



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES

GRC - 3/2017

The Region of Peel Government Relations Committee met on September 21, 2017 at 11:09 a.m., in the Regional Council Chamber - 5th Floor, Regional Administrative Headquarters 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton.

Members Present: G. Gibson; L. Jeffrey; M. Medeiros; G. Miles; K. Ras; J. Tovey

Members Absent: B. Crombie, due to other municipal business; F Dale, due to personal matters; J. Innis, due to other municipal business; A. Thompson, due to other municipal business

Also Present: L. Graham-Watson, Commissioner of Corporate Services; J. Smith, Commissioner of Public Works; N. Polsinelli, Commissioner of Health Services; S. Kanji, Acting Commissioner of Finance and Service Innovation, Information and Technology; G. Walsh, Director, Legal Services; S. Ganesh, Acting Director, Corporate Strategy Office; K. Lockyer, Director of Clerks and Regional Clerk; C. Thomson, Committee Clerk; D. Arbuckle, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations; S. Mistry, Specialist, External Relations; J. Barillas, Advisor, External Relations; S. MacGregor, Legislative Assistant

Chaired by Councillor J. Tovey.

1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - Nil

* See text for arrivals

◆ See text for departures

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION GRC-6-2017:

That the agenda for the September 21, 2017, Government Relations Committee meeting include an additional oral item from Councillor Gibson regarding Committee Quorum, to be dealt with under Other Business – Item 8.1;

And further, that the agenda for the September 21, 2017, Government Relations Committee meeting be approved, as amended.

3. DELEGATIONS - Nil

4. REPORTS

4.1. 2018 Provincial Election Strategy

RECOMMENDATION GRC-7-2017:

That the approach outlined in the report of the Commissioner of Corporate Services, titled “2018 Provincial Election Strategy” be approved.

David Arbuckle, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations, stated that staff would be adding a section to the 2018 Provincial Election strategy regarding waste infrastructure to address the challenges with the organics program and provincial funding for waste infrastructure.

Councillor Gibson requested that Region of Peel staff work with staff at the local municipalities to ensure consistency of messaging within each municipality’s election strategy.

Councillor Jeffrey stated that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) worked with all 444 Ontario municipalities to develop the advocacy document titled “The Local Share” and she suggested that a consistent message, using similar language, from all municipalities would be more effective for advancing municipal priorities with the provincial parties.

Councillor Jeffrey noted that all three provincial party leaders rejected AMO’s request that one per cent be added to the Harmonized Sales Tax to help fund infrastructure priorities but no party has yet released their election platform. She suggested that there is still opportunity for municipalities to help shape the parties’ election platforms.

David Arbuckle undertook to provide summaries of the provincial election platforms to the Government Relations Committee or Regional Council, as they are released.

4.2 2017 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference
Discussion led by Councillor J. Tovey, Chair, Government Relations Committee

Received

Councillor Tovey provided an overview of the 2017 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference held in Ottawa from August 13 to 16, 2017. The Region of Peel's delegation participated in eight meetings; six with provincial cabinet ministers and two with the leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party and a group of MPPs from the Ontario New Democratic Party.

Councillor Tovey reported that the need to expedite the transition of the Blue Box program was raised at the conference and the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change announced that an amendment to the Blue Box Program Plan is being prepared. The amendment would enable an earlier transition to producers, for which the Region of Peel and other municipalities have been advocating as it would free funds spent on the Blue Box program to invest in other areas.

The Region of Peel's delegation advocated for the need to move forward with the Greater Toronto Area West Corridor at its meeting with the Minister of Transportation. The Minister indicated that the Advisory Panel submitted its recommendations and the Ministry will be releasing a report in the upcoming weeks.

Councillor Tovey noted that there was consensus among the party leaders against a one per cent increase to the Harmonized Sales Tax, as well as, recognition that the municipal finance burden is becoming increasingly unsustainable.

In response to a question from Councillor Gibson, David Arbuckle undertook to provide an update to Regional Council on the outcomes of the Conference which could also be made available to the media.

5. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE (Oral)

Discussion led by David Arbuckle, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations

Received

Councillor Tovey expressed his appreciation, on behalf of the Government Relations Committee, to all staff who helped prepare for and supported the Region of Peel delegation to the 2017 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Annual Conference.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1. Fall 2017 MP/MPP Advocacy Update

Received

- 6.2. **Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services, Letter dated August 31, 2017, Thanking the Region of Peel Delegation for participating at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference**

Received

7. **IN CAMERA MATTERS - Nil**

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Additional Item 8.1:

- 8.1 **Quorum at Committee Meetings (Oral)**

Received

(See also Approval of the Agenda)

Councillor Gibson advised that under the City of Brampton's Procedure By-law, the Mayor is not counted in determining quorum for committee meetings and he requested that consideration be given to the Regional Chair being excluded in determining quorum for Regional Committee meetings.

The Regional Clerk undertook to raise the issue with the Regional Chair and the Procedure By-law Review Committee.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

November 23, 2017 – 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Council Chamber, 5th Floor
Regional Administrative Headquarters
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A
Brampton, Ontario

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.