
MEMORANDUM**CLC 42-2020**

Subject: Regional support for the joint MARCO/LUMCO/AMO position regarding COVID-19 financial relief from senior levels of government

Date: July 8, 2020

To: Regional Council

From: Daryl Barnhart, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair

On a July 7, 2020 conference call, membership representing the Mayors and Regional Chairs on Ontario (MARCO), the Large Urban Mayor's Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO), The Greater Toronto and Hamilton Mayors and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) met to unify their position in regards to requesting COVID-19 financial relief from the senior levels of government.

As a MARCO member, the Regional Chair participated on the call. Mayor Sendzik participated on the call in his capacity as a LUMCO member.

Upon reviewing the joint statement (see CLC 42-2020 Appendix 1), the members of MARCO, LUMCO and the GTHA mayor's association voted unanimously to support this joint position. In short, the municipal groups unanimously decided to adopt a more pronounced and direct stance in regards to requesting funding from the provincial and federal government. The membership feels that in effect time is running out on securing funding, and without this type of relief municipalities will be forced to either make significant cuts to services or raise property taxes to cover the budgetary short fall.

The group maintains the position that they are not seeking changes to the Municipal Act that would allow municipalities to run deficits.

The members also agreed to a number of other key action items, including:

1. Issuing a localized statement that echoes the tone found in the joint MARCO/LUMCO statement
2. Advocate the need for financial relief to local MPs and MPPs
3. Engage local "allies" to advocate to the provincial and federal government for municipal funding. Examples of these allies include organization who rely on partnerships with municipalities to deliver critical programs and services to

residents (i.e. food banks, homelessness service providers, those who receive funding through programs like the NPI and ProKids)

Given Council's direction to proceed with COVID-19 advocacy activities in coordination between the Region and all 12 area municipalities, it is my hope that our government relations strategy will continue to be unified locally, as well as in alignment with the position put forward by MARCO and LUMCO.

Sincerely,

Daryl Barnhart, M.A., APR
Executive Officer to the Regional Chair

Appendices

Appendix 1 Ontario Mayors and Chairs issue emergency call for financial support