



**TOWN OF MINTO**

**DATE:** June 15, 2017  
**REPORT TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Bill White, CAO/Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Delegations 2017 AMO Conference

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**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.

**BACKGROUND:**

The 2017 AMO Conference is August 13-16 in Ottawa. Council had no delegations at the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) or the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conferences in 2017. Last summer at AMO the Town had successful delegations to Minister of Finance regarding eliminating Tax Rebates for Absentee Landlords and the Attorney General on Harriston Lawn Bowling land transfer.

The following are delegations since 2011:

- February 2011 OGRA/ROMA Minister of Infrastructure Bob Chiarelli access to Provincial Gas Tax
- August 2011 AMO Rick Bartolucci Ministry of Municipal Affairs downtown incentives
- February 2012 OGRA/ROMA then Minister of Municipal Affairs Kathleen Wynn Source Water Protection integration with Provincial Policy; Attorney General John Gerretson Joint and Several Liabilities
- August 2012 AMO Minister of Environment James Bradley Source Water Protection Implementation
- February 2013 OGRA/ROMA Minister of Environment James Bradley Source Water Protection Implementation, Town of Minto Resolution; Minister of Transportation Glen Murray Connecting Link Funding
- August 2013 delegation Parliamentary Assistant to Minister of Transportation jointly with Wellington North and North Perth regarding restoration of the connecting link program
- February 2014 Minister of Municipal Affairs Linda Jeffrey Streamlining Municipal Reporting
- August 2014 Parliamentary Assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs regarding streamlining reporting and Public Sector and MPP Accountability and Transparency Act; Deputy Premier Deborah Matthews Public Sector and MPP Accountability and Transparency Act; Minister of Agriculture Jeff Leal Rural Ontario Municipalities Economic Development Update; Minister infrastructure Sustainable Infrastructure Funding Model

- February 2015 Minister of Municipal Affairs Ted McMeekin Streamlining Municipal Reporting; Associate Minister of Health with responsibility for Long-Term Care Hon. Dipika Damerla, Strong Health Care Options Rural Ontario
  - February 2016 Minister of Environment and Climate Change Glen Murray Regarding Infrastructure Resiliency, Climate Change Funding (“cap and trade”)
  - August 2016, Yvan Baker, Parliamentary Assistant to Minister of Finance, Tax Rebate Municipal Act Section 364; Yasir Naqvi, Attorney General, Harriston Lawn Bowling Transfer
- 2016 saw particularly useful delegations that had almost an immediate impact. While delegations do not always result in action by the Province, the cumulative impact of this effort from all municipalities can impact future policy.

#### **COMMENTS:**

Staff provided information to Council on potential changes to the Labour Relations Act and Employment Standards Act centered on vulnerable workers. A resolution was approved and sent to the Province noting Town concerns with added reporting for municipalities, flexibility around winter snow removal staff, part time worker obligations, and potential rule changes around frustrated employment, notice and termination without cause.

Legislation for Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs was since introduced by the Province, and while Town staff are not typically “vulnerable employees” the legislation could have unanticipated impacts. Legitimate employers could incur significant added costs even though they employ few, if any, vulnerable workers, while employers with vulnerable works may not be end up measurably improving working conditions. A delegation to seek clarification and updates to the legislation could be in order.

Bill 68 Modernizing Municipal Legislation received Royal Assent and is now in effect. Municipalities across the Province are adjusting to new rules and there are regulations to be posted. The Town is well positioned with many of the required policies and provisions in place including a code of conduct and tree planting policy. While the final legislation eliminated the authority of an integrity commissioner to initiate their own investigations, municipalities are required to hire an integrity commissioner. A delegation may be in order to garner further understanding of timelines and implementation requirements.

Much progress has been made in the area of infrastructure funding. The issue of stacking grants to help municipalities find the resources to match funding from senior levels of government remains. AMO staff has been persistent providing information on the 10 year shortfall between revenues and expenses for municipal operations across the Province. Even though infrastructure spending increased \$2 billion between 2003 and 2013, \$4.9 billion more is needed between 2016 and 2025. This is up from \$3.6 billion identified in 2016 by AMO. Without another revenue source increases property taxes of 8.35% are needed annually to meet the shortfall.

AMO research shows 90% of people agree safe infrastructure is a priority, 76% concerned property tax will not cover future costs, and over 55% support a 1% increase in HST to support local infrastructure. A delegation supporting access to the HST exclusively for municipal infrastructure is an option.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:**

Delegations are at no additional cost to the Town. Deadline for requests is June 28.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receives the June 15, 2017 report from the C.A.O. Clerk regarding delegation requests 2017 AMO Conference and that Council provides direction on issues of concern that may warrant a delegation request.

Bill White, C.A.O. Clerk



**Randy Pettapiece, MPP**  
Perth-Wellington

Perth-Wellington Constituency Office  
Stratford, Ontario

May 26, 2016

Hon. Kathleen Wynne, MPP  
Premier of Ontario  
Room 281, Main Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A8

### **Open Letter to the Premier of Ontario**

Dear Premier:

Many of my constituents have contacted me regarding your government's deeply flawed draft "Climate Change Action Plan." They are right to be concerned about your \$7-billion draft plan as revealed in media reports. As it was described, you intend to:

- Ban natural gas heating for homes and small buildings built in 2030 or later;
- Ban natural gas from all buildings by 2050; and
- Spend \$3.8-billion in new subsidies to retrofit existing buildings and move them off natural gas.

Many people in Perth-Wellington rely on natural gas—and many more would benefit if the necessary infrastructure were in place, as it is in much of urban Ontario. Your draft plan is already undermining confidence in the viability of future investment in natural gas infrastructure. In addition, your draft plan strangely contradicts current government policies encouraging the use of natural gas. Just last year, your government announced the Natural Gas Access Loan and Natural Gas Economic Development Grant—both targeted to rural and remote areas now unserved by natural gas.

The bottom line is this: your draft plan would mean even higher energy costs for individuals, families, businesses, farms and municipalities. As you know, they are already paying among the highest electricity rates in North America as a direct consequence of your policies. If forced to convert from natural gas to electric heating, the average household heating bill would rise sharply by \$3,000 a year. That's in addition to up-front conversion costs of \$4,500. If it is your position that we in Perth-Wellington can afford this, you are sorely mistaken.

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We recognize your draft plan is not yet government policy. However, we in the official opposition have repeatedly asked you to clarify your intentions but you have refused to do so. Your promises not to ban natural gas ring hollow when, at the same time, you are refusing to disavow the effective ban as contained in your draft plan. Your lack of consultation, lack of transparency and lack of interest in the energy needs of rural and small-town Ontario is completely unacceptable.

As you should know, your draft plan comes as many communities, including Perth East, which I am privileged to represent, are actively trying to secure approval for natural gas access. Communities have been working on this over a period of years, and I have consistently supported them. I wrote to you and your ministers of energy and economic development to do everything possible to support natural gas access in Perth East. Last week I questioned your Minister of Energy on your draft plan, but he provided no reassurance whatsoever.

We need you to abandon your draft "Climate Change Action Plan," and we need you to do it now. Our future ability to access clean, affordable energy, including natural gas, hangs in the balance.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Randy Pettapiece, MPP  
Perth-Wellington

- c: Hon. Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Energy
- Hon. Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
- Hon. Brad Duguid, Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure
- Hon. Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Municipalities in Perth-Wellington