



**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL**  
**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE (GRC)**

**MINUTES**

**GRC - 1/2015**

The Government Relations Committee met on Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 8:37 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton.

**Members Present:** F. Dale; G. Gibson; J. Innis; L. Jeffrey\*; M. Medeiros\*; K. Ras; A. Thompson; J. Tovey

**Members Absent:** B. Crombie, due to other municipal business; G. Miles

**Also Present:** D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer; L. Graham-Watson, Commissioner of Corporate Services; J. Smith, Commissioner of Health Services; J. Menard, Commissioner of Human Services; Dan Labrecque, Commissioner of Public Works; R. Maciver, Acting Regional Solicitor; A. Baird, Director, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; D. Arbuckle, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations; L. Rubin-Vaughan, Advisor, External Relations; K. Lockyer, Regional Clerk and Director of Clerk's; C. Thomson, Committee Clerk; Jennifer Welosky, Legislative Assistant

*Christine Thomson, Committee Clerk presided.*

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

RECOMMENDATION GRC-1-2015:

That Councillor Tovey be appointed Chair of the Government Relations Committee for the term ending June 30, 2017 or until a successor is appointed.

RECOMMENDATION GRC-2-2015:

That Councillor Innis be appointed Vice-Chair of the Government Relations Committee for the term ending June 30, 2017 or until a successor is appointed.

*Councillor Tovey assumed the Chair.*

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\* See text for arrivals

◆ See text for departures

2. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - Nil**

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RECOMMENDATION GRC-3-2015:

That the agenda for the June 11, 2015, Government Relations Committee meeting be approved.

4. **DELEGATIONS - Nil**

5. **REPORTS**

5.1. **External Relations: Opportunities and Options (Oral)**

Presentation by Aileen Baird, Director, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Received

Aileen Baird, Director, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer and David Arbuckle, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations, provided an overview of the role of the Government Relations Committee (GRC) and the support provided to the Committee by staff in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer. Feedback from Committee members was requested with respect to the staff support required to assist the Committee in achieving its mandate and any additional advocacy and communication tactics the Region should explore to advance Regional priorities.

Councillor Thompson stressed the importance of the GRC in raising Region of Peel priority issues at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, noting that provincial Ministers have recognized Peel's delegations as well organized and solution driven. He stated that social media has become a more effective tool for communicating issues and receiving feedback from the community and he encouraged the continued use of social media as part of pre-election strategies.

Councillor Ras requested that members of the GRC be provided with the 19 Regional Council endorsed advocacy positions. She further requested that Committee members be provided with a high level summary of issues that could be discussed and promoted during the summer months, when Councillors' schedules tend to be lighter.

Councillor Medeiros stressed the importance of Regional staff developing technical and positive relationships with Ministry and department staff, to assist Regional Council in promoting advocacy issues with the province and federal governments.

Councillor Jeffrey commended the Region of Peel for maintaining positive relationships with the province and for acknowledging successes that have been achieved. She noted that the 19 advocacy positions encompass very broad issues and she suggested that consideration be given to identifying one position per year during the Council term, for all members to advocate and that the identified position align with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Big City Mayors Report Card.

*Councillor Medeiros arrived at 8:51 a.m.*

*Councillor Jeffery arrived at 8:54 a.m. due to other municipal business*

**5.2. Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference Summary (Oral)**

Discussion led by Councillor Tovey, Chair, Government Relations Committee

Received

Councillor Tovey advised that the theme of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 2015 Annual Conference was the upcoming federal election, scheduled for October 2015 and that many of the workshops contained information to assist municipalities to engage in advocacy during the election campaign. Other workshops focused on a number of key issues facing the sector including urban flooding, asset management, funding sources, supporting exports, municipal first responders and increasing female participation in local government. Councillor Tovey provided highlights of the key note addresses from the political party leaders and noted that representatives from the Region of Peel also had the opportunity to speak with a number of municipal leaders about Region of Peel challenges.

Councillor Medeiros noted that Regional Councillor Chris Fonseca and City of Brampton area Councillor Gurpreet Dhillon were appointed to the FCM Board of Directors.

**6. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS STATUS REPORT AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES (Oral)**

Discussion led Lowell Rubin-Vaughan, Advisor, External Relations

- a) **Federal News**
- b) **Provincial News**
- c) **Local News**

Received

Lowell Rubin-Vaughan, Advisor, External Relations, noted that since the time of publishing the June 11, 2015 Government Relations Committee agenda, the Annual Local Food report had been released and the provincial budget received Royal Assent on June 4, 2015. He also advised that the government introduced electoral boundary legislation, which would increase the total number of provincial ridings in Ontario from 107 to 122. The impact on the Region of Peel is an increase of three Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), going from 9 to 12 MPPs, in time for the next provincial election scheduled for 2018.

**7. COMMUNICATIONS**

**8. IN CAMERA MATTERS**

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Government Relations Committee is scheduled for Thursday, September 3, 2015 at 1:00 p.m., Council Chamber, 5th floor, Regional Administrative Headquarters, Suite A, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton, Ontario.

Please forward regrets to Christine Thomson, Committee Clerk, (905) 791-7800, ext. 4582 or at [christine.thomson@peelregion.ca](mailto:christine.thomson@peelregion.ca).

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.