

Report to Ottawa City Council
Attendance at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario AGM
AMO: Bridging the Gap
Sunday August 14 –Wednesday August 17, 2016
Windsor, Ontario

Representing the City of Ottawa

Deputy Mayor Mark Taylor (AMO rep)
Councillor Riley Brockington (AMO AGM rep)
Councillor George Darouze (AMO AGM rep)
Councillor Michael Qaqish (AMO AGM rep)
Councillor Tim Tierney

What is AMO

The Association of the Municipalities of Ontario is a provincial association that advocates on behalf of the province's municipalities. According to their website, AMO, "works to make municipal governments stronger and more effective. Through AMO, Ontario's 444 municipalities work together to achieve shared goals and meet common challenges. Through policy development, cost-saving programs, conferences and training opportunities, AMO provides municipal officials with tools to succeed, and programs to help maximize taxpayer dollars".

AMO's Mandate

The mandate of the organization is to support and enhance strong and effective municipal government in Ontario. It promotes the value of the municipal level of government as a vital and essential component of Ontario and Canada's political system.

The Mandate is delivered in a variety of ways. Of particular importance is the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AMO and the Province of Ontario. The MOU provides the opportunity for municipal input and reaction to provincial policy ideas (pre-consultation) so that they are fully informed as part of any provincial policy making process. The MOU also includes a Protocol that obligates the Province to consult with AMO and municipalities on matters that are of a federal-provincial nature that could affect municipal services and finances. The Protocol also sets out the Province's commitment to pursue a federal-provincial-municipal framework where municipalities have a 'seat at the federal-provincial table.'

The City of Ottawa is a Member

The City of Ottawa is a member in good standing of AMO and is the largest municipality in Ontario that holds a membership. 444 municipalities in total are members.

AMO's Annual General Meeting

Every August, AMO hosts their Annual General Meeting and Conference that gathers municipal representatives from across Ontario to discuss policy, best practices, emerging trends, listen to senior political representatives from Ontario, Canada and around the world and to elect the new governing body of the Association.

The 2016, the AGM was hosted by the City of Windsor and Region of Essex. 1,900 attendees participated in the 4-day event.

Exposure to Guest Speakers

The AMO Conference hosted a number of high profile guest speakers, including Premier Kathleen Wynne, Leader of the Opposition Patrick Brown, Leader of the NDP Party Andrea Horwath, and numerous provincial government cabinet ministers. Members of the City of Ottawa delegation received private meetings with MPP Ernie Hardeman, Progressive Conservative Critic for Municipal Affairs*, Andrea Horwath, Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca, Minister of Housing Chris Ballard and Labour Minister Kevin Flynn's Deputy Minister.

*At the conclusion of our meeting with MPP Hardeman, Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown was able to spend a few minutes with us as well.

Learning Sessions

Between the guest speakers and private meetings, the conference offered a fine assortment of learning sessions that the Ottawa delegation made good use of. Examples of some sessions include: Building Healthier Communities, Climate Change for Municipalities, Green Infrastructure, Public Engagement Beyond the Public Meeting, Bridge the Gap & Kill Carbon with the Cash You Already Have, Water Solution for the Future, Energy Conservation, Affordable Housing, Sharing Economy 2.0, Waste Management, Transforming MPAC.

Two Plenary Sessions Worth Noting

- (1) Building a New Public Safety Model in Ontario: Lessons from the United Kingdom
The last six years for policing in the UK has been nothing short of a revolution. Spending cuts of 20% over four years, 15% cut to workforce, pay freezes, reform of civilian governance. How did the UK deliver more with less.
- (2) Legalization of Marijuana
A case study of Denver, Colorado was presented highlighting how the city tackled regulations, enforcement and education. A collaborative approach was the way to go.

AMO Governance Changes

Gary McNamara, Mayor of Tecumseh completed his term as AMO President and Deputy Mayor Lynn Dollin, Town of Innisfil was acclaimed as the new President.
Deputy Mayor Mark Taylor retained his seat on the AMO Regional and Single Tier Caucus following an election of delegates. Congratulations Mark!

Ottawa to Host Next Four Years

The City of Ottawa has been confirmed as the AMO AGM host for the 2017-2020 conferences. The 2017 event will be held at the Shaw Centre from August 13-16.