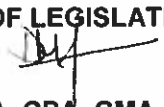
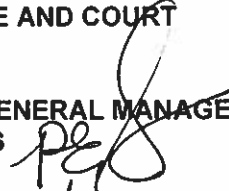

TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE


SUBJECT: COUNCIL CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

WARD: ALL

PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT: W.COOKE, DEPUTY CITY CLERK X4560

SUBMITTED BY: D. MCALPINE, DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AND COURT SERVICES/CITY CLERK 

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: P. ELLIOTT-SPENCER, MBA, CPA, CMA, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES 

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: C. LADD, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER 

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That _____, _____ and _____ be granted approval to attend the 2016 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) annual conference to be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba as an official delegation for the City of Barrie.
2. That _____, _____, _____, _____ and _____ be granted approval to attend the 2016 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) annual conference in the Windsor, Ontario as an official delegation for the City of Barrie.
3. That Councillor B. Ainsworth, on behalf of the Town and Gown Committee be granted approval to attend the annual Town and Gown Association of Ontario Symposium to be held May 9 – 11, 2016 in Guelph, Ontario.
4. That the applicable related expenses (including registration, travel, accommodation and meals) be funded from the Council Conference Account to a maximum of \$15,000 for the three conferences (Account # 01-06-0950-0000-3071).

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

5. Motion 08-G-511 was adopted on October 28, 2008 regarding Council Expenses. Paragraph 2 of the motion required a staff report to be presented annually regarding the approval of the delegates for each conference.
6. In 2012, Council adopted motion 12-G-248 regarding Funding for the Annual Town and Gown Association of Ontario Symposium, as follows:

“That the Council Policy regarding funding for attendance at annual conferences be amended to add to the list of conferences with Council representative attendance funded from the \$15,000 included annually in the Council Conference Account (Account # 01-06-0950-0000-3071), as follows:

One member of Council be granted approval to attend the annual Town and Gown Association of Ontario Symposium typically held in May of each year.”

7. The 2016 Business Plan includes \$15,000 to permit three members of Council to attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) annual conference, five members to attend the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) annual conference and a single member to attend the Town and Gown Association of Ontario Symposium, including all applicable related expenses (including registration, travel, accommodations and meals).
8. Typically, participants who register early and take advantage of the "early bird registration" will receive a discounted registration fee. The early bird registration deadline for the AMO conference is March 4, 2016. AMO has introduced a non-refundable cancellation fee, should a member of Council or City staff book a hotel room and subsequently cancel, after specific dates.
9. The FCM Annual Conference and Trade Show is being hosted in Winnipeg, Manitoba from June 3rd to 5th, 2016. The FCM annual conference is designed to engage political leaders and senior staff in professional development offering informative and thought-provoking sessions.
10. The 2016 AMO annual conference is being hosted by the City of Windsor from August 14 - 17, 2016. The AMO annual conference is a gathering of municipal government officials and each year offers a program with a theme related to current and emerging issues. A wide range of sessions provides delegates with the opportunity to learn, network and share information regarding best practices.
11. The Town and Gown Association of Ontario Symposium is being held from May 9 to 11, 2016 in Guelph, Ontario. The symposium focuses on working in a collaborative way to address near-campus issues. The 2016 TGAO Symposium is expected to attract approximately 150+ delegates, representing universities/colleges, student organizations, citizens, community organizations, local municipalities and others. The theme of the 2016 Symposium is Trending to the Future – Open Communities.
12. The information provided at the conferences/symposium offers municipal elected officials an opportunity to gather new tools for leading their communities and then bring this information back to their respective communities.
13. Members of City Council in 2015 were able to meet with other municipalities to share and receive perspectives on infrastructure funding, new technologies, the economy and other Municipal Government affairs. As well, these conferences often present opportunities to meet with Federal and Provincial Ministers to discuss Barrie's concerns and requirements related to funding of projects.

ANALYSIS

14. Council members have acknowledged the importance of having political representation at two specific annual conferences, FCM and AMO. Attendance provides Councillors the opportunity to represent the City as official delegations to other levels of government regarding current issues. Council has also identified the importance of the annual Town and Gown Symposium.
15. Individuals not selected as part of the official delegation for either of these conferences would still be able to attend utilizing their own individual expense account. If there are other conferences that Council members wish to attend, the costs associated would continue to be reimbursed through individual expense accounts. Council may also approve attendance for a certain conference at any time through a Council resolution.
16. Information currently available for the FCM, AMO and Town and Gown conferences is attached. Additional information concerning the conferences will be provided to Members of Council as it becomes available.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

17. There are no environmental matters related to the recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES

18. The following alternatives are available to General Committee with respect to the recommendation:

Alternative #1

General Committee could add, change or reduce the number of attendees at the conferences/symposium as an official delegation for the City of Barrie.

A significant increase in the number of attendees at the conferences could result in the annual budget for Council conferences being exceeded, depending on the location/costs associated with a conference(s).

Alternative #2

General Committee could require attendance at any of the three conferences to be paid from individual expense accounts or by the individual member of Council rather than the Council Conference Account.

FINANCIAL

19. \$15,000 has been included in the 2016 Business Plan for the costs associated with the delegations on behalf of City Council to the FCM, AMO and Town and Gown annual conferences. This includes costs associated with registration, travel, accommodation and meals. It is estimated that \$15,000 is sufficient based upon the location of the conferences and typical costs for three members to attend FCM, five members to attend AMO and one member to attend the Town and Gown Symposium.
20. Expenses associated with attendance at either of the conferences would be included in the annual Council remuneration report as required by section 284(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001. Council expenses include the costs associated with attending events on behalf of the City hosting guests, communication materials, travel related expenses and office expenses.

LINKAGE TO 2014-2018 COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

21. The recommendation(s) included in this Staff Report are not specifically related to the goals identified in the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan. However, attendance at the FCM and AMO Conferences and Town and Gown Symposium supports Council Strategic Priorities as they promote opportunities to network with other Municipal Officials and gain ideas related to supporting a vibrant business environment, responsible spending, an inclusive community and well planned transportation.

APPENDIX "A"

Information regarding the FCM and AMO Conferences and Town and Gown Symposium



Thanks to all 1,700 delegates who attended FCM's 2015 Annual Conference and Trade Show. Our next must-attend event promises to be just as exciting and informative! We hope to see you in Winnipeg, the Heart of the Continent, June 3-5.

Workshops, study tours, networking activities; we will do our utmost to offer you and your community a rewarding experience! Don't miss the most important annual gathering of elected municipal leaders in Canada!

To get a sneak peak of this beautiful city, watch the video below and visit [Tourism Winnipeg](#).



2016 AMO AGM and Annual Conference

August 14 - 17, 2016
Windsor, Ontario.

You are invited to join us at the Annual AMO Conference, August 14-17, 2016 at Caesars Windsor. There will be a lot to discuss, a lot to learn under the theme "Bridging the Gap".

Here's how to make attending happen:

- Make hotel reservation. While the Caesars Hotel is sold out, there are other hotels nearby. View the guestroom booking policy tab for more details.
- Register. Download the form from the right side bar or register online.
 - Early bird rates are available until March 4, 2016.
- Be sure to look at the Study Tour options under On the Program and remember, they usually sell out fast.
- Book your travel. AMO has negotiated conference rates with Via Rail, Air Canada and Porter Airlines look under Travel to Windsor for full details.

Stay tuned for announcements about keynote speakers and concurrent session topics.

We look forward to seeing you in August.

Gary McNamara
AMO President



TRENDING TO THE FUTURE - OPEN COMMUNITIES

The City of Guelph and the University of Guelph are very excited to be your hosts for the Town and Gown Association of Ontario 2016 Annual Symposium:

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

You have the opportunity to share your research, best practice or other practical information with the participants at this excellent and diverse event by applying to be one of the presenters at the 2016 TGAO Symposium. **Deadline to submit your proposal is January 31, 2016.**