

**Eastern Ontario Wardens Conference
Notes of the Meeting – February 26, 2001 at 3 p.m.
ROMA Annual Conference, Royal York Hotel, Toronto**

In attendance:

UPPER TIER	HEAD OF COUNCIL	STAFF
*Frontenac Management Board	Phil Leonard	Elizabeth Fulton, CAO lfulton@fairmounthome.org
*County of Haliburton	Murray Fearrey	
*County of Hastings	Carl Tinney	
*City of Kawartha Lakes	Art Truax truax@sympatico.ca	
*County of Lanark	Dennis Cordick dennis.cordick@jus.on.ca	
*United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Bill Thake	Steve Fournier, CAO uclg@recorder.ca
*County of Lennox and Addington	Clayton McEwen	Larry Keech, CAO lkeech@lennox-addington.on.ca
*County of Northumberland	William Finley finleyw@county.northumberland.on.ca	Lynda Mitchell, CAO mitchell@county.northumberland.on.ca
*County of Peterborough	Ron Millen warden@county.peterborough.on.ca	Mike Rutter, CAO mrutter@county.peterborough.on.ca
United Counties of Prescott and Russell		
*County of Prince Edward	James Taylor pecmayor@kos.net	Richard Shannon, CAO peccao@kos.net
*County of Renfrew	Barry Moran	Norm Lemke, CAO nlemke@countyofrenfrew.on.ca
*United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Heine Bruining	Michael Waddell waddell@sdg.on.ca

Call to Order

Elizabeth Fulton, Secretary, called the meeting to order.

1. Appointment of Chair for 2001 Term

A call for nominations for the position of chair of the Eastern Ontario Wardens Conference was made.

Nominated by Warden Thake and supported by Warden Finley that Phil Leonard, Chair of the Frontenac Management Board be appointed to the position of Chair of the Eastern Ontario Wardens Conference for the year 2001 term. Chair Leonard indicated his willingness to stand for the position.

As no other names were brought forward following the second and the third and final call for nominations, nominations were closed. Chair Leonard was declared the Chair for 2001. Congratulations were offered and Chair Leonard assumed the chair.

Appointment of Secretary for 2001 Term

In the absence of nominations, Elizabeth Fulton agreed to continue fulfilling the responsibilities of this position.

2. Additions to the Agenda

At the request of Warden Finley, the redirection of 401 traffic onto municipal roads will be added.

3. Acceptance of the Notes

The notes of the October 2, 2000 meeting held during ACRO at the Nottawsaga Inn were accepted.

4. AMO Updates

This item was deferred in anticipation of an update during the Joint Meeting at 4 p.m.

5. Local Services Realignment

Ontario Works

It was noted that although caseload costs – shared 80/20 with the province – appear to be dropping, administrative costs – shared 50/50 with the province – are increasing. Specific costs contributing to this increase include:

- mandated technology improvements
- training and development of case workers
- other transition costs

There was some agreement that these additional costs will continue to affect our budgets for another couple of years.

Social Housing

Two issues were raised:

- in one county (Renfrew), there is concern that the number of units transferred may be disproportionately high when compared to other areas
- provincial support is required to address concerns in other areas where the transferred stock does not meet the needs of the community

Discussion supported the need for the development of a formula to estimate the number of units required to address the demand in each area.

Further updating on this service was anticipated at the Joint Meeting.

Roads – 401 Redirects

With the downloading of secondary provincial highways to municipalities, the concern over the impact of these highway redirects on municipal road maintenance and repair budgets, policing costs and the local economies is growing.

ACTION: By consensus, the secretary was directed to draft and circulate a minister's letter addressing this matter and, having given consideration to all input, prepare a final letter for the signature of the Chair.

6. Tax Policy Concerns

Proximity to the GTA is escalating property values and negatively impacting farm tax bills. Several concerns were raised:

- farmland is being taken out of production
- farmland assessment values are increasing
- with commercial tax impacts capped, the impact on the remaining assessment base, including farmers, will be even more significant
- farmers will be dealing with further pressures when the nutrient management requirements are implemented

ACTION: By consensus, the secretary was directed to draft and circulate a minister's letter addressing this matter and, having given consideration to all input, prepare a final letter for the signature of the Chair.

7. Funding Programs – OSTAR

Several concerns were raised:

- the requirement for accompanying engineers' reports for road and bridge work appears to be a make-work program for the private sector
- funding is no longer available to address environmental concerns
- municipal costs are incurred upfront in the development of business plans to substantiate project applications
- overall concern with the upfront costs and lack of provincial support resources

8. Service Issues – Long Term Care Beds

The issues addressed in the letter sent to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care following the last Joint Meeting were raised again. Frustration continues with:

- the level of capital funding for new beds
- the obligation placed on municipalities to provide all of the funding upfront
- the inadequacy of the funding over the 20 year period

Another issue raised concerned the lack of continuity of care in some areas as old facilities are closed before replacement beds are available for occupancy

ACTION: By consensus, the secretary was directed to draft and circulate a minister's letter addressing this matter and, having given consideration to all input, prepare a final letter for the signature of the Chair.

Next Meeting

At the call of the Chair.

Adjournment.