



Memorandum

Date: May 26, 2025
To: Committee of the Whole | Council
From: Sonya Skinner, Chief Administrative Officer
Subject: Possible Delegation Requests for the 2025 AMO Conference

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference will return to Ottawa on August 17 – 20, 2025. As in past years, Municipalities have the opportunity to submit delegation meeting requests with Cabinet Ministers. These meetings are a unique opportunity for Council and staff to engage with Ministers, Parliamentary Assistants and senior Ontario Government officials on matters that impact our municipality.

As the deadline (Friday, May 30th at 5:00 p.m.) for submitting delegation requests approaches, using staff and Council input, there were the following potential delegation topics identified. For additional information, appendix A attached highlights the topics connection to provincial priorities.

1. Post Secondary School Investment in Collingwood, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security
2. Terminals Point – Grain Terminals Revitalization
3. Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF)
4. Arts Centre – Attraction of Funding
5. Collingwood OPP Detachment Building Lease Negotiations
6. Multiuse Recreational Facility (MURF) – Attraction of Funding
7. Hart Hub – Homeless and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hub

As well, staff support the following joint delegation requests to:

- A. Reconstruction of Collingwood Collegiate Institute – Ministry of Education (submitted for ROMA, Mayor suggested to resubmit for AMO) – Joint with School Board

It is recommended that Council select 1-2 topics to submit for 2025.

When submitting our delegation request(s), it is important to keep in mind the following considerations:

- Select topics that are appropriate for a delegation meeting.
- Delegation meetings are short, 15-minutes including any greeting or photos time.
- Not all ministers and parliamentary assistants will be accepting delegations.
- Need to be specific about the issue, what we have already done, and the ask. In-room approvals are rare, and the most common ask is for a meeting with key decision-makers.
- AMO has developed a [Guide for Delegation Meetings](#) – tips to request, prepare and participate in delegation meetings.

I encourage each of you to review these potential delegation requests and determine which topics resonate most with our municipal priorities. Together, we can leverage the AMO Conference as an opportunity to advocate for positive change and advance the interests of our community.

Background:

In 2024, Two Town specific delegations requests (Incorporation of Greener Development Standards in the Ontario Building Code & Terminals Point Project) along with three joint regional delegations for SGB Regional Mayors/CAOs Formal Introduction, SGB MTO Delegation, SGB Physician Recruitment.

In 2023, staff applied for 2 Town specific delegation requests (Grain Terminals Funding & Water Treatment Plant Expansion Funding) along with a joint regional delegation for transportation, all three delegations were accepted.

In 2022, the Town secured one delegation meeting with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Sincerely,

Sonya Skinner, P.Eng. McSc. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Collingwood

Appendix A - Alignment with Provincial Mandate

Economic growth, infrastructure investment, community safety, job creation, and fiscal responsibility

1. Postsecondary School Investment in Collingwood

Alignment:

- The Ford government is focused on expanding access to STEM education, growing the skilled workforce, and addressing labour shortages in key sectors (e.g., skilled trades, technology, health care).
- A satellite or expanded postsecondary presence in Collingwood/South Georgian Bay would directly support regional economic development, rural student access, and local talent retention. Collingwood has significant infrastructure investments on the horizon and skill trades will be critical in our ability to deliver these projects.

“Investing in local postsecondary education will help meet the province’s labour market goals and offer opportunities in underserved rural areas, in line with the government’s workforce development priorities. In addition, Collingwood has significant infrastructure investments on the horizon and skill trades will be critical in our ability to deliver these projects (Terminals Point, water/wastewater, Health & Wellness Village, etc).

2. Terminals Point – Historic Grain Terminals Revitalization Project

Alignment:

- Infrastructure revitalization aligns with the Ford government’s commitment to modernizing infrastructure and creating economic opportunities in smaller communities.
- Adaptive reuse of heritage or industrial infrastructure (like the terminals) can support tourism, commerce, and housing — key themes in Ontario’s housing and economic growth agenda.

“This project will create jobs, stimulate regional economic activity, and contribute to tourism and housing objectives (note: affordable housing element TBC)— aligning with the province’s infrastructure and economic recovery goals. Terminals Point will be a regional, provincial and national destination celebrating a key part of Canadian history”.

3. Collingwood OPP Detachment Building Lease Negotiations

Alignment:

- Ensuring cost-effective, long-term solutions for policing infrastructure aligns with the provincial government's focus on public safety and efficient service delivery.
- Infrastructure Ontario's (IO) role in government facilities makes this a priority for long-term sustainability and community safety.

4. Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) – Collingwood Impact

Alignment:

- The provincial government has increased OMPF funding, focusing on small and rural municipalities with high need, Collingwood continues to be excluded.
- Need to demonstrate specific fiscal pressures or needs that parallel funded communities. We would need to build a case for reassessment or a change to the parameters used by staff to identify funded municipalities.
- Recent Provincial Government budget announcement:

Increasing the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund

As announced in fall 2024, the government is increasing the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) by \$100 million over two years, bringing the total envelope to \$600 million by 2026. As part of this approach, municipalities are already benefiting from an immediate \$50 million increase to the OMPF in 2025, including new minimum base top-up funding to provide stability and predictability for very small Northern and rural municipalities. The enhancement to the OMPF will help municipalities in providing critical services in their communities. Later this spring, the Ministry of Finance will be consulting with municipalities on their priorities for the program, as well as the implementation of a new reporting framework.

“While we recognize the OMPF’s rural focus, Collingwood faces unique pressures as a regional service hub. A review of our status could ensure more equitable support aligned with the fund’s principles.”

5. Arts Centre – Attraction of Funding

Alignment:

- Although not an identified top-line priority within Premier Ford’s mandate, cultural infrastructure contributes to economic development, tourism, and downtown revitalization — all in line with Ontario’s Build Ontario infrastructure strategy.
- Funding could be tied to partnerships (public-private) or heritage/tourism grants (?).

“The Arts Centre will drive cultural tourism, economic activity, and downtown renewal — aligning with your government's priorities on regional economic growth.”

6. Multi-use Recreational Facility (MURF) – Attraction of Funding

Alignment:

- The provincial government has supported community recreation infrastructure through programs like ICIP (Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program) and new community-building funds.
- Facilities that promote public health, youth engagement, and sports tourism tie into social and economic priorities.

“A Collingwood MURF will deliver health, economic, and youth development benefits — fully aligned with provincial investments in livable, growing communities.”

7. Hart Hub – Homeless and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hub

Alignment:

- The provincial government has indicated mental health, addictions, and homelessness are top priorities, committing over \$3.8 billion through the Roadmap to Wellness plan.
- The province is also emphasizing reducing pressure on hospitals and emergency services by investing in proactive, wraparound community care models — Collingwood is a key regional location as a regional hospital host.

Additional Points:

- Align the need with local Collingwood OPP Detachment concerns/calls, health system strain, and housing instability to show regional impact.
- Emphasize cross-sector collaboration (e.g., health, policing, housing) which the province supports as part of integrated service delivery.

For consideration:

- As CAO Skinner noted, frame every ask as a contributor to a provincial priority
- Be ready to show co-funding (what is Collingwood investing, partners, collaborators, community support, and long-term financial sustainability)
- Highlight how provincial investment will yield measurable ROI in Collingwood and beyond —broader South Georgian Bay/County of Simcoe.