




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members of Council
DATE:	September 8, 2022
SUBJECT:	Intergovernmental Update: Provincial Ministerial Engagement Activity at Association of Municipalities of Ontario Annual Conference (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY & SUBMITTED BY:	Morgan Stahl Director, Government Relations and Community Engagement City Manager's Office 

The purpose of this update is to provide an overview of the City of Hamilton's engagement at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual General Meeting and Conference which took place from August 14 – 17, 2022 in Ottawa, Ontario.

The conference was attended by over 1,700 delegates including leaders from municipalities across the province and focused on a range of global issues and policy matters including public health, energy, housing, mental health and addictions, climate change, waste diversion, and insurance.

Representing the City at the conference was Mayor Fred Eisenberger, accompanied by Alia Khan, Communications Advisor to the Mayor, Janette Smith, City Manager; Angie Burden, General Manager of Healthy & Safe Communities; and Morgan Stahl, Director of Government Relations & Community Engagement.

Significant progress was made in advocating for the City's government relations priorities and receiving policy updates with key ministers (in alphabetical order):

- **Minister Bethlenfalvy, Ministry of Finance**
 - Advocating of continuation of COVID-19 Relief/Recovery Funding, including 2022 and 2023 support for the homeless serving system and public health services
 - Funding and ministry partnerships for evidence-based supportive housing models, inclusive of wraparound mental health and addictions services and supports

- **Minister Ford, Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism**
 - Seeking support for the Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre through Anti-Racism Directorate Funding
 - Providing settlement Services and Support for Ukrainian Refugees
 - Cultivating a relationship with the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Centre

- **Minister Jones, Ministry of Health and Associate Minister Tibollo, Associate Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions**
 - Greater need for immediate supportive housing/mental health and addictions services and supports for high acuity individuals experiencing homelessness (who require significant wrap around support for successful tenancy) in Hamilton
 - Supportive housing proposal and proposed solutions on behalf of the City of Hamilton anchor institutions
 - Prolonged COVID-19 pandemic and pressures in health and human services programs
 - Ambulance Offload Delays

- **Minister Surma, Ministry of Infrastructure**
 - Historic infrastructure gap related to required renewal and operations and maintenance activities
 - Needed infrastructure resiliency related to growth and climate change
 - Poor condition, deficient and aging critical infrastructure requiring significant work over the next ten years to meet level of service requirements

- **Minister Lecce, Ministry of Education**
 - Advise on the local implementation of Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement

SUBJECT: Provincial Ministerial Engagement Activity at Association of Municipalities of Ontario Annual Conference (City Wide) - Page 3 of 5

- Advocated for adequate compensation for Registered Early Childhood Educators and other program staff
- Promoted equitable access to affordable Licensed Child Care

- **Minister Mulroney, Ministry of Transportation**
 - Ridership and Revenue Recovery
 - Safe Re-start and Provincial Gas Tax Funding
 - Advance Transit as a Strong Economic Driver
 - Update on Hamilton's Light Rail Transit (LRT) and MOU terms:
 - LRT project remains non-fungible, funding streams are non-transferable to any other project
 - If cancelled by a future Council, all investments made by the province to be paid back by the City, ranging from \$32 - \$140M at minimum.
(Range estimated for work done in timeline: Aug. 2022 - March 2023 and does not include land acquisition costs incurred which would be additional costs incurred)

- **Minister Piccini, Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks**
 - Issues in transition of the Blue Box Program
 - Challenges with On-site and Excess Soil Management

Minister Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- *Requested meeting declined by the Minister due to an overwhelming amount of requests from municipalities*

Staff intend to meet with the Minister's staff and the Deputy Minister in the Fall to discuss shared priorities and necessary funding in order to achieve these objectives. Staff have already held a preliminary meeting with Minister Clark's policy team that oversee the housing file as an integral first step.

Additionally, the City raised and advocated for the following key issues/priorities as approved by Council as the City's provincial election priorities :

1. Supportive Housing and Ensuring our Most Vulnerable Populations have Access to Health and Human Services

Addressing the economic impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations by

providing significant and sustainable supports for individuals experiencing homelessness.

2. Strong Economic Recovery and Prosperity Post-COVID-19

Investment in critical social and physical infrastructure to support economic development and continued support for workers, businesses and the health-care system recovering from COVID-19.

3. Investing in Child Care and Early Years

Adopting a National Child Care Plan at the local to provide families in Hamilton with access to affordable child care and support increased labour market participation, specifically for women, people of colour and individuals from equity-deserving communities.

4. Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Disaster mitigation and adaption support for areas either impacted or at risk of being impacted by the effects of climate change.

5. Our Commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Creating and nurturing a city that is welcoming and inclusive with a goal that equity-deserving communities will feel safe, supported and have an enhanced sense of belonging through strengthening community capacity and inclusive engagement opportunities.

6. Increased Infrastructure Funding

Modernizing public transit in Hamilton and positioning our City to better support long-term growth and development will remain a core local priority requiring significant investments for years to come.

The on-going pressures due to the pandemic were at the forefront and an integral part of all the City's conversations with representatives from the provincial government. Currently, senior levels of government have not made any financial commitments beyond 2022 to fund ongoing recovery efforts for municipalities related to COVID-19.

The City will continue to actively pursue and advocate for funding from senior levels of government for ongoing recovery efforts for municipalities related to COVID-19 to ensure much needed investments are secured for residents in the city of Hamilton.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

**SUBJECT: Provincial Ministerial Engagement Activity at Association of
Municipalities of Ontario Annual Conference (City Wide) - Page 5 of 5**

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Provincial Election 2022 Our Plan, Our Priorities: Building a Brighter Future for Hamilton

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