



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus MINUTES

**Friday, June 26, 2015
County of Renfrew
Pembroke ON
8:30 a.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following individuals in attendance.

Present		
County	Head of Council	Staff
County of Frontenac	Warden Denis Doyle	Kelly Pender, CAO
County of Haliburton	Warden Murray Fearrey	Jim Wilson, CAO
County of Hastings	Warden Rick Phillips	Jim Pine, CAO
County of Lanark	Warden Keith Kerr	Kurt Greaves, CAO
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Warden David Gordon	Andy Brown, CAO
County of Lennox & Addington	Warden Gord Schermerhorn	
County of Northumberland	Warden Marc Coombs	Jennifer Moore, Acting CAO
County of Peterborough	Warden J. Murray Jones	
County of Prince Edward	Mayor Robert Quaiff	
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Warden Robert Kirby	Stéphane P. Parisien, CAO
County of Renfrew	Warden Peter Emon	Jim Hutton, CAO
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Warden Eric Duncan, Chair	Tim Simpson, CAO, Secretary/Treasurer

Regrets		
City of Kawartha Lakes	Mayor Andy Letham	Ron Taylor, Acting CAO
County of Lennox & Addington		Larry Keech, CAO
County of Peterborough		Gary King, CAO

Others Present	
Delegation/Guests	Organization
Justin Bromberg	Executive Assistant and Communications
David Fell	Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Lisa Severson	CSRO, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Stephen Seller	Municipal Advisor, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Kathryn Wood	President, Natural Capital Resources Inc.
Dr. Michael Toth	President, Ontario Medical Association
Dr. Gail Beck	Secretary, Ontario Medical Association
Gary McNamara	President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Monika Turner	Director of Policy, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

1. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome

Chair Eric Duncan called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. It was agreed to resume from the previous day's discussions.

7. Reports for Review/Discussion

7.9 Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) – David Fell

7.9.1 Update from EORN Chair Dave Burton

In the absence of EORN Chair Dave Burton, the EOWC Vice-Chair and EORN Secretary J. Murray Jones provided an update of recent EORN Board of Directors activities and decisions, many of which are outlined in the written report included on the agenda.

7.9.2 EORN By-Law Change for approval

David Fell explained the change to the EORN by-laws, namely to remove the requirement of one board seat reserved for a First Nations community member – which has remained vacant since the board's inception – and increase the number of private sector seats from two to three. This change was approved at the last EORN board of directors meeting.

**Moved by Warden Gordon
Seconded by Warden Fearrey**

THAT the EOWC Inc. approve the EORN By-Law report as presented.

CARRIED

7.9.3 EORN Nominations Committee Report Recommendation

David Fell explained that the EORN nominations committee spoke via conference call on May 28, 2015 to discuss the four applications for the three vacant positions, as per the aforementioned by-law change. The committee reviewed the applications and made three recommendations, including one former Warden and one former CAO. The three proposed directors are Warren Arseneau, Gary Davidson and Dick Shannon.

**Moved by Warden Jones
Seconded by Warden Gordon**

THAT the EOWC Inc. approve the EORN Nominations committee report as presented.

CARRIED

7.9.4 EORN Contribution to EOWC Economic Development Implementation Project for approval

David Fell explained that as per yesterday's discussions, EORN is proposing to contribute \$100,000 to the implementation of the Regional Leadership Council. He stressed that EORN's Digital Strategy contains an area defined for economic development and noted the commonalities between the two strategies, including the number one priority of workforce development. The EORN board approved this contribution on Monday.

**Moved by Warden Doyle
Seconded by Warden Coombs**

THAT the EOWC Inc. accept the contribution from EORN and accept that EORN become part of the Leadership Council.

CARRIED

7.9.5 Cell Gap update report

Jim Pine provided an update on the Cell Gap project, noting that progress is being made on the mapping side. He demonstrated the effectiveness and return on investment of the EORN broadband project and explained how there were similar projections for the cell gap project. He provided some initial figures. David Fell noted that Lisa Severson and the communications consultant are preparing a two-page summary of this project, to present to both provincial and federal contacts, particularly in light of the federal election in October. Copies will be provided at the AMO Conference in August. Chair Duncan reminded members of the importance of meeting with federal candidates of all political parties to explain the need to make this issue a priority for all Counties' ridings.

