

The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Information Report to Council

SUBJECT: 2025 AMO Proposed Delegations
DATE: 2025-07-15
REPORT #: CAO-25-027
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DEPARTMENT: CAO/Administration

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update and overview of the Town's proposed advocacy efforts at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference in Ottawa from Sunday, August 17, to Wednesday, August 20, 2025.

As recognized in Council's 2022–2027 Strategic Plan, strong government relations and proactive advocacy are essential to advancing key community initiatives, fostering intergovernmental partnerships, and securing the resources needed for sustainable, long-term growth. Engagements such as the AMO Conference offer a strategic opportunity to align local priorities with provincial objectives and elevate the Town's unique voice at the provincial level.

To ensure the Town's advocacy efforts reflect the priorities of both Council and the broader community, municipal staff sought input from Councillors prior to finalizing the list of delegation requests. This approach ensured that submissions were informed by Councillor's insight and aligned with shared strategic goals.

The AMO Conference remains a vital platform to:

- Connect directly with Ministers and Ministry staff to highlight Niagara-on-the-Lake's distinct opportunities and challenges, ensuring local issues are heard at the decision-making table.
- Learn from peer municipalities by exchanging ideas, best practices, and innovative policy solutions that can enhance the Town's approach to infrastructure, planning, and service delivery.
- Collaborate across jurisdictions, recognizing both the diversity and commonalities among Ontario municipalities in areas such as climate resilience, affordable housing, and economic development.

The following Town representatives are scheduled to participate in AMO:

- Deputy Lord Mayor Erwin Wiens
- Councillor Wendy Cheropita
- Councillor Maria Mavridis
- Councillor Andrew Niven
- Chief Administrative Officer Nick Ruller
- Director of Community & Development Services Kirsten McCauley
- Government Relations, Economic Development & Tourism Officer Ashleigh Myers

The Town submitted nine delegation requests to Provincial Ministries to advocate Niagara-on-the-Lake priority issues and projects. The following is a high-level summary of the proposed delegations:

| Ministry | Topic |
|--|---|
| Agriculture, Food & Agribusiness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flowing Forward: NOTL's Irrigation Leadership • Empower On-Farm Diversification Responsibly • From Field to Province, Freely |
| Citizenship & Multiculturalism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to Extend Heritage Deadline • Archaeological Heritage (Bill 5) |
| Economic Development, Job Creation & Trade | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowering Trade, Protecting Communities • Airport Connectivity: Unlocking Potential |
| Indigenous Affairs & First Nations Economic Reconciliation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Indigenous Partnerships • Support for Urban Indigenous Services |
| Infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore Growth Planning Tools • Future-Proof Ontario's Infrastructure • Support Agricultural Infrastructure Equity |
| Municipal Affairs & Housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlocking Growth Through Strategic Partnership • Municipal Modernization • Fund Feasibility for Future Growth |
| Rural Affairs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund Feasibility for Future Growth • Connect Rural Communities Through Transit • Connecting Nature, Community, and Transportation |
| Tourism, Culture & Gaming | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing "Destination Niagara" Together • Support for Tourism Trail Infrastructure • Multi-Modal Tourism Economy |
| Transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected Community: NOTL Transit Hub • Advance Air Connectivity • Connecting Nature, Community, and Transportation |

In addition, Niagara-on-the-Lake has submitted one joint delegation, and has been invited to participate in two joint delegations with partner municipalities, further strengthening collective advocacy on regional matters. The following is a high-level summary of the proposed joint delegations:

| Ministry | Lead | Partners | Topic |
|---|---------------|-------------------------|---|
| Public & Business Service Delivery & Procurement | NOTL | West Lincoln Lincoln | Preserving Ontario's Abandoned Cemeteries |
| Transportation | Niagara Falls | NOTL | Highway 405 & Concession 6 Improvements |
| Finance Colleges, Universities Research Excellence & Security | Welland | NOTL | Niagara College: Investments into building a resilient labour force |

NEXT STEP / CONCLUSION

Staff remain committed to advancing Council's strategic advocacy efforts and are actively preparing relevant logistical details and background materials to support the Town's participation in AMO delegations.

As the Conference approaches, staff will continue to monitor the status of delegation requests. An email update will be provided to Councillors in advance of AMO confirming the final list of successful delegations.

Following the conclusion of the Conference, staff will prepare a summary information report to Council outlining key highlights, outcomes of delegation meetings, sharing supporting documents and any follow-up actions or emerging opportunities.

Through these coordinated efforts, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake continues to meaningfully engage with Provincial leaders and advance Council's priorities through focused and strategic advocacy.