



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

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June 8, 2006

6:30 pm

Mountain Springs Resort and Conference Center, Collingwood

In attendance:

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 Zieman	Jim Pine, CAO
City of Kawartha Lakes		
County of Lanark	Aubrey Churchill	
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Ron Holman	Stephen Fournier, CAO
County of Lennox and Addington		
County of Northumberland		
County of Peterborough	Vice-Chair Neal Cathcart	Gary King, CAO
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Gary Barton	Stéphane Parisien, CAO
County of Prince Edward	Leo Finnegan	
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		Pat Vanini, AMO

The Chair welcomed everyone for attending the joint meeting and he is pleased to see that the two caucuses will have a full agenda to proceed with at tomorrow's meeting. The Chair would like to thank Vice-Chair Neal Cathcart for chairing the last EOWC meeting in April. As well, he would like to thank those individuals who attended the Rural Caucus meeting in Toronto on May 9th; Vice-Chair Warden Neal Cathcart, Warden Bill Lake, Warden Ron Holman, Stephen Fournier, CAO and Elizabeth Fulton, CAO.

It has been requested that the Federal-Provincial-Municipal Commission be added to the agenda for discussion.

1. Approved of April 21st, 2006 minutes.

Moved by: Warden Holman

Seconded by: Mayor Finnegan

THAT the EOWC minutes of April 21st, 2006 be accepted and approved.

CARRIED

2. Future Directions

The Caucus discussed the importance of continuing to update the Future Directions Report and it was determined that since this document is used as the basis for many of our further reports and discussions, an update would be required.

Moved by: Mayor Finnegan

Seconded by: Warden Churchill

THAT the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus supports the expenditure of funds (\$6500.00 as per our annual quote) to Allan and Partners Inc. to update *Future Directions*.

CARRIED

3. Updates

- **Leeds and Grenville Discussion Paper**

At the April meeting Leeds and Grenville presented a paper that examined the possibility of requesting a link between municipal funding and Provincial revenue. Since there is some data that will be made available with the finalization of the Financial Information Reports, it was suggested that this topic be tabled until the fall.

- **Provincial Offenses Act**

Leeds and Grenville thanked Renfrew County for the information regarding the POA services that they recently received. Currently the unpaid fines are approximately \$42 million with 8 of our 13 eastern counties reporting. The Caucus feels that one of the major barriers is direct access to the mainframe, which would allow for a more efficient collect of fines.

Warden Holman noted that the counties are only seeking the type of information that the province had before the download. The Chair has requested that the rest of the information be gathered and presented at the August meeting.

- **Federal-Provincial Imbalance**

At a breakfast meeting last week the Premier discussed the imbalance in funding flowing to Ontario versus other Provinces, a complete copy of his presentation is on the AMO website. AMO has prepared a resolution for support of the Premier on this issue.

Moved by: Warden Cathcart

Seconded by: Warden Barton

THAT the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus supports the AMO Federal-Provincial Fiscal Imbalance resolution as presented.

CARRIED

- **Regional Directors**

The CAO's met with the Regional Directors in March and it was clear that there were a number of items that would require additional meetings. These additional meeting would allow for further work with the regional directors, however it is time that becomes the greater barrier. One of the possible options in order to accomplish as much as possible, is to meet as a larger group and then create sub groups, which would regularly report their

discussions directly back to the CAO and EOWC. The CAO's are planning to meet with some of the regional directors regarding economic development at the July meeting.

- **RED application**

The application is currently being reviewed with the anticipation that the project will be approved in the near future.

- **Cross Boarder Billing**

At the CAO's meeting in May, Tammy Wolters, on behalf of the treasurers, presented the Cross-boarder billing report. As a result of the report, the CAO's have requested further analysis to provide the Caucus with dollar figures in terms of costs in order to provide an accurate picture. The CAO's noted that the position paper was of great value and the CAO's would like to extend a thank you to the treasurers for their work thus far.

- **ESA Part VII**

It has been suggested that another resolution be adopted by all parties and forwarded onto Minister Peters- stressing, yet again, the importance of a full exemption. One of the concerns at this time is that the Caucus promote that this issue is not just a meal break issue, but rather deals with multiple aspects, which requires the full exemption. The new re-worked resolution will be presented at the joint meeting tomorrow for approval.

- **Meeting with Federal members**

The EOWC is continuing to seek a meeting with Daryl Kramp in Ottawa, perhaps around the time of the AMO conference. The EOWC should note that this meeting will be occurring within the next few months.

- **August 2nd meeting**

The CAO's suggested that the Caucus meet as a whole in advance of the AMO conference in order to ensure that appropriate and proper documentation of key issues are prepared.

- **Joint Meetings**

General discussion around joint meetings was also discussed and it was noted that our one-hour meetings at conferences are rushed and there is usually not enough time to discuss topics at length. Perhaps the joint meeting should be all that takes place during conferences in order to maximize the time available. This topic will also be on the agenda at tomorrow's meeting, which will allow for further discussion and WOWC input.

- **MUND Meeting**

The CAO's and representatives from the MUND group met to discuss commercial and education taxes and although there has been a suggestion to have the two organizations meet, there may be a lack of common issues to deal with. Chair Warden Bob Sweet will be meeting with the MUND chair on June 23rd to further discuss the potential for a joint meeting.

4. **Adjournment**

Moved by: Warden Holman

Seconded by: Warden Cathcart

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED