



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES

GRC-1/2017

The Region of Peel Government Relations Committee met on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 1:40 p.m., in the Regional Council Chamber, 5th Floor, Regional Administrative Headquarters 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton, Ontario.

Members Present: B. Crombie*; F. Dale; G. Gibson; J. Innis; M. Medeiros*; G. Miles*; A. Thompson♦

Members Absent: L. Jeffrey; K. Ras, due to a personal matter; J. Tovey, due to vacation

Also Present: D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer; L. Graham-Watson, Commissioner of Corporate Services; P. O'Connor, Regional Solicitor; J. Sheehy, Commissioner of Human Services, J. Smith, Commissioner of Public Works; N. Polsinelli, Commissioner of Health Services; G. Bursey, Acting Commissioner of Finance; L. Duarte, Director, Corporate Strategy Office; K. Lockyer, Director of Clerk's and Regional Clerk; S. Jurrius, Acting Manager, Legislative Services; C. Thomson, Committee Clerk; D. Arbuckle, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations; J. Barillas, Acting Advisor, External Relations., Corporate Services; D. Obaseki, Legislative Assistant

Chaired by Vice-Chair Councillor J. Innis

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.

1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

This item was dealt with later in the meeting

3. DELEGATIONS

- 3.1 Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament, Brampton North, Regarding the Federal Government and the Region of Peel Working Together to Address Mutual Priorities**

Received

* See text for arrivals

♦ See text for departures

Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament (MP), Brampton North, acknowledged the important relationship between municipalities and the federal government and she highlighted local federal investments related to housing, the Sheridan College Brampton Campus, Canada 150 projects, transit related projects, the University of Toronto Mississauga campus and Brampton's Riverwalk project. At the national level, she noted changes to the Canada Child Benefit, tax cuts for middle income earners, Canada Pension Plan enhancements and supports for the employment sector.

Ruby Sahota noted that the federal investments align with the Region of Peel priorities, and she recognized the tremendous growth the Region has seen over the last twenty years. Ruby Sahota has been named as the newly elected Chair of the Ontario Federal Liberal Caucus and will be working with MPs to streamline the process of accessing federal funding.

Ruby Sahota expressed her support for a university located in Brampton and committed to work with the City of Brampton and Region of Peel to secure federal support.

Councillor Medeiros arrived at 1:43 p.m.

Councillor Crombie arrived at 1:43 p.m.

Councillor Miles arrived at 1:50 p.m.

A quorum of voting members was achieved.

In response to questions from Councillor Medeiros, Ruby Sahota stated that as Chair of the Ontario Federal Liberal Caucus, she would be speaking to Adam Vaughan, the newly appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Family, Children and Social Development (Housing and Urban Affairs) about the housing needs of Ontario regions.

Councillor Thompson highlighted the need for the federal government to eliminate the duplication of Environmental Assessments which have significant costs to municipalities, as well as the need for increased broadband services in rural areas to support businesses.

Councillor Thompson departed at 2:30 p.m., due to other municipal business

Regional Chair Dale commended the federal government for assisting municipalities with infrastructure projects. He noted that municipalities across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) are struggling with the issue of goods movement and he suggested that the federal government could add its voice in relaying the strong need for a GTA-West Transportation Corridor to the provincial government. Regional Chair Dale also noted that the provincial government has removed their portion of the HST from Hydro bills and he encouraged the federal government to do the same.

1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - Nil

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION GRC-1-2017:

That the agenda for the March 2, 2017, Government Relations Committee meeting be approved.

4. REPORTS

4.1. Update on Advocacy Strategies Development

Received

4.2. 2017 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Annual Conference Update (Oral)

Discussion led by Jennifer Innis, Vice-Chair, Government Relations Committee

Received

Councillor Innis commended the support provided by Region of Peel staff at the 2017 Rural Ontario Municipal Association Annual Conference.

4.3. 2017 Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) Annual Conference Update (Oral)

Discussion led by Jennifer Innis, Vice-Chair, Government Relations Committee

Received

Councillor Innis noted her disappointment with the response from Ministry of Transportation staff regarding the GTA-West Corridor and the Highway 410/Courtneypark interchange.

Steve Ganesh, Strategist, Infrastructure Planning and Design, Public Works, advised that staff received correspondence from the Ministry of Transportation offering to convene a meeting to discuss how the Highway 410/Courtneypark Drive interchange project could be advanced. Steve Ganesh suggested that members of the Peel Goods Movement Task Force send letters to the Minister of Transportation to stress the importance of these projects. He also discussed the importance of engaging the local MPPs and leveraging their support.

5. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS STATUS REPORT AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES (Oral)

Discussion led by Jeffrey Barillas, Acting External Relations Advisor, Corporate Services

Received

RECOMMENDATION GRC-2-2017:

That Government Relations status updates that are of importance to the Region of Peel be included as a communication item on Regional Council agendas, in order to ensure Councillors receive the information in a timely manner.

Jeffrey Barillas, Acting External Relations Advisor, stated that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) announced a partnership with the federal government to launch two new programs. The Municipalities for Climate Innovation program will include the allocation of \$75 million over five years and is designed to help municipalities adapt to the effects of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Municipal Asset Management program allocates \$50 million over five years and aims to help municipalities improve their asset management practices. Funding for both programs is being provided by the federal government and will be distributed by FCM. Region of Peel staff are assessing both programs to identify potential opportunities for the Region of Peel.

Councillor Crombie stated the need for Councillors to receive more timely information related to legislation changes arising at the provincial and federal levels of government.

David Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer, suggested that Government Relations updates of importance to Regional Council could be included as communication items on Regional Council agendas, to ensure Councillors receive the information in a timely manner. Regional Council could then refer items to the Government Relations Committee for analysis, where appropriate.

Committee members discussed the need to ensure the Government Relations Committee (GRC) is focussed on the development of priorities and advocacy initiatives, and fostering relationships with other orders of government. The inclusion of time-sensitive government relations reports on Regional Council agendas should not have the effect of repeating discussions at both Regional Council and meetings of the GRC.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1. Region of Peel's 2017 Federal Pre-Budget Submission

Received

6.2. Region of Peel's 2017 Provincial Pre-Budget Submission

Received

6.3. Spring 2017 MP/MPP Advocacy Update

Received

7. IN CAMERA MATTERS - Nil

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Additional Items – Items 8.1 and 8.2:

8.1. Coordination of Meetings at Conferences (Oral)

Received

Councillor Gibson noted that meetings between Councillors and Ministers at the FCM and AMO Annual Conferences frequently conflict with each other. David Arbuckle, Manager, Public Policy and External Relations, undertook to discuss the issue with local municipal staff and he suggested that joint delegations between the Region and the local municipalities could save time, as well as present a united front on issues.

8.2. Provincial Pre-Election Strategy (Oral)

Received

Councillor Innis discussed the need for the Region of Peel to develop a provincial election strategy before the political parties finalize their policy platforms going into the June 2018 election. David Arbuckle, Manager, Public Policy and External Relations committed to bring forward an election strategy to the June 15, 2017 Government Relations Committee meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Government Relations Committee is scheduled for Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 11:00 a.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, and (905) 791-7800 ext. 4582 or at christine.thomson@peelregion.ca.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.