



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

MINUTES

GRC-2/2016

The Government Relations Committee met on Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 9:55 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton.

Members Present: B. Crombie*; F. Dale*; J. Innis; L. Jeffrey*; K. Ras; A. Thompson♦; J. Tovey

Members Absent: G. Gibson, due to vacation; M. Medeiros, due to a personal matter; G. Miles due to vacation

Also Present: D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer; S. VanOfwegen, Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer; D. Labrecque, Commissioner of Public Works; J. Smith, Commissioner of Health Services; L. Duarte, Director, Corporate Strategy Office; K. Lockyer, Regional Clerk; L. Rubin-Vaughan, Acting Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations; S. Mistry, Specialist, External Relations; C. Thomson, Committee Clerk; M. Sodiya, Legislative Assistant

Chaired by Councillor J. Tovey.

A quorum of voting members was not present and in accordance with section III-5(g) of the Region of Peel Procedure By-law 100-2012, as amended, the Government Relations Committee received information on Items 4.1, 4.2 and 5.

1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - Nil

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

This item was dealt with later in the meeting.

3. DELEGATIONS - Nil

4. REPORTS

4.1. 2016 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference

Councillor Thompson suggested that the Region of Peel delegation to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference request a meeting with the Minister of

* See text for arrivals

♦ See text for departures

Tourism and Sport to discuss the Badlands parking lot and the need for provincial partnerships to address concerns with the site which is a popular tourist attraction.

Lowell Rubin-Vaughan, Acting Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations, replied that the Region of Peel only brings forward advocacy positions that have been endorsed by Council. He also noted the deadline to request meetings with Ministers at the AMO Conference had passed but there may be other discussion opportunities.

In response to a question from Councillor Ras, Lowell Rubin-Vaughan stated that staff would be reporting to the Government Relations Committee in the Fall with a prioritized list of Regional Council endorsed advocacy positions, after applying a methodology that aligns the positions with the Strategic Plan and Term of Council Priorities.

David Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that staff also monitors Ministerial Mandate Letters to assess their alignment with the Region of Peel's advocacy positions and engage in advocacy efforts at the staff level.

4.2. 2016 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference Update (Oral)

Discussion led by Jim Tovey, Chair, Government Relations Committee

Councillor Tovey advised that the prevalent theme at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference was the 2016 Federal Budget and the municipal infrastructure investments committed to by the new federal government. Many of the workshops focused on municipal infrastructure themes including Budget 2016 and Beyond; Infrastructure in the Age of Climate Change; and, Asset Management: Optimizing Infrastructure Spending in Communities of All Sizes. There were a number of other important workshops on key issues such as broadband connectivity, indigenous partnerships and rail safety.

Councillor Tovey recognized Councillor Fonseca for leading a number of Conference sessions related to women overcoming barriers for women participating in municipal government. He noted that Councillor Fonseca is Chair of FCM's Standing Committee on Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Government and is a leader in driving change on the issue and sharing Peel's experience.

He advised that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke of a new partnership with the municipal sector. He considers the government's infrastructure investment of \$120B over ten years as a sign of this new partnership.

Councillor Tovey noted that Clark Somerville, local and Regional Councillor for Halton Hills and Halton Region was named FCM President.

5. FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL UPDATE (Oral)

Discussion led by Sonia Mistry, Specialist, External Relations

Received

At the request of Councillor Tovey, Sonia Mistry undertook to provide him with information related to the amount of savings each family may expect as a result of amendments to the *Income Tax Act*.

In response to a question from Councillor Tovey, Dan Labrecque, Commissioner of Public Works stated that the introduction of a deposit return system is not part of the provincial strategy which is focused on increasing producer responsibility.

Councillor Thompson departed at 10:15 a.m.

Chair Dale arrived at 10:20 a.m. (other municipal business)

Councillor Jeffrey arrived at 10:24 a.m. (other municipal business)

Councillor Crombie arrived at 10:30 a.m. (other municipal business)

A quorum of voting members was achieved.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION GRC-3-2016:

That the agenda for the June 30, 2016 Government Relations Committee meeting be approved.

4. REPORTS

4.1. 2016 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference

RECOMMENDATION GRC-4-2016:

That the advocacy issues identified in the report of the Commissioner of Corporate Services, titled "2016 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference," be endorsed;

And further, that a request be made for a separate meeting to be held during the 2016 AMO Conference with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Regional Chair and the three Mayors to discuss the challenges of governance and triggers for changes to Council composition.

Councillor Jeffrey suggested that meetings with Ministers at the AMO Conference should not include more than three topics for discussion to ensure the limited time for the meetings is used effectively.

Councillor Jeffrey requested that the challenges of governance and triggers for change to council composition be included as a topic for discussion with the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Councillor Crombie cautioned that including such a topic in Peel's delegation with the Minister of Municipal Affairs would result in a lengthy conversation and may prevent other

Council-endorsed advocacy issues from being discussed. Councillor Crombie suggested that it would be premature to have such a discussion with the Minister until such time as the Region and local municipalities have formalized their governance positions.

Councillor Jeffrey stated that the issue of governance and council composition is an issue that applies to all Ontario municipalities experiencing significant growth and she stressed the importance of the newly appointed Minister gaining an understanding of the issue.

Councillor Ras suggested that the Regional Chair and three Mayors meet with the Minister of Municipal Affairs during the AMO Conference, but not as part of the Region of Peel's delegation.

4.2. 2016 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference Update (Oral)

Discussion led by Jim Tovey, Chair, Government Relations Committee

Received

5. FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL UPDATE (Oral)

Discussion led by Sonia Mistry, Specialist, External Relations

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance, Letter dated March 15, 2016, Regarding the Region of Peel's 2016 Federal Budget Submission

Received

6.2. Summer 2016 MP/MPP Advocacy Update

Received

7. IN CAMERA MATTERS - Nil

8. OTHER BUSINESS - Nil

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Government Relations Committee is scheduled for Thursday, September 29, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 5th floor, Regional Administrative Headquarters, Suite A, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton, Ontario.

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.