



Corporate Services
Council and Administrative Services

August 9, 2011

Ms. C. Reid, Regional Clerk
Regional Municipality of Peel
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite "A" 5th Floor
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9

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Re: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Board of Directors Meeting – June 23 to 24, 2011

The Council of the Corporation of the City of Brampton passed the following resolution at its meeting of July 13, 2011:

- C147-2011
1. That the report from Regional Councillor S. Hames, dated July 5, 2011, to the Council Meeting of July 13, 2011, re: **Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Board of Directors Meeting – June 23 to 24, 2011** be received; and
 2. That the report from Regional Councillor S. Hames, dated July 5, 2011, re: **Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Board of Directors Meeting – June 23 to 24, 2011** be forwarded to the Council of the Regional Municipality of Peel for information.

Yours Truly,

Amanda Rawecki
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ef/ar (CL – P1)

Encl.

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REGION OF PEEL
CLERKS DEPT.

The Corporation of The City of Brampton
2 Wellington Street West, Brampton, ON L6Y 4R2 T: 905.874.2000 TTY: 905.874.2130

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
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MA-C6-2

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BRAMPTON



Sandra Hames
Regional Councillor, Wards 7 and 8



BRAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

DATE: July 13, 2011

Date: Tuesday July 5, 2011

Subject: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Board of Directors Meeting – June 23 – 24, 2011

OVERVIEW:

- As the City of Brampton representative to the AMO Board of Directors, Councillor Sandra Hames participates in the Board and Large Urban Caucus (LUC) meetings.
- This report provides the highlights of the Presidents/Treasurers Meeting of the Board of Directors held in Niagara-on-Lake, Ontario on June 23-24, 2011.

Recommendation:

1. That the report from Councillor Sandra Hames, dated Tuesday July 5, 2011, re., **Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Board of Directors Meeting – June 23 – 24, 2011** be received, and;
2. That the report from Councillor Sandra Hames, dated Tuesday July 5, 2011, re., **Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Board of Directors Meeting – June 23 – 24, 2011** be forwarded to the Council of the Regional Municipality of Peel for information.

Introduction:

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) holds its last Board of Directors meeting in the hometown of the outgoing President. As this was the second term of office for the current President, the meeting was held in the hometown of the Secretary Treasurer in Niagara-on-Lake on June 23-24, 2011. As Brampton's representative to the AMO Board, Councillor Hames attended the Board and Large Urban Caucus meetings. This report will provide the highlights of those meetings.

Large Urban Caucus (LUC) meeting highlights:

Members of the Large Urban Caucus met to review the AMO Board of Directors agenda and to discuss items of mutual interest to urban centres in Ontario. AMO's proposed **Provincial Election Strategy** as reported in the Board Agenda was discussed and it was suggested that a coordinated approach for virtual town hall-type meetings be considered.

The Large Urban Caucus reports to the Board on the discussions of their meeting. They brought to the attention of the Board the issues related to the **health of the Great Lakes** and its impact on the economy and quality of life for Ontarians. The LUC asked AMO staff to report back to the Caucus on how it works with the Association of Great Lake Mayors on this issue and asked for this item to be forwarded to Ontario Caucus of FCM for consideration.

The LUC raised other concerns with the **lowering of property taxes** related to vacant buildings and referred this issue to the AMO staff to review in their current research for the Planning Task Force paper. Councillor Hames spoke to the challenges in Peel Region for **affordable housing** and urged the AMO Board members to continue to advocate for funding.

AMO Board meeting highlights:

The meeting started with the announcement from Bob Chiarella, Minister of Infrastructure, on the release of the **long-term infrastructure plan, called "Building Together."** The plan will guide provincial infrastructure investments over the next 10 years and coordinate the \$35 billion committed to in the 2011 Ontario Budget over the next 3 years on core economic infrastructure including education, health and municipal systems such as water and wastewater.

Executive Director's Report:

The Executive Director reported on the administration and fiscal status of the Association. Board members were advised that the **November Board meeting has been changed to November 18th** to accommodate the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing Ontario West Conference that takes place on November 24-26, 2011. An overview of the AMO Conference Agenda was provided and asked for Board Member assistance for the Conference Fundraiser for AMO's municipal disaster relief fund.

Policy Updates:

AMO's Provincial Election Strategy was presented that includes a communication strategy during the election that will focus on AMO's "Top 12 Asks" based on advocacy for:

- infrastructure funding,
- emergency services arbitration,
- joint and several liability reform,
- waste management and
- unfunded mandates.

AMO's web site will have a page featuring the "Top 12 Asks" that will be launched in the first week of July. The "Top 12 Asks" has also been developed into a flashcard format that is being mailed out to all municipal councils. A copy of the "Top 12 Asks" flashcard is attached as **Appendix 1**.