7.9.6 CRTC Submission Report

David Fell noted that the CRTC released a call for submissions regarding its review of basic telecommunications services and that EORN retained Dr. Reza Rajabiun of Ryerson University to prepare a submission. The underlying argument of the submission is that rural citizens require high-speed services as much as urban citizens. It is due to be submitted July 14, and EORN will be requesting status at the CRTC to move this forward. Mr. Fell requested a resolution from the EOWC in order to submit jointly with EORN. He also noted that there has been some interest from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and that EOWC/EORN would look to collaborate with the FCM as much as possible.

Moved by Warden Jones
Seconded by Warden Emon

THAT the EOWC Inc. receive the CRTC Report as presented.
CARRIED

7.9.7 Magnet Workplace Innovation Project

David Fell noted that through the EOWC and EORN, Eastern Ontario is the first region to roll out the Magnet workplace innovation project. As a result, Ryerson University's Ontario Centre for Workplace Innovation

would like to redirect funding initiatives to our area. Mr. Fell requested a letter of support from the EOWC on this matter.

**Moved by Warden Schermerhorn
Seconded by Warden Emon**

THAT the EOWC Inc. send a letter of support.

CARRIED

7.7 Eastern Ontario Places to Grow Exercise – Jim Hutton

Jim Hutton cautioned that this exercise was a troubling development at the provincial level, noting the five neighbouring counties of the City of Ottawa are all very concerned by this, particularly as they already experience very low growth. Any further restrictions on development are neither welcome nor necessary. Letters from both the County of Renfrew and the EOWC have already been sent to Minister McMeekin. Using a map, Mr. Hutton illustrated the existing limitations on growth due to the Provincial Policy Statement as well as the extreme limits on any development. This matter was discussed by the CAOs group last month and the recommendation is to remain aware of the issue for the time being, without immediate action. Mr. Hutton said he has consulted the City of Ottawa's background report and noted there are many items that the City benefits from via rural tax dollars, including the Ottawa River, the NCC, and the gas tax, in addition to natural advantages over the neighbouring rural areas. Chair Duncan also noted that the Province has warned him that this plan is coming. Warden Jones suggested taking action sooner than later. Warden Emon cautioned that the City of Ottawa has power in making its voice heard and is now trying to comment on what should happen in the outlying rural areas. He is not confident that the City will help rural Eastern Ontario, and he has sent at least four letters to the Minister to push this issue. Jim Pine noted that the Economic Development Strategy was the Province's suggestion, as opposed to a growth plan, and the EOWC has completed this. Mr. Hutton will prepare a report on the matter.

**Moved by Warden Jones
Seconded by Warden Emon**

THAT the EOWC Inc. mandate the CAOs to prepare a report.

CARRIED

7.8 EOWC Financial Statements – Tim Simpson

Chair Duncan asked if there were any questions regarding the EOWC Financial Statements as of May 31, 2015 and a motion to approve them.

**Moved by Warden Doyle
Seconded by Warden Emon**

**THAT the EOWC Inc. approve the EOWC Financial Statements
as of May 31, 2015, as presented.**

CARRIED

5. Delegations

5.3 Dr. Michael Toth, President, Ontario Medical Association

Dr. Michael Toth explained that four weeks ago, the OMA was invited to speak to the County of Hastings. He thanked the EOWC for allowing the OMA to speak to the Caucus on this important issue. Dr. Toth was elected two months ago as the OMA's 134th president. He introduced colleagues Dr. Gail Beck, Marc Tanguay, and Nancy Webb. The issue is that there are currently 173,000 patients in Eastern Ontario without a family doctor. The province has put a hard cap on the budget for physicians, and if this budget is exceeded, the province will take back the additional funds. Ontario's population is both aging and growing, and requires more care, but the government has decided to fund less than half the care that will be needed. Dr. Toth said there is no extra funding for new doctors, and that 800,000 people are currently without a family doctor. According to Ministry estimates, the demand will grow by 2.7%. While the Ontario population grows by 140,000 people per year, the government will only fund 1.5% of that growth. The difference is in the cuts.

Dr. Toth said the government is dismantling the progress that was made in the past. In addition, in 2012, physicians came to an agreement with the province and found \$850 million in savings in areas that doctors believed would not harm patient care. This time, doctors offered to freeze fees, but they expect the government to pay for the growth in the system. The

doctors and the province have agreed that the Family Health Teams are successful, but movement is limited to high-needs areas, and furthermore, at a rate of 20 physicians per month. With 500 doctors graduating every year, there are only 240 finding placements. Dr. Toth said many of the high-needs communities are within Eastern Ontario as well as Toronto, Ottawa, and Southern and Northern Ontario, so the competition is great. The only way to join the list is if a physician retires. The OMA believes this is turning the clock back by a decade and will have effects on patient care.

