



**Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus  
MINUTES**

**Sunday, August 19, 2012**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Westin Hotel, Quebec Room  
11 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, Ontario**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. with the following individuals in attendance.

<b>Present</b>		
<b>County</b>	<b>Head of Council</b>	<b>Staff</b>
County of Frontenac	Warden Janet Gutowski	Elizabeth Savill, CAO
County of Haliburton	Warden Murray Fearrey	Jim Wilson, CAO
County of Hastings	Warden Rick Phillips	Jim Pine, CAO Cathy Monzon-Bradley, Executive Assistant
City of Kawartha Lakes	Mayor Ric McGee	
County of Lanark	Warden John Gemmell	Kurt Greaves, CAO
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Warden Mel Campbell, Chair	Andy Brown, CAO, Secretary/Treasurer Lesley Todd, Clerk
County of Lennox and Addington	Warden Bill Lowry	Larry Keech, CAO
County of Northumberland	Warden Gil Brocanier	
County of Peterborough	Warden J. Murray Jones	Gary King, CAO Amanda Dibbits, Executive Assistant
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Warden Francois St. Amour	Stephane P. Parisien, CAO
County of Prince Edward	Mayor Peter Mertens	
County of Renfrew	Warden Bob Sweet	Jim Hutton, CAO
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Warden Ian McLeod	Tim Simpson, CAO Justin Bromberg, Intern

<b>Regrets</b>		
<b>County</b>	<b>Head of Council</b>	<b>Staff</b>
County of Northumberland		Bill Pyatt, CAO
County of Prince Edward		Merlin Dewing, CAO

<b>Others Present</b>	
<b>Delegation/Guests</b>	<b>Organization</b>
David Fell	Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Vince Fabilli	Regional Director, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Warren Sleeth	Manager, Local Government, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Jay Paleja	Policy Advisor, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Doug Reycraft	Chair of the Municipal Employer Pension Centre Ontario (MEPCO)

**1. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome**

Warden Campbell called the meeting to order and welcomed newly appointed Warden Rick Phillips of the County of Hastings. He asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest - Nil**

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Warden Campbell requested an addition to the agenda. He said he had been approached by Doug Reycraft, past Chair of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and currently the Chair of the Municipal Employer Pension Centre Ontario (MEPCO), who wished to address the Caucus regarding the Ontario Municipal Employee Retirement System (OMERS) contribution rates. The item will be placed under Delegations and Mr. Reycraft will join the meeting shortly.

**Moved by Warden Jones**

**Seconded by Warden Lowry**

**Be it resolved that the Agenda be adopted with the addition of a presentation by Doug Reycraft.**

**CARRIED**

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**Moved by Warden Brocanier**

**Seconded by Warden McLeod**

**Be it resolved that the Minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting of June 15, 2012 be approved as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

**5. Delegations, Petitions and Presentations**

The Delegation was heard following Item # 12 on the agenda.

**6. Reports for Review/Discussion**

**6.1. EOWC Schedule of Meetings at AMO Conference - Andy Brown**

Mr. Brown reviewed the meeting schedule with the Caucus.

**6.2. Multi-Minister Panel Briefing Note Discussion - Andy Brown**

Documentation for the Multi-Minister Panel was distributed. Mr. Brown outlined the process for the Caucus members, noting focus was on the Caucus's priority areas. The Warden will provide an introduction and Mr. Brown will provide the overview. Members of the Caucus will ask the questions in order to encourage dialogue with the Ministers.

Warren Sleeth advised the Caucus of the Ministers who would be in attendance.

Caucus members reviewed the questions and discussed including some additional questions regarding community start up, physician recruitment, maintenance benefits, and OLG revenue sharing.

Staff was instructed to add a secondary question regarding Ontario Works discretionary benefits.

**6.3. Eastern Ontario Regional Network CEO Report - August 19, 2012 - David Fell**

David Fell reviewed the report which was included in the agenda package. In response to a question regarding opposition to many contracts being awarded to Bell, Mr. Fell responded they have reviewed any concerns received, and where appropriate, they have responded. Caucus members were encouraged to forward any concerns they receive, to EORN staff.

**6.4. Update – Financial Sustainability Report - Jim Pine, Larry Keech, Liz Savill, and Kurt Greaves**

Larry Keech provided the Caucus with an update on the Financial Sustainability Report, stating the Steering Committee had met with Kathy Wood, and they would be reviewing a proposal from Ms. Wood on the next steps. He said a report would be provided at the CAOs meeting in September and to the Caucus in October.

Mayor Mertens said he had mentioned the potential to look at other areas of the infrastructure deficit at the last meeting of the Mayors' Caucus. Mr. Keech said the area of social housing would need to include the separated cities, the waste management was more of a rural issue, and with water and sewer the intent was to look at the rural area. Ms. Wood's proposal will include some separate costing on including the separated cities.

Ric McGee joined the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

**6.5. Update - Economic Development - Jim Hutton and Tim Simpson**

Jim Hutton noted the Terms of Reference had been approved at the May EOWC meeting. He said the Terms of Reference had been forwarded to the Provincial Economic Transformation Team (PETT) and consideration of funding is at the Assistance Deputy Minister's level. He noted the Economic Development project was on the agenda for the EOWC/EOMC meeting.

Tim Simpson said consideration to approaching the Mayors' Caucus regarding a contribution to the project could be made once word on funding from the Province is received.

