



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

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 February 19th, 2006
 3:00pm
 Alberta Room, Royal York, Toronto

COUNTY	HEAD OF COUNCIL	STAFF
County of Frontenac	Bill Lake	Elizabeth Fulton, CAO
County of Haliburton	Murray Fearrey	Jim Wilson, CAO
County of Hastings	Clarence Ziemann	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
Other guests:		Roger Anderson Pat Vanini Doug Reycraft

The Chair extended a welcome all attending individuals with a thank you to Warren Sleeth and Vice Fabiilli for organizing the group delegation that will take place later today. The EOWC schedule for the remainder of the day includes a joint WOWC/EOWC meeting at 4pm, followed by an EOWC delegation in the Manitoba Room at 5:30pm. The Chair would also like to extend his welcome to Roger Anderson, President of AMO, and Pat Vanini, Executive Director of AMO as well as, Doug Reycraft, Member of the County Caucus who are also in attendance.

The Chair would like to note that the province has advanced \$50 million through OMPF, in order for no one to receive less money this year than last year, however this is

ultimately just putting off the phase out to 2010 instead of 2009. The Chair expressed that the Caucus is not pleased with OMERS (Bill 206), or the lack of funding for land ambulance and there is hope for movement in one of these areas. The Chair would also like to recognize the EOWC staff who have worked very hard to put together the OMPF updated October numbers for this meeting.

The WOWC have indicated an interest in partaking in the bear-pit question period and have expressed specific interest in asking questions about OMERS and land ambulance. Again, the general plan will be to ensure that we have a speaker at each microphone in order for all of the carefully crafted questions to get asked. The bulk of the questions will not be able to be created until after more of the conference has passed.

We need to concentrate on making the thrust of the next budget a municipal budget. The last several years the focus has been on health and education, and it is time for the budget to focus on other priorities. OMERS, OMPF, the fiscal gap etc. all total up to a municipal burden and when you put \$50 million up against a \$3 billion dollar gap, there is still a significant shortage. This financial gap has not occurred in the last year, but has been ongoing for the last several years and municipalities are rapidly reaching a breaking point.

The group has reached a consensus that they will extend an invitation to the Chair and the Secretary-Treasurer of the WOWC to have them attend the 5:30pm group delegation with the Ministers.

Leo Finnegan noted that the EOWC needs to ensure that the Water-Tight Report stays on the table as an important topic.

An update to the OMPF information, including separated cities, shows a loss of over \$17 million after phase in. Of specific concern at the lower-tier levels, is a loss of \$2.7 million after the phase-in, mostly due to assessment. Minister Gerretsen often has different numbers, which may be a result of reconciliation amounts.

Roger Anderson spoke to the \$3 Billion Dollar Gap information cards that Pat Vanini distributed on behalf of AMO. Roger noted that these numbers are very real and are Provincial numbers of the actual shortfall.

The EOWC inquired if the official request to the Provincial government for OMERS costing had been issued by AMO? Roger Anderson replied that they were to provide this at the end of January, but this could be extended by 30 additional days, which will be after Bill 206 is expected to be passed. Roger firmly believes that the Province has not done any costing analysis for OMERS.

Moved by: Major Leo Finnegan

Seconded by: Warden Clarence Zieman

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED