



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Minutes

**Friday, July 24, 2020
9:00 a.m.**

**Virtual Meeting
Zoom Videoconference**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. with the following individuals in attendance.

County	Head of Council	Staff
County of Frontenac	Warden Frances Smith	Kelly Pender, CAO
County of Haliburton	Warden Liz Danielsen	Mike Rutter, CAO
County of Hastings	Warden Rick Phillips, Vice-Chair	Jim Pine, CAO
City of Kawartha Lakes	Mayor Andy Letham, Chair	Ron Taylor, CAO
County of Lanark	Warden Brian Campbell	Kurt Greaves, CAO
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Warden Pat Sayeau	Andy Brown, CAO
County of Lennox and Addington	Warden Marg Isbester	Brenda Orchard, CAO
County of Northumberland	Warden Robert Sanderson	Jennifer Moore, CAO
County of Peterborough	Warden J. Murray Jones	
United Counties of Prescott Russell	Warden Pierre Leroux	Stéphane P. Parisien, CAO
County of Prince Edward	Mayor Steve Ferguson	Marcia Wallace, CAO
County of Renfrew	Warden Debbie Robinson	
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Warden Frank Provost	Tim Simpson, CAO

Regrets		
County of Peterborough		Troy Speck, CAO
County of Renfrew		Paul Moreau, CAO

Others Present	
Delegation/Guests	Organization
Kevin Arbour	Board Member, EORN
Justin Bromberg	Manager of Government Relations, EOWC
Maddison Ellis	Administration and Policy Coordinator, EOWC
David Fell	Chief Executive Officer, EORN
Michael Nolan	Paramedic Service Director, County of Renfrew
Lisa Severson	Director of Communications, EORN
Shelley Sheedy	Acting CAO/Director of Long-Term Care, County of Renfrew
Meredith Staveley-Watson	Administration and Policy Coordinator, EOWC
Eric Thibaudeau	Municipal Advisor, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

1. Call Meeting to Order / Welcome

The meeting was called to order and Chair Andy Letham welcomed everyone.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest - NIL

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Rick Phillips

Seconded by J. Murray Jones

THAT the Agenda of the July 24, 2020 meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Frank Provost

Seconded by Frances Smith

THAT the Minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting of May 29, 2020 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Delegations

5.1 Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre Project in the County of Renfrew

Warden Robinson and staff from the County of Renfrew provided a detailed overview of the County of Renfrew's Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre Project. EOWC Wardens provided unanimous support to the County of Renfrew in their efforts to establish a permanent Virtual and Triage Assessment Centre.

Moved by Debbie Robinson

Seconded by Rick Phillips

WHEREAS COVID-19 has required municipalities to address access to primary health care for all residents (due to either a lack of primary physicians or the closure or reduced hours of family physician offices); ensure testing of asymptomatic and symptomatic people; and protect hospital emergency department's surge capacity; and

WHEREAS the need to meet these priorities in a large rural setting required an innovative solution resulting in a Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (VTAC) model being adopted rather than a static assessment centre; and

WHEREAS VTAC resulted in a significant reduction in 911 calls, unnecessary emergency rooms visits, the elimination of hallway medicine, and created access to primary care for thousands of residents without a family doctor – 46 per cent of Canadians who consulted a physician, did so virtually (CMA/Abacus Data Survey); and

WHEREAS the concept of Virtual Triage and Assessment (VTAC) has the potential of addressing the EOWC priority for improved access to Long Term Care for seniors by supporting them to age at home; and

WHEREAS VTAC also supports the EOWC priority to improve broadband services in rural eastern Ontario as an essential component for an improved health-care system;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the EOWC supports the County of Renfrew in its efforts to establish a permanent Virtual and Triage Assessment Centre; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the EOWC recommends that the Minister of Health make permanent the billing codes that would allow the creation of VTAC in communities across Eastern Ontario; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the EOWC send a letter in support for the continuation of VTAC and its potential of addressing the needs of rural residents to the Premier, Minister of Health and Minister of Long-Term Care.

CARRIED

6. Chair's Report

Chair Letham provided a brief update to members.

Warden Sayeau inquired about AMO's submission to the Standing Committee on Social Policy regarding Bill 187, *Protecting Tenants and Strengthening Communities Act*. Ms. Staveley-Watson committed to providing Warden Sayeau with additional information regarding Bill 187 once AMO has completed a detailed analysis of the legislation.

