



Staff Report

Strategic Initiatives

Report To: Council Meeting
Meeting Date: May 11, 2026
Report Number: SI.26.016
Title: 2026 AMO Delegation Requests
Prepared by: Tim Hendry, Director of Strategic Initiatives

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report SI.26.016, entitled “2026 AMO Delegation Requests”;

AND THAT Council directs staff to submit the following delegation requests to the appropriate Provincial Ministries for the 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference scheduled for August 16 – 19, 2026:

- Physician Recruitment
- School Expansion
- Municipal Infrastructure Funding to Support Growth and Demand
- Water and Wastewater Capacity to Support Housing and Employment
- Municipal Accommodation Tax Policy Reform
- Frazil Ice Management
- Long Term Care
- Official Plan Approval
- Ecological Corridor

B. Overview

This report provides Council with an overview of the recommended delegation topics to be submitted for the 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference.

C. Background

The AMO Conference is attended annually by Council and staff members to learn about the issues facing municipalities in Ontario. The conference also provides an opportunity for the Town to meet with Provincial Ministries to advocate for issues and opportunities affecting the Town and the community.

A summary of the 2026 ROMA delegations was presented through report [SI.26.003](#), and a summary of the 2025 AMO delegation topics was presented through report [SI.25.033](#).

D. Analysis

During the preparation of this report, staff identified several potential topics for delegation requests, with emphasis on provincial funding, legislation and policy that materially affect the Town of The Blue Mountains.

- **Physician Recruitment:** The Town is actively recruiting new family physicians and is committed to supporting Provincial priorities related to patient attachment and improved access to primary care. Despite ongoing local efforts and partnerships, physician recruitment remains challenging due to overlapping service areas, catchment complexities and health system boundary issues. The Town is seeking provincial support to review and address the challenges.
- **School Expansion:** The Town is actively supporting the Bluewater District School Board's application to the Ministry of Education's Capital Priorities Program to advance the expansion of Beaver Valley Community School in Thornbury. The Town is also advocating for proactive planning to address future school accommodation needs in Craigleith, recognizing population growth projections. The Town is requesting Provincial support for the expansion of Beaver Valley Community School and for proactive planning for future school capacity in Craigleith.
- **Municipal Infrastructure Funding to Support Growth and Demand:** The Town is increasingly facing infrastructure pressures that are based on a combination of ageing assets and growth-related demands. Changing legislation governing the collection of Development Charges alongside current housing market conditions has strained municipal revenue sources to address infrastructure gaps. As a result, The Town is seeking to explore provincial funding models that can minimize the need to leverage debt-financing and support sustainable infrastructure investment in small, destination-based municipalities.
- **Water and Wastewater Capacity to Support Housing and Employment:** The Town has been making revisions to a proposed allocation by-law to strategically manage water and wastewater capacity to support housing supply, employment growth and investment readiness objectives. The Town is requesting Provincial support to ensure that municipal servicing capacity can keep pace with planned growth and economic development objectives.
- **Municipal Accommodation Tax Policy Reform:** As a tourism-based municipality, the Town of The Blue Mountains implemented Municipal Accommodation Tax as a revenue tool to help offset the impacts of visitor activity and to support destination management. Through implementation, the Town has invested significant resources and has identified opportunities to improve the Municipal Accommodation Tax policy to provide greater clarity and streamlined collection processes.

- **Frazil Ice Management:** The Town continues to experience operational and infrastructure challenges associated with frazil ice formation on the Beaver River, which has resulted in residential flooding, created public safety concerns, and placed added pressure on municipal response resources. The Town is seeking Provincial support for mitigation measures, technical collaboration and funding opportunities to address frazil ice impacts in vulnerable areas.
- **Long Term Care:** The Town is working to enable the development of a new long-term care home in the Craighleith area in response to current and future community needs. A meeting with the Ministry of Long-Term Care would provide an opportunity to highlight progress made to date, reinforce the importance of this project to the region and request continued Ministry support to help advance the development of additional long-term care capacity within the community.
- **Official Plan Approval:** The Town is seeking timely Provincial approval of new policies within its Official Plan to support community growth in a manner that is sustainable and drives economic growth. Timely approval will support effective municipal decision-making, ensure alignment with Provincial direction, and reflect the Town's unique local circumstances and strategic priorities.
- **Ecological Corridor:** The Town continues to advance work related to the ecological corridor as a key component of long-term environmental stewardship, climate resilience and sustainable community planning. The Town is seeking Provincial engagement and support to help align environmental objectives and land use planning considerations.

After the delegation topics have been confirmed by 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.

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

No direct financial impacts are anticipated as a result of this report.

The time required to prepare the delegation requests and create the delegation material is estimated at 10–15 hours per delegation. This work is included within the Strategic Initiatives Department workplan.

In addition, costs related to Council members and Town staff attending the conference have been approved as part of the 2026 Budget.

H. In Consultation With

Adam Smith, Chief Administrative Officer

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.

J. Attached

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Hendry
Director of Strategic Initiatives

For more information, please contact:
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Report Approval Details

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

Tim Hendry - Apr 30, 2026 - 11:33 AM