

Memorandum

Date: December 3, 2019

To: Members of Council

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

Subject: 2020 ROMA and OGRA Conferences

Throughout 2020, Members of Council will continue to have the opportunity to attend a number of annual municipal association conferences on behalf of the Town of Caledon, offering policy input and engaging with other orders of government. This memo is to provide Members of Council with an overview of staff support with respect to such conferences and a summary of delegation requests submitted for the upcoming Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference.

From January 19-21, 2020, the ROMA Conference will occur in Toronto. This year's conference, Rural Ontario: Moving Forward, will be a full educational conference, with access to industry experts, provincial representatives, and product and service providers discussing and debating current municipal issues. In addition, the Province accepts delegation requests with provincial Ministers. As part of the Town's government relations efforts, municipalities can request delegations with Ontario government ministries as well as representatives of the opposition parties to present issues and challenges that require provincial support. In advance of these conferences, staff monitor provincial policy announcements and other issues impacting Caledon and submit delegation requests that align with previously endorsed Council policy positions. Leading up to the conferences, staff coordinate background information and briefing materials for the Mayor and Council, as well as provide support when requested at the advocacy meetings.

Delegation requests with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks were submitted to address advocacy priorities identified in the 2018-2022 Council Work Plan:

- Regional governance and rural representation
- Affordable housing challenges
- Broadband internet access for rural communities
- Natural gas expansion and affordable energy
- Greater Toronto Area (GTA) West Corridor
- GO Transit service
- Aggregate site rehabilitation
- Climate change and infrastructure impacts

The deadline to request a meeting was December 2, 2019. The Caledon delegation also plans to meet with the NDP Caucus, Liberal Caucus and Green Party who are currently accepting delegation requests via email.

Next Steps

Once the Ministries confirm the Town's delegation requests (traditionally one week before the beginning of the conference), staff will work with the Office of the Mayor to coordinate conference briefing materials and schedule time to brief those attending the Conference.

The Ontario Good Roads Association Conference will take place from February 23-26, 2020. Caledon plans to submit a delegation request to the Minister of Transportation, with respect to transportation challenges in Caledon.

Following the conferences, staff will provide further information to Council with a summary of what was requested and any follow-up action that was committed to in the meetings.