

Staff Report

Presented By: Jill Roote, Manager of Strategic Initiatives

Meeting Date: February 23, 2026

Subject: 2026 ROMA Delegation Update

Attachment(s): ROMA 2026 Ministry of Health
ROMA 2026 Ministry Public Business Service Delivery and Procurement
ROMA 2026 Ministry of Energy and Mines
MPBSDP Thank You Letter ROMA 2026

Recommendation

That Council receive the 2026 ROMA Delegation Update report for information.

Report Summary

Mayor Luke Charbonneau along with Saugeen Ward Councillor Dave Myette, Chief Administrative Officer Kara Van Myall, and Manager of Strategic Initiatives Jill Roote spent three days at the end of January in Toronto at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference speaking with ministry representatives and other municipal leaders on issues that matter to the Town's residents and businesses. The attached briefs outline the specific asks and supporting background – they are provided for information.

Background/Analysis

ROMA annually hosts a conference in Toronto. The three-day event focuses on critical rural municipal issues and provides an opportunity to engage, learn, network, and bring innovative solutions back to the Town of Saugeen Shores. The event also includes the opportunity to attend delegation meetings with provincial leaders.

The delegation presented briefs to the following Provincial Ministries:

1. Delegation Meeting - The Ministry of Health with the Minister and Deputy Premier, the Honourable Sylvia Jones.

ISSUE: The Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team faces insufficient, sustained funding to carry out its model and maintain integrated primary care, population health, and local system transformation after 2027.

REQUEST: That the Ministry sustain and enhance provincial funding for the Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team (GBOHT) to ensure the model can be fully implemented; and recognize that the current allocation represents only a portion of the documented need and address the remaining operational and system-planning requirements identified by the GBOHT; and commit to ongoing OHT funding beyond 2027, ensuring long-term support for integrated primary care, population health, and local system transformation.

RESPONSE: The Deputy Premier and Minister acknowledged the GBOHT did not get full funding, but no one did and that the Province was committed to rolling out the Primary Care Team Action Plan until every resident in Ontario has a family physician. She encouraged continued application submissions until the financial needs for the area are met. The Deputy Premier and Minister also suggested that the funding would continue once the plan was in place to secure long-term support. It was noted that, in the future, the Municipality could serve as a partner by facilitating connections between practitioners and available spaces.

NEXT STEPS: