

# Eastern Ontario Wardens Conference

## Notes of the Meeting – October 2, 2000, 1p.m.

### ACRO Annual Conference, Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston

In attendance:

<b>UPPER TIER</b>	<b>HEAD OF COUNCIL</b>	<b>STAFF</b>
Frontenac Management Board	Bill MacDonald	Elizabeth Fulton, CAO
County of Hastings		Bill Bouma, CAO
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Don Cameron	Steve Fournier, CAO
County of Lennox and Addington	Jim Macdonald	Larry Keech, CAO
County of Northumberland		Lynda Mitchell, CAO Lealand Sibrick, Treasurer
County of Peterborough	Elizabeth Tanner	Bryce McLean, Acting CAO
County of Renfrew		James Kutschke, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Frank Prevost	Ray Lapointe, Co-ordinator Clerk
County of Victoria	John Macklem	
<b>GUESTS</b>		
AMO County Caucus and Renfrew County	David Stewart, Councillor	

#### Call to Order

Warden Macklem, Chair of the EOWC, called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

#### Update from AMO

David Stewart, AMO County Caucus, reported on the executive meeting held on September 30, 2000 and other matters of interest.

- Hospital Funding – Municipalities are being approached by their hospitals with requests to provide significant financial contributions in support of their capital programs. Although community support appears to be an important component in the application process, this seems to fall to the municipalities. This provincial expectation does not appear to take into account the direction being given that municipalities should not be increasing taxes and development charges cannot be a source of revenue.
- Support for Walkerton Inquiry – AMO has been granted standing at the inquiry and estimates \$100,000 to \$200,000 will be required to participate. With no funding granted, AMO will need to solicit funds from members or request the funding support decision be reconsidered.
- Gas Franchise – Still before the OEB. Intervenor status was sought by AMO but this was not deemed to be an appropriate role for the association. Municipal support will be provided by Brampton and Georgina, both of which have standing.

- OMERS Surplus – Decisions are expected shortly to address the continued surplus.
- Employment Standards – Legislation pending. Any flexibility is expected to require both the agreement of the employer and the employee.
- Brownfields – Continued priority to clean up and return abandoned commercial/industrial lands into productive use. A shared-cost relationship is anticipated.
- Public Awareness Campaign – TV spots will run until November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- AMO Executive – The president will identify AMO representatives with appropriate abilities and qualifications to deal with specific issues, eliminating the need for a senior vice president.
- Land Ambulance – Funding proposal for operating costs is expected shortly. A LAISC sub-committee will be working to reach agreement on improvements/enhancements. Dispatch concerns will be addressed in a future phase.

### **Infrastructure**

Discussion resumed from the Spring session with the Ministers. The competitive nature of the OSTAR process and the lack of program detail raise concerns. Those municipalities that submitted letters of intent with respect to bridge work are frustrated that business plans are required.

Moved by Chair MacDonald, Frontenac and seconded by Warden Provost, SDG That a letter be prepared, addressed to the Ministers of Finance, Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Transportation expressing the frustration of the municipalities with the requirement of business plans to support bridge work.

**Carried – Action Required**

### **Communication Technology**

Connect Ontario applications are out in L&G, Victoria, Peterborough and SDG. Local, non-profit partnerships are being established.

### **Farm Tax Rebate**

Concerns with the provincial calculation continue. No progress to report.

### **Nutrient Management / Factory Farming**

The advantages of controlling these issues consistently at the upper tier level were offered. SDG will be introducing its by-law under the authority of the Municipal Act's general health and safety provision. Victoria is currently using an interim control by-law.

### **Hydro Issues**

Several representative reported negotiations were complete. The November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline was again raised as a concern.

### **Dead Stock Removal**

Nothing new was reported.

### **Water Quality Issues**

Groundwater monitoring projects continue in SDG, L&G and Victoria. These projects are funded by a variety of partners – MOE, OMAFRA, the federal government (information is available from Sandy Hay in L&G). Concerns about private wells, liabilities attributable to provincially downloaded roads were recognized.

### **Doctor Shortages**

Underservicing is a concern across the province. Nurse practitioners, with a network of supporting physicians, are beginning to address some pressures.

### **Long Term Care Beds**

Discussion centered on (1) the inadequacy of the number of new beds announced; (2) the funding formula and the timing of the financial assistance; and (3) the \$75,000 cap on capital costs per bed. These concerns may also impact “D” facility redevelopments. It was agreed that these concerns should be raised at the Eastern/Western/Regional joint meeting scheduled after this meeting. **Action Required**

### **Next Meeting**

ROMA Conference – February 2001. Details to follow.

Moved by D. Cameron, seconded by B. MacDonald

That the notes of the August 14, 2000 meeting held at the AMO Annual Conference in Ottawa be accepted. **Carried**

Adjournment at 2:15 pm