The AMO Board received presentations on the **current negotiations for the Blue Box 2010 Funding and the Continuous Improvement Fund**. A resolution giving direction on future funding levels to the negotiating team was endorsed and further to the meeting AMO released a news release re-stating AMO's support for the Extended Producer Responsibility concept. AMO's news release is attached as **Appendix 2**.

A presentation on **AMO's 2010 Federal Gas Tax Fund & Public Transit Fund Interim Annual Expenditure Report** was received and the report approved for submission to Infrastructure Canada.

Staff Reports:

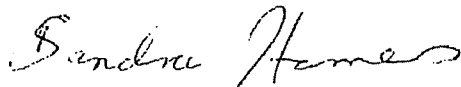
A status report on the newly introduced legislation to establish quality and safety standards for **non-emergency medical transfer services** was provided for information. AMO is supportive of medical transfer services that will reduce costs on municipal emergency services and provide a consistent province-wide level of service. AMO staff will keep the Board posted on the development of the regulations.

An update on the work of the **Planning Task Force** paper was provided for information. The findings of the draft report will be provided to the AMO Board at their next meeting in August.

The AMO Board received a report on the municipal impacts of the proposed **Canada – European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** for information. AMO staff will monitor the negotiations for the final agreement and advise the Board on the impact to Ontario municipalities.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the AMO Board will be on Saturday August 20, 2011 at 2:00pm at the AMO Conference in London, Ontario.



Regional Councillor Sandra Hames

Attach: Appendix 1: Provincial Election Strategy "Top 12 Asks"
Appendix 2: AMO Press Release Extended Producer Responsibility



Provincial Election Check List: AMO's Top 12 Asks

- Will meet (or beat) promised upload of \$1.5 billion in social service and court security costs by 2018
- Won't download costs, or add new ones to Ontario's limited property tax base
- Will create a separate, new, predictable and permanent fund for municipal roads and bridges
- Will make permanent Provincial Gas Tax revenue of about \$318 million for transit
- Will ensure arbitration process achieves affordable, accountable and transparent decisions
- Will protect taxpayers from excessive insurance claims (by addressing joint and several liability)
- Will promote personal and producer responsibility for waste (it's costly; polluters should pay)
- Will provide tools for collecting \$1 billion in unpaid *Provincial Offences Act* fines
- Will consolidate housing programs with current or more funding
- Won't introduce property assessment or taxation caps
- Will provide clear, fair energy policy that supports sound planning and investment in our electricity system
- Will review Development Charges Act (growth should pay for itself)





Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

As there may be a number of waste diversion media stories in the near future, it was felt that it would be prudent for AMO to reaffirm its support for full Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and to provide this information to AMO members.

Background:

On Friday June 24, 2011, the AMO Board reaffirmed its support for the principle and implementation of full EPR.

AMO supports the principle of polluter pay, which includes material and packaging in the municipal solid waste stream.

Management of waste material, whether that be waste electronics, municipal hazardous and special waste, used tires or packaging, must be borne by the stewards of these materials.

Costs associated with the management of any of these products and packaging must not result in municipal property taxpayers paying the costs for any component of the programs.

There is a danger that the costs of managing some or all of these programs may revert to municipalities through the property tax base.

Accordingly, AMO has released a news release re-stating our support of the Extended Producer Responsibility concept.

AMO Welcomes Promotion of Waste Diversion

Toronto, Ontario, June 23, 2011 – The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) today welcomed the release of a video by Ontario Minister of the Environment John Wilkinson that promotes the benefits of waste diversion.

“There has been a lot of talk about eco fees in Ontario and too little talk about our critical need to manage waste more responsibly, efficiently and affordably,” said AMO President Peter Hume. “We need approaches that lower taxes, make Ontario cleaner, improve product safety and promote innovative competition. Ontario can’t afford to put waste management challenges out on the curb and pretend that they don’t exist.”

Ontario's garbage woes are greater than most people realize:

- Canadians generate more waste per capita than anyone else in the developed world, based on a report from the Conference Board of Canada.
- People who generate less waste tend to pay for their neighbour's garbage through property taxes.
- More complex wastes, such as plastics, solvents and electronics, drive-up property taxes and are harder to dispose of safely.
- Since 1989, Ontario has filled up 649 of its 730 landfills. With only 81 landfills left, we must choose to reduce waste and recycle more, or create more landfills in our communities.
- 40 per cent of Ontario's garbage is shipped to the United States.
- Ontario's successes apply to limited types of waste. There are still relatively few incentives for manufacturers and industry to reduce waste or improve products and packaging.
- The cost of cleaning up environmental damage is far greater for taxpayers than preventing pollution in the first place.

AMO supports increased personal responsibility for the garbage that people and businesses create. Holding producers more directly accountable for the waste they generate is the only way to reduce waste, improve efficiency, lower costs and better protect our environment. More information about Ontario's growing waste management challenges is available at www.amo.on.ca.

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario and Canada's political system.