



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

WESTERN ONTARIO WARDENS' CAUCUS
 Warden Don Woolcott, Chair (2006)

Minutes – February 19th, 2006
 OGRA/ROMA Conference, Royal York, Toronto

In attendance: (EOWC)

UPPER TIER	HEAD OF COUNCIL	STAFF
County of Frontenac	Bill Lake	Elizabeth Fulton, CAO
County of Haliburton	Murray Fearrey	Jim Wilson, CAO
County of Hastings	Clarence Zieman	Jim Pine, CAO
City of Kawartha Lakes	Barb Kelly	Jane Lunn, CAO
County of Lanark	Aubrey Churchill	
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Ron Holman	Stephen Fournier, CAO
County of Lennox and Addington	Doug Bearance	Larry Keech, CAO
County of Northumberland		Bill Pyatt, CAO
County of Peterborough	Neal Cathcart	Gary King, CAO
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Gary Barton Past Chair Jacques Héту	Stéphane Parisien, CAO
County of Prince Edward	Leo Finnegan	Richard Shannon, CAO
County of Renfrew	Chair Bob Sweet	Norm Lemke, CAO Lorna Knight
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Jim McDonell	Michael Waddell, CAO

In attendance: (WOWC)

UPPER TIER	HEAD OF COUNCIL	STAFF
County of Brant	Ron Eddy	
County of Bruce	Ron Oswald	
Chatham-Kent County		Joe Pavelka, CAO
County of Dufferin	Earl Lennox	Linda Dean, CAO
County of Elgin	2005 Warden James McIntyre 2006 Warden Paul Baldwin	Mark McDonald, CAO
County of Essex		Brian Gregg, CAO

County of Grey	Bob Pringle	Gary Wood, CAO
Haldimand County	Councillor Buck Sloat	
County of Huron	Rob Morley	Larry C. Adams, CAO
County of Lambton	Jim Burns	Ron Van Horne, CAO
County of Middlesex	Joanne Vanderheyden	Bill Rayburn, CAO
County of Oxford	Donald Woolcott	
County of Perth	Barb MacLean	Ria Colquhoun, CAO
County of Simcoe	Terry Geddes	Mark Aitken, CAO
County of Wellington	Brad Whitcombe	Scott Wilson, CAO

Other Attendees:

AMO County Caucus	Doug Reycraft
AMO	Roger Anderson, President Pat Vanini, Executive Director
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing	Jill Bellchamber-Glazier Roger Moyer Warren Sleeth, MSOE Kingston

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Staff were invited back into the meeting.

Land Ambulance

Mayor Ron Eddy from the County of Brant has sent in a three-page response to the province regarding land ambulance, which states that initially Land Ambulance had been 100% municipal and then the Province stated that they would be sharing 50% of the costs, which they are not doing. Although during most years the Province has allocated additional sums of money for land ambulance they have been earmarked specifically for equipment only and not operational costs. The 50/50 land ambulance split needs to be addressed and hopefully there will be further news on this topic at the conference.

OMERS

Bill 206 is expected to be introduced for third reading this week. The general question was asked of the Counties if anyone was condoning the withdrawal of services by CUPE. It was noted that in terms of changes from the second reading to the third reading, from a County perspective, there were no gains but potentially there were some losses.

Bill Rayburn, CAO of the County of Middlesex, will be speaking on behalf of the WOWC at a delegation during the conference, which includes representation by 10 municipalities. The WOWC sees Bill 206 as a devastating piece of legislation and the Province needs to be reminded that this legislation will continue to bring problems for the years to come.

Jim Pine, CAO of the County of Hastings, noted that the taxpayers receive nothing from this piece of legislation and that there will be no improvement to any services. Bill 206 legislation is confusing and there is significant misinformation about this topic, which is preventing taxpayers from understanding the full impact of this Bill. He also noted that although the

provincial government seems to think that the negotiations will be give and take, what would the employees give up to cover costs?

Brian Gregg inquired as to whether anyone had watched Mr. Brad Duguid, Parliamentary Assistant for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on Global. Mr. Duguid criticized AMOs' costing of Bill 206 and stated that the proposed plan will not incur an increase in taxes.

Bill Rayburn has crafted some questions specifically on Bill 206 that can be collated with existing questions for the bear-pit session

OMPF

Although \$51 million has been allocated in 2006, in order to ensure that no one receives less money than they received last year, the implication is simply that the phase out had just been delayed by one year. Consensus is, that by retaining the OMPF allocation from last year, the province is indicating that there are problems with the funding model.

Larry Keech, CAO from the County of Lennox and Addington, compiled the October OMPF data from the Minister of Finance website and composed a summary looking at both upper and lower tiers, as well as separated municipalities. Within the thirteen Eastern Ontario Counties, there is a loss of \$13 million dollars, from the 2004 CRF, which includes the reconciled amounts. With the new October information, the EOWC would still lose \$17.1 million at full phase-in. Based on the October data, the lower-tier municipalities would increase their OMPF funding by \$14 million dollars, but at full phase-in, using the 2006 data, they will lose \$10 million dollars, mostly as a result of assessment. Overall the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus will have net loss of \$15 million dollars by full phase-out.

Minister Dombrowski entered the meeting.

Chair Bob Sweet welcomed Minister Dombrowsky to the meeting.

Minister Dombrowski thanked the Joint Caucus's for the invitation to this meeting. Over the next two and a half days she is scheduled for 45 delegations, which will allow her to listen to and learn about issues in the municipal world. She also noted that she hopes over the next few days that there will be good news for the Caucus's as well.

Gary Wood noted that the WOWC has been hit hard by the OMPF, his County alone lost 6.5 million of which a small part of this was the farm tax rebate program. The County of Grey is short about \$5.5 million, and noted that although the revisions to the OMPF allowed some municipalities to do better, in Eastern Ontario no counties/municipalities received any funds through the managed forest fund.

Don Woolcott thanked Minister Dombrowsky for attending this meeting and stated that there is concern regarding the tax ratio given to education and industrial tax rates and that this needs to be something that we pay attention to. There is obviously a disparity in funding between Ontario and the rest of the Canada. Ontario is the only province that pays for certain social

services on the tax bill. With the gap of \$23 billion dollars between the province and federal level of government there are definitely problems of equity that need to be addressed.

Bob Pringle from Grey County noted that on March 31st, 2006 the subsidized funding for dead stock facilities would end. He feels that this will create a problem across Ontario as the cost to remove a dead cow will likely increase from \$32 to \$100. With this cost increase, other problems will compound such as source water protection as disposal of dead stock may not be carried out. Perhaps if possible the government will look at other options as possibilities such as incineration.

Minister Dombrowsky replied that originally the funding had been established because of the BSE (Mad Cow) disease crisis and that the funding was only originally set-aside for a two year period, as it was thought that the issue would not require funding for longer than that. Minister Dombrowsky expects that the funding will be extended for a few more months and other options are being explored for cost-effective possibilities, the Ministry is working on a solution to this issue quite aggressively.

Leona Dombrowsky spoke to comments about the Justice O'Connors reports and stated that the Government provided money to conservation authorities in the amount of \$13.5 million, which was set up to be used for planning work. Water source risks need to be identified, there will be some areas with multiple risks and some may not have risks at all. Whomever owns these risks needs to put together a mitigation strategy in order to address the issues. The general outcome will be that the legislation will bring uniformity to water source protection.

Minister Gerretsen spoke to the joint Caucus' and wished them a great conference and he is sure that the next few days will be exciting. Minister Gerretsen looks forward to a very productive three or four days.

The Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus offered to host a joint meeting in Grey County with the tentative date of April 21, 2006.