7. Reports for Review/Discussion

7.1 Eastern Ontario Leadership Council (EOLC) – Andy Brown / Kelly Pender

An update was provided on the EOLC's restructuring and incorporation process. Kelly Pender indicated that a memo and a summary of recent activities would be circulated to EOWC Members.

Mr. Pender also highlighted that the EOLC is working with Limestone Analytics on data modelling. Limestone Analytics has compiled Eastern Ontario data regarding the impacts of COVID-19 and preliminary work on recovery scenarios. He discussed a webinar that took place on June 19 regarding the impacts of COVID-19 and indicated that a recording of the webinar can be found on the EOLC's website.

7.2 Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) – David Fell / Lisa Severson

David Fell shared that EORN's advocacy efforts have been very active and that recent meetings have taken place with Federal and Provincial representatives. Lisa Severson indicated that in advance of the AMO Conference, EORN staff are preparing an executive summary that will outline key information regarding the Gigabyte Project. Mr. Fell also noted that the RFP for the Mobile/Cell Gap Project will close on August 14, 2020.

[Warden Sayeau left the meeting at 9:55 a.m.]

7.3 Update on Comprehensive Long-Term Care Review RFP – Ron Taylor

Ron Taylor provided an update on the EOWC's comprehensive review of municipally-operated long-term care homes and indicated that the RFP has been finalized and will be released shortly. Mr. Taylor explained that he anticipates that a consultant will be engaged by mid-August and that phase 1 of the project will take approximately 10 weeks to complete. This timeline will allow results to be presented to EOWC members at the October 16, 2020 meeting. Finally, Mr. Taylor noted that after the completion of phase 1, EOWC Wardens could determine if phase 2 is necessary based on study findings and the provincial landscape.

7.4 EOWC Priorities and Strategy for AMO Conference – Chair Letham

Chair Letham indicated that EOWC staff has submitted the request for the Multi-Ministerial Delegation at the 2020 AMO Conference. He explained that updated briefing and speaking notes will be prepared and circulated to EOWC members in advance of the conference.

7.5 Review of Briefing Notes and Advocacy from Working Groups

The CAO Working Groups provided a high-level overview of the briefing notes, covering the four priorities: Broadband, Cell Improvements, and Rural Connectivity; Long-Term Care and Municipal Recommendations; Economic Recovery and Regional Economic Relaunch; and Municipal Recovery and Municipal Funding.

7.6 Consultation with Federal Minister of Infrastructure – Justin Bromberg

Justin Bromberg explained that a meeting with the Federal Minister of Infrastructure, Catherine McKenna, has been organized as a follow up to the EOWC meeting with Federal MPs. He noted that the EORN project will be the primary focus of the meeting and that only a small group of EOWC members are required to attend along with EORN staff.

7.7 Provincial Policy and Legislation Updates – Information from AMO

Chair Letham recalled that the Provincial State of Emergency ends on July 24 and noted that the City of Kawartha Lakes will end its municipal state of emergency in alignment with the Province.

8. Correspondence

8.1 Outgoing

8.1.1 Letter to Eastern Ontario MPs regarding Virtual Meeting with EOWC members, dated June 17, 2020

8.1.2 Letter to Minister Steve Clark regarding Multi-Ministers Delegation at AMO Conference, dated June 29, 2020

8.1.3 Letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau regarding Prolonged Reopening of Canada-USA Border, dated July 17, 2020

8.2 Incoming

8.2.1 Letter from Township of Edwardsburgh-Cardinal regarding regional reopening guidelines, dated May 25, 2020

8.2.2 Letter from Ontario Federation of Agriculture regarding the Mapleton resolution and municipal funding, dated June 18, 2020

Moved by Debbie Robinson

Seconded by Liz Danielsen

THAT the outgoing and incoming correspondence be received.

CARRIED

9. Closed Session (n/a)

10. By-laws

11. Notice of Motions

12. Confirmation By-law #20-08

Moved by Marg Isbester

Seconded by J. Murray Jones

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 24th day of July, 2020 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

13. Adjournment

EOWC members agreed to change the date of the next meeting to August 14, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Chair Letham thanked everyone for their participation.

Moved by Frank Provost

Seconded by Frances Smith

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

CARRIED

14. Next Meeting

Friday, August 14, 9:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting – AMO Conference



Andy Letham, Chair



Ron Taylor, Secretary-Treasurer