



## TOWN OF MINTO

**DATE:** October 21, 2016  
**REPORT TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Bill White, C.A.O. Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Annual Conferences, ROMA Delegation Request

---

### **STRATEGIC PLAN:**

- 5.1 Actively and professionally seek out Federal and Provincial grants and revenue-sharing programs, and promote sustainable and equitable funding programs that require a minimal amount of reporting and promote local accountability.
- 12.7 Demonstrate innovation in all aspects of municipal business acknowledging the importance of training, succession planning, transparency, communication and team-based approaches to municipal operations.

### **BACKGROUND**

This report provides information on major conferences for Council and assesses options for delegations at the upcoming ROMA Conference.

#### *Major Conferences*

When the Ontario Good Roads Association and Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference split after 16 years together, it changed educational opportunities for Council. The OGRA ROMA combined conference was similar in size to the Association of Municipalities event but tended to have a focus on smaller rural municipalities. The combined conference was good for Council and the C.A.O. Clerk as it provided a venue for both rural and road/transportation issues.

Public Works Director and staff will attend OGRA instead of ROMA, but members of Council must choose from a list that includes Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). In addition to the annual economic development conference for Ontario (EDCO) in February, both the national (EDAC) and international (IEDC) conferences are in Ontario this year, which provides a unique chance to attend with people. The following is a schedule and location for major educational events:

	<b><i>Location</i></b>	<b><i>Dates</i></b>	<b><i>Theme</i></b>
ROMA	Toronto	January 29-31	ROMA Speaks
EDCO	Toronto	February 7-9	Marriott Eaton Centre
OGRA	Toronto	Feb. 26 – March 1	Leadership Matters
OSUM	Blue Mountain	May 2-5	Rural Embraces Urban
FCM (National)	Ottawa	June 1-4	Nation Builders
AMO	Ottawa	August 13-16	TBA
EDAC (National)	Niagara Falls	September 9 -12	TBA
IEDC (International)	Toronto	September 17-20	Sheraton Centre

There is space in the ROMA conference hotel if members of Council still wish to attend.

#### *Delegations at ROMA*

In the last six years the Town has had 17 delegations on a variety of topics including streamlining and accountability, joint and several liability, infrastructure and connecting link

funding, source water protection, rental tax rebates, economic development funding and similar. Town representatives have spoken to the Premier (when she was Minister of Municipal Affairs), Deputy Premier, two Attorneys General, and several Ministers (Environment, Municipal Affairs, Infrastructure etc.) over the years.

Delegations are allowed at ROMA if submissions are filed by November 14. So far the Mayor and C.A.O. Clerk will be at ROMA to present if a delegation is given. Unfulfilled Town delegation requests include cap and trade funding, PTSD legislation, private sewage approval process, and access to Provincial Gas Tax. The Attorney General dismissed the joint and several liability issues at AMO in 2016 in favour of alternatives that would help address municipal insurance premiums.

#### **COMMENTS:**

Regarding conferences the annual AMO event now becomes more of a focal point with the split of OGRA ROMA. This is the largest annual municipal event and a good chance to meet with provincial and municipal leaders. When FCM occurs in Ontario, members should consider the program as it has a different focus than AMO. Attending this event supports Mayor Bridge on the FCM Board.

Councillor Elliott has been on the Board of OSUM since 2012. Members of Council who attended OSUM over the years found it beneficial. The Town has not had a delegation at this event, although the program has hosted a number of Ministers and speeches by the Premier and opposition. With the split of OGRA and ROMA there are now three similarly sized events for Council to choose. There is an opportunity to attend national and international economic development conferences in Ontario in 2017, which may be of interest to members on the Committee.

Members of Council can attend events of their choice within their prescribed budget. The cost of each event varies depending on travel distance and length of time, but this means typically two major events and one smaller day event could be covered within budget. At the 2017 budget Council can assess the adequacy of funding for this type of event. It is suggested Council attempt to have representation at OSUM, OGRA and ROMA. Staff can assist with registration and accommodation.

As far as delegations at ROMA, Council might request a delegation with the Attorney General on joint and several liability, or attempt a delegation on this issue at FCM in favour of a more national approach. There are enough infrastructure programs available with a combination of merit and formula based funding to suggest a delegation to allow access to Provincial Gas Tax may have little traction. A delegation asking the Province to provide detail on cap and trade programs may be in order, but concern arises that very little substance might be forthcoming from the Minister at this time.

The Town has success with its delegations by offering a clear overview of the problem and solutions or options for Minister's to consider. This has made Minto a strong voice for rural municipalities consistent with the Town's Strategic Plan.

#### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

Budgets for such events range from \$3,500 for Councillors, \$4,800 Deputy Mayor and \$5,000 for Mayor. Overall Council stays within its total allocated budget for these events.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receives the C.A.O. Clerk's October 21, 2016 report regarding Annual Conferences, ROMA Delegation Request as information.

Bill White, C.A.O. Clerk