

Staff Report

Presented By: Jill Roote, Manager of Strategic Initiatives

Meeting Date: October 27, 2025

Subject: 2025 AMO Delegation Recap

Attachment(s): AMO 2025 Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
AMO 2025 SSTC – Overview – Saugeen Shores - 2025
AMO 2025 Ministry of Energy and Mines
AMO 2025 Delegation Brief - Ministry of Health

Recommendation

That Council receive the 2025 AMO Delegation Recap report for information.

Report Summary

Mayor Luke Charbonneau and Councillor Bud Halpin – along with Chief Administrative Officer, Kara Van Myall, Director of Fire Services, Ed Melanson and Manager of Strategic Initiatives, Jill Roote – attended the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference in Ottawa in August 2025 and spoke with Ministry representatives on issues impacting the Town, its' residents, and businesses. The attached Provincial briefs are provided for information.

Background/Analysis

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) annually hosts a conference in Ottawa. The three-day event focuses on matters of general interest to municipal governments. The conference also offers the opportunity for municipal leaders to meet face-to-face with provincial ministers and advocate for issues critical to their local communities.

The delegation presented briefs to the following Provincial Ministries:

1. **Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development** – to establish consistent, multi-year funding for small rural organizations such as the Saugeen Sparks Training Centre which connect individuals to trades and apprenticeships in areas facing labour demand from large infrastructure or energy projects such as those in Saugeen Shores, a host community to Bruce Power.

Response – the delegation met with the Minister, the Honorable David Piccini. The Minister was incredibly supportive of the request and impressed with the excellent work of the Sparks Training Centre as detailed. The Minister encouraged the delegation members to support SPARK in reapplying to the Skills Development Fund offering a few tips in ensuring solid numbers to represent in the application.

Next Steps – Connect with the SPARK grant writing team to offer the suggestions received and to offer to have their application reviewed by the Town's government relations firm to ensure a positive outcome. Has been completed.

2. **Ministry of Energy and Mines** – to endorse the Town of Saugeen Shores' request for municipal capacity funding as a host community to Bruce Power, aimed at facilitating new energy infrastructure for the Bruce C Project. The Town has established and maintained a longstanding partnership with Bruce Power; and

Initiate provincial coordination in the Federal Impact Assessment process to enable municipalities to address both positive and negative impacts on health, social, and economic conditions.

Response – the delegation met jointly with the Bruce County delegation members. This joint team met with the Minister, the Honorable. Stephen Lecce and the Parliamentary Assistant, the Honorable Rudy Cuzzetto. The Minister was extremely favorable about the expansion proposal at Bruce Power and ensured the delegation Team that his Ministry and the Provincial Government was working to both establish and secure relationships necessary to build nuclear into the energy future of the province and to acknowledge that the communities, like Saugeen Shores, adjacent to the site, receive the proper funding support ongoing and into the future.

Next Steps – Continue to strengthen the Town's relationship with the Minister and his team and to support Bruce "C" while acknowledging the requirement that the Town is compensated for its growth readiness infrastructure investment that benefits the future workforce of the site. This continues and is ongoing.

3. **Ministry of Health** – to create a dedicated capital funding stream for high-growth, small-sized municipalities to support the development or expansion of primary care facilities; and

Further, the Province formally recognizes and funds municipalities as health infrastructure partners to reduce the reliance on local property taxes for health-care related activities and capital projects; and

Approve funding to the areas (N0H postal code) proposal application to create a regional approach to the Primary Care Action Team model.

Response – the delegation met with the Minister and Deputy Premier, the Honorable Sylvia Jones. The Minister was incredibly supportive of our area's application to expand primary care action teams noting that we would hear soon on the funding amount and that we should reapply with suggestions from her team to improve the funding envelope

in the future. She was also intrigued by the Town's request for capital to fund medical spaces, asking if this was seen as a positive for recruitment. We assured her it was and in fact as residents are connected to the community it was noted they prefer a turnkey clinic option to ensure a smooth transition into practice.

Next Steps – Share the Minister's advice with Ontario Health Team colleagues and continue to support their efforts to obtain funding for expanding the primary care network in the N0H region. Funding was secured and officially announced by MPP Lisa Thompson on September 22nd, allocating \$1 million to the N0H priority area. The group plans to apply for the next round of funding announced on the same day.

Town staff also met with the Ontario Medical Association representatives to discuss physician recruitment, retention, and the Town's healthcare administration review.

Linkages

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Pillar 3: Building Valued Relationships
- Business Plan Alignment: CAO Major Initiative

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding

Cost associated with this program are contained within the existing budget.

Prepared By: Jill Roote, Manager, Strategic Initiatives

Approved By: Kara Van Myall, Chief Administrative Officer