
Subject: Proposed 2025 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Delegations

Report to: Regional Council

Report date: Thursday, May 22, 2025

Recommendations

1. That this report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to present Council with proposed delegation requests for the 2025 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference taking place August 17 – 20 in the City of Ottawa.
- The submission deadline for delegation requests is May 30, 2025.
- Proposed AMO delegations were identified through consultation with department leaders. They align with the Region's 2025 provincial pre-budget submission, provincial priorities and Council's Strategic Priorities, including building resilient infrastructure to support growth, improving access to attainable and affordable housing, enhancing access to transit and exploring opportunities to improve service delivery through shared services,
- Staff will also explore opportunities for bringing forward non-Niagara specific requests during the conference.
- Any Area Municipalities wishing to explore joint delegation opportunities with Niagara Region (or support from Regional staff in delegation participation) are encouraged to contact the Regional Chair's Office or Office of the Deputy CAO.

Background

The AMO conference is an annual event hosted by the association. It provides municipal leaders with an opportunity to engage provincial ministers and senior officials on local priorities.

The last AMO conference took place from August 18 to 21 in the City of Ottawa. Niagara Region took part in seven delegations and supported two joint delegations in partnership with Area Municipalities.

Proposed Delegations

To support the advancement of core growth-related Regional priorities, the AMO delegations provided below will introduce requests going forward during Niagara Week as set out below. This work will allow Council and senior staff to provide provincial officials with updates on each initiative and share that subsequent meeting requests will be forthcoming to support in-depth follow-up discussions for each item.

| Topic and Relevant Ministries | Ask |
|---|---|
| South Niagara Wastewater Treatment Solution Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Infrastructure | Renew the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program and expand the funding envelope to prioritize large-scale, high value water and wastewater projects that promote economic growth, job creation and productivity. |
| Affordable Housing Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing | Increase the supply of affordable housing units by partnering in the next scheduled CHMP development projects. |
| Two-way, all day GO Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Transportation | Discuss immediate next steps for GO train service expansion between Union Station and Niagara. |
| Building Services Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Red Tape Reduction Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing | Provide key deliverables, progress, and workplan update, outlining opportunities for provincial partnership in Q4 2025. |

*Please note, the list is subject to change based on provincial announcements or key updates that may occur prior to the conference.

AMO delegations will also support advocacy for department-specific priorities, as provided below. Bringing these requests forward will allow delegates to recommend policy and program changes that need to take place once the Ontario Legislature resumes in September.

| Topic and Relevant Ministries | Ask |
|---|---|
| Improve Access to Primary Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health Ministry of Rural Affairs | Update on Niagara's Physician Recruitment Roundtable and advance recommended advocacy actions (e.g. increase Family Health Teams, awareness of Niagara approach). |

| Topic and Relevant Ministries | Ask |
|--|---|
| Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Education | Increase Niagara’s CWELCC allocations to support economic growth. |
| Addressing the Complexities of Homelessness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing | Discuss opportunities to support seniors experiencing homelessness. |
| Supplementary funding for Ontario Works Rates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services | Provide supplementary funding to support Ontario Works, accounting for inflation. |

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Regional staff will continue to work with sector partners to advance non-Niagara specific requests. Examples include working with the Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO), AMO and municipal counterparts to highlight the importance of updating the provincial-municipal funding framework.

Staff will also be proactive in identifying opportunities for joint delegations in partnership with area municipalities.

Councillor Delegation Attendance

As is standing practice, the Chair’s Office will manage which Councillors will be attending delegations on behalf of the Region. The Chair’s Office will reach out to those Councillors who are registered for the conference with an expression of interest.

There is an expectation that Councillors will be well briefed on the material for which they are advocating. To support this work, Regional Councillors attending delegations will receive a package containing briefing notes and other materials. A Councillor pre-brief session will also be held to discuss approaches and answer questions about positioning.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

The advocacy issues outlined in this report address a number of key Council Strategic Priorities, collectively touching each of the four Strategic Pillars. Participating in the AMO conference specifically supports Council's 2023-2026 Strategic Priority of creating a Prosperous Region, Objective 4.4: Be an effective and unified voice to advocate with senior government on behalf of Niagara. It also builds effective collaboration with the Area Municipalities on areas of mutual government relations interests, while leveraging effective partnerships with the provincial government – both supporting a key guiding principle of Council's Strategic Plan.

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