Dr. Toth added there are many changes in the workforce, such as to the male-female ratio and the work-life balance, and it now takes two doctors to replace every retiring doctor. The average patient number per doctor is about 1,300 in Eastern Ontario.

Chair Duncan inquired about the government's response. Dr. Toth said it is in a deficit position and would like to get all the services it can without the additional costs. Warden Emon specified that he doesn't want the EOWC's resolution to be used in negotiations, to which Dr. Toth replied that it was a message to the province that it is unfair to impose the growth in the system upon the doctors. Chair Duncan noted it was important to emphasize that this is about needs for rural Eastern Ontario communities.

Moved by Warden Jones
Seconded by Warden Kerr

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care unilaterally imposed several cuts when the Ontario Medical Association rejected the government's offer during contract negotiations on January 9, 2015;

AND WHEREAS the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus continues to make access to primary care health care through family physicians a priority for its residents, many of whom are aging;

AND WHEREAS municipalities across rural Eastern Ontario have successfully recruited new family physicians to provide access to primary health care to thousands of residents since 2006;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has recently restricted the number of family physicians who can enter into a Family Health Network or Family Health Organization;

AND WHEREAS these imposed actions will lead to difficulties in recruiting and retaining physicians for the underserved communities across rural Eastern Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Medical Association has also expressed its concern that the Government of Ontario's actions will hurt patient care across the province;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus hereby support the Ontario Medical Association in their call for the Province to reverse its new policy restricting the number of family physicians who can join Family Health Networks and Organizations;

AND FURTHER THAT the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus support the Ontario Medical Association in its efforts to ensure a fully-funded health care system that accounts for the demand for care of rural Eastern Ontario's aging and growing population;

AND FINALLY THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care; the Honourable Deb Matthews, President of the Treasury Board, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

CARRIED

5.2 Gary McNamara, President and Monika Turner, Director of Policy, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Gary McNamara thanked the EOWC for hosting today's presentation and explained that AMO has already consulted with several groups on the What's Next Ontario plan. Monika Turner noted that municipalities only receive nine cents of every tax dollar, and that fiscal sustainability is becoming an increasing issue for Ontario's municipal sector. This is worsened by issues like changing weather and a growing infrastructure deficit. She demonstrated that the municipal sector is facing broad fiscal challenges and outlined AMO's Fiscal Sustainability Project.

The What's Next Ontario plan began in the spring with member awareness and consultation, and will continue through the summer and fall with analysis and opinions, ahead of the eventual launch of the plan toward the year of the year. Ms. Turner recalled that property taxes are the main source of municipal revenue.

AMO estimates, as such, that municipalities will need to increase property taxes by 4.51% over 10 years to fund existing programs and service levels, in addition to a 3.84% property tax increase to fund the \$60-billion infrastructure deficit. This equals a cumulative 8.35% annual increase over 10 years. A taxpayer who is paying \$3,000 per year in taxes in 2015 would therefore be paying \$4,663, or \$6,690 with the infrastructure deficit factored in. As a result, future changes at the municipal level may include service level reductions, additional shared services arrangements, and property tax increases. Further steps might be municipal sales taxes, fuel surcharges, special income taxes or tax tools. What path should municipalities take? What possible solutions could be the focus of a coordinated municipal action plan to meet this challenge and how best should we meet this challenge? Further discussion ensued.

9. By-laws

10. Notice of Motions

11. Confirmation By-law #15-06

**Moved by Warden Coombs
Seconded by Warden Emon**

THAT the Board 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 the 25th and 26th days of June, 2015 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

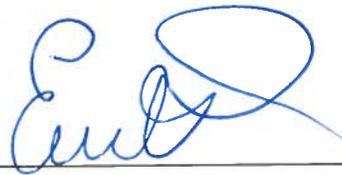
other body or agency is required, is hereby adopted, ratified, and confirmed.

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.

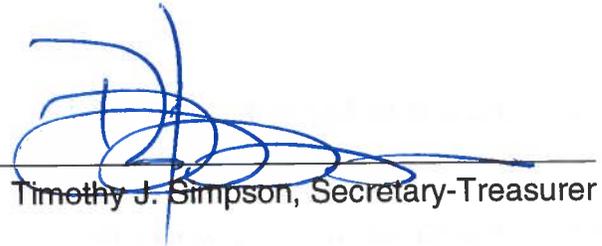
12. Adjournment

**Moved by Warden Doyle
Seconded by Warden Kerr**

THAT the meeting be adjourned.



Eric Duncan, Chair



Timothy J. Simpson, Secretary-Treasurer