Mayor Mertens stated this item was discussed at the last Mayors' Caucus meeting and they were very supportive of the project. He felt the Mayors' Caucus participation was critical and important to the project.

#### **6.6. Draft Letter - Federal Joint Emergency Preparedness Program Funding Cancellation**

Andy Brown noted there was a draft letter in the agenda package with its recommendation. The Caucus agreed the letter be sent out under the Chair's signature.

#### **6.7. Potential Transformation/Amalgamation of Community Futures Development Corporation - Warden Gemmell**

Warden Gemmell informed the Caucus on an issue concerning the Community Futures Development Corporation transition and concerns that rural offices may be relocated into urban areas. Municipalities were not asked for any input.

The CAOs are to make enquiries and report back to the Caucus with a letter of concern under the Chair's signature if appropriate.

#### **6.8. Drought Relief for Eastern Ontario Farmers - Warden Gemmell**

Warden Gemmell raised the issue of the Eastern Ontario drought, the impact this has had on the farming community, and the financial difficulties farmers are experiencing.

Warden Sweet reported the Minister visited Renfrew County and stated it was his understanding that until a crop is harvested, no funding can be accessed and many farmers risk losing everything. He noted the area was under a level 2 drought situation and this could be escalated to level 3.

Staff was directed to prepare a question concerning the drought for the Multi Minister Panel.

**7. Closed Session - Nil**

**8. Rise from Closed Session With/Without a Report - Nil**

**9. Correspondence**

**9.1. Outgoing**

Warden Campbell asked if there were any questions or discussion on any of the items under outgoing correspondence.

**9.1.1. Employment Insurance Changes for Seasonal Workers**

**9.1.2. Letter of Support for County of Peterborough's Resolution Regarding Horse Racing**

**9.2. Incoming**

Warden Campbell asked if there were any questions or discussion on any of the items under ingoing correspondence.

**9.2.1. Thank You Card from Peter Wagland**

**9.2.2. Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula re: Business Tax Capping Reform**

**9.2.3. Town of Tillsonburg re: Business Tax Capping**

**9.2.4. County of Peterborough re: Business Tax Capping Reform**

**10. By-laws - Nil**

**11. Notice of Motions - Nil**

**12. Next Meeting(s)**

David Fell asked if a special meeting of the EOWC could be convened in September to approve the release of an RFP and suggested it could be during the Ontario East Conference. The Caucus will be polled to ensure quorum.

## **5. Delegations, Petitions and Presentations**

### **Agenda Addition:**

#### **Doug Reycraft, Past Chair of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Current Chair of the Municipal Employer Pension Centre Ontario (MEPCO)**

Mr. Reycraft was in attendance to address the Caucus on the MEPCO's activities with regard to Bill 206, An Act to Revise the Ontario Employees Retirement System Act, and MEPCO's efforts to seek relief from rate increases and reduce benefits, at least on a temporary basis, until the OMERS plan deficit, which is projected at \$10.3 billion at the end of this year is eliminated. He stated there were only three ways to deal with the issue, increase rates, reduce benefits and increase return on investments. MEPCO supports the ability to reduce benefits going forward for new enrollees, change of sponsor representation and the 2/3 voting threshold for adopting plan changes.

Mr. Reycraft noted MEPCO has met with the Ministry of Finance to provide advice on legislative changes, a meaningful pension contribution rate cap and how to reduce benefits for plan members. He said in the last two weeks they have learned the Ministry of Finance is going to seek a voluntary agreement by sponsors of a joint public pension plan instead of legislation.

Mr. Reycraft provided information on the Province's initiative of improving public sector fund investments to allow pooling investments to garner a better return. He also provided information on MEPCO's submission on how the OMERS governance model is working

Mr. Reycraft presented a resolution which was endorsed by the AMO Board and the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus and asked for support of the EOWC.

**Moved by Warden Jones**

**Seconded by Warden Sweet**

**WHEREAS OMERS plan deficit and contribution rates continue to increase;  
and**

**WHEREAS these rates have a significant impact on property taxpayers; and  
WHEREAS in the absence of the OMERS Sponsors Corporation achieving its  
own agreement on how to cap contribution rates;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Ontario Wardens'  
Caucus supports the government of Ontario's 2012 Budget proposal to cap  
OMERS contribution rates and that in legislating an approach, that the  
benefits of a capping approach be real and demonstrable and effective in  
the short term.**

**CARRIED**

**13. Confirmation By-law #12-29**

**Moved by Warden St.-Amour**

**Seconded by Warden Jones**

**Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of Directors of the Eastern Ontario  
Wardens' Caucus hereby enacts as follows:**

- 1. THAT the action of the Board of Directors at its meeting held 19th day of  
August, 2012 in respect of each motion, resolution, by-law and other  
action passed and taken by the Board of Directors at its said meeting,  
except where prior approval of any other body or agency is required, is  
hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed.**
- 2. THAT the Chair and the proper officers of the Corporation of the Eastern  
Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. are hereby authorized and directed to do  
all the things necessary to give effect to the said action or to obtain any  
approvals where required, and to execute all documents as may be  
necessary, and the Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to affix  
the Corporate Seal to all such documents.**

**CARRIED**



**14. Adjournment**

**Moved by Warden Gemmell**

**Seconded by Mayor Mertens**

**Be it resolved that the EOWC Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.**

**CARRIED**

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Mel Campbell, Chair

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Andy Brown, Secretary-Treasurer