

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: May 12, 2025

Subject: CAO 2025-09 Association of Municipalities of Ontario – Conference
Delegation Request

Report from: Emily Dance, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council approve Report CAO-2025-09 Association of Municipalities of Ontario and direct staff to make a delegation request for the AMO conference for the following Ministries:

1. Minister of Agriculture - Recycling of twine, bale wrap, and silage plastic
2. Minister of Health – Chesley Hospital
3. Minister of Infrastructure – Bridge Funding

Background

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference is scheduled for August 17 through 20 in Ottawa.

Delegation meetings with Cabinet Ministers are a key feature of the AMO Conference. These meetings are an opportunity for Council to engage with Ministers, Parliamentary Assistants and senior Ontario Government officials on local matters that impact your municipality.

The [delegation request](#) window has opened with a deadline of May 30, 2025.

Analysis

Proposed Delegation Requests:

Ministry of Agriculture Food and Agribusiness – Bale Wrap Diversion

The Cleanfarms' Building a Zero-Plastic-Waste Strategy for Agriculture is a federally government funded program that supports the recycling of twine, bale wrap, and silage plastic, diverting it from our landfills.

Arran-Elderslie participated in the Ontario Pilot Program along with other municipalities in Bruce County. This project was funded in part by the Government of Canada through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program (CASPP) which provided 50/50 funding for eligible projects ending March 31, 2024.

In 2022, the pilot programs diverted 127,000 kg of agricultural plastic, twine and grain bags from landfills and 275,000 kg in 2023. Since Arran-Elderslie joined the pilot program in 2021, the Arran landfill site has collected 70,370 kg of materials through the program.

On [February 10, 2025](#) Council was notified that further funding was declined and the program was wound down. Council directed staff to draft a letter of support for Cleanfarms Building a Zero-Plastic-Waste Strategy for Agriculture program and other agricultural plastic and packaging management initiatives.

Ministry of Health

In efforts to keep the challenges at Chesley hospital at the forefront and to request financial support for rural health care services and finding innovative solution to the staffing challenges that with strengthen and stabilize our health system.

Ministry of Infrastructure

Small Municipalities are under a financial strain due to inflation, increased service demands. Increased infrastructure deficits, are crippling municipalities ability to balance budgets and maintain essential services.

Grants and funding are focused on new developments impacting our ability to repair and replace aging bridges.

Request for the province to create a funding model that ensures the needs of our residents without causing a significant financial burden, and provide for open communication with municipalities to ensure all municipalities are given an opportunity to apply for grant opportunities that meet the needs of the residents and businesses

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.1 Protecting Infrastructure, Recreation and Natural Assets

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy

Attendance at conferences are included in the Municipal Operating Budget.

Approved by: Emily Dance, Chief Administrative Officer