



# Staff Report

## Strategic Initiatives

**Report To:** Council Meeting  
**Meeting Date:** May 12, 2025  
**Report Number:** SI.25.016  
**Title:** 2025 AMO Conference Delegation Requests  
**Prepared by:** Tim Hendry, Director of Strategic Initiatives

### A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report SI.25.016, entitled “2025 AMO Conference Delegation Requests”;

AND THAT Council directs staff to submit the following delegation requests to the appropriate Provincial Ministries for the 2025 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference scheduled for August 17 - 20, 2025:

- Topic 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Topic 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Etc.

### B. Overview

This report provides Council with an overview of the recommended delegation topics and seeks direction from Council on which topics should be submitted for the 2025 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference.

### C. Background

The AMO Conference is attended by Members of Council and staff on an annual basis and provides an opportunity to submit delegation requests to advocate for issues and opportunities facing the Town and community.

The Town has been successful in having delegation requests approved. An overview of the 2022 – 2024 delegation topics has been included below for reference.

<b>AMO 2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ministry of Health – Physician Recruitment</li><li>• Ministry of Infrastructure – Various Infrastructure Needs</li><li>• Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Attainable Housing</li><li>• Ministry of Transportation – Regional Transportation</li></ul>
-----------------	--

<b>AMO 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Attainable Housing</li><li>• Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Rural Affairs – Agriculture Land</li><li>• Ministry of Health – Physician Recruitment</li></ul>
<b>AMO 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ministry of Health – Physician Recruitment</li><li>• Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Frazil Ice</li><li>• Ministry of Transportation – Regional Transportation</li><li>• Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Attainable Housing</li><li>• Ministry of Long Term Care – Campus of Care</li><li>• Ministry of Infrastructure – Inflow and Infiltration</li></ul>

## D. Analysis

---

Through the preparation of this report, staff prepared a list of potential delegation topics for Council to consider. The recommended delegation topics are below:

- **Water and Sewage Allocation By-law:** The Town is currently evaluating the feasibility of implementing a Water and Sewage Allocation By-law. Discussions are ongoing with the Ministry and Council may consider requesting a delegation to seek clarification.
- **New Planning Tools:** The Province has introduced legislation to streamline land use planning and promote housing-supportive policies. Council may consider requesting a delegation to provide additional information to the Ministry regarding options to work with the development industry to advance attainable and affordable housing.
- **Community Improvement Plan Funding:** A Community Improvement Plan is a key strategic tool that the Town can use to encourage attainable and affordable housing within the community. Given the opportunity, Community Improvement Plans need to have strong and consistent funding sources. Council may consider requesting a delegation to talk with the ministry about funding support options.
- **Abandoned Orchards:** The increase in abandoned orchards and the lack of orchard management presents significant agricultural and environmental challenges. Opportunities may exist for the province to intervene by incentivizing landowners for orchard removal, which would help manage pests and diseases and potentially repurpose the land for productive use. Council may consider requesting a delegation to discuss potential provincial roles and strategies to address this issue collaboratively.
- **Infrastructure Project Funding:** The Town has received two significant Provincial grants to support key infrastructure projects in the community. Council may consider a delegation to express gratitude to the Ministry and to highlight future infrastructure projects, including the new Water Treatment Plant.

- **Physician Recruitment:** The Town is actively developing an action plan to recruit new family doctors and to increase access to primary care for residents. Council may consider requesting a delegation to highlight the work of the Family Physician Recruitment and Retention Working Group.
- **Shared Path Initiative:** The Shared Path Initiative integrates Indigenous voices in land-use planning across Ontario. Council may consider requesting a delegation with the Ministry to seek provincial funding and support for the initiative.

Staff recommends that Council select a maximum of five delegation topics. After the delegation topics have been confirmed by the Council, staff will prepare and submit the requests to the appropriate Provincial Ministries. Once the requests have been submitted, staff will start developing delegation materials in anticipation of their acceptance and to provide sufficient time for internal review.

The draft delegation materials will be provided to Council members for feedback a minimum of two weeks before the conference.

## **E. Strategic Priorities**

---

### **1. Communication and Engagement**

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

### **2. Organizational Excellence**

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

### **3. Community**

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

### **4. Quality of Life**

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

## **F. Environmental Impacts**

---

No environmental impacts are anticipated as a result of this report.

## **G. Financial Impacts**

---

Significant staff time is required to submit delegation requests and to prepare delegation materials. Collectively, staff time is estimated at approximately 10 - 20 hours per delegation. Due to tight timelines confirming which delegation requests have been approved, staff will begin work to develop delegation books immediately following Council approval.

Costs for conference registration and hotel accommodation will also be required based on the number of Council Members and Town staff attending. Conference registration is \$945.00 per person and hotel rooms at the group-booking rate are approximately \$220 per night. Funding to support this was approved through the 2025 Town Budget.

## **H. In Consultation With**

---

Adam Smith, Acting CAO  
Senior Management Team

## **I. Public Engagement**

---

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Tim Hendry, Director of Strategic Initiatives [si@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:si@thebluemountains.ca).

## **J. Attached**

---

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Hendry  
Director of Strategic Initiatives

For more information, please contact:  
Tim Hendry, Director of Strategic Initiatives  
[si@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:si@thebluemountains.ca)  
519-599-3131 extension 282

### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SI.25.016 2025 AMO Conference Delegation Requests.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Apr 29, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Tim Hendry - Apr 29, 2025 - 2:53 PM**