materials to the office of Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones and Region of Peel staff from the External Relations Division.

The Mayor's Office has followed up with a letter to each Ministry and Party regarding the delegation and next steps. Town staff will be contacting provincial staff at the respective Ministries to arrange follow-up meetings regarding the issues discussed during the AMO delegation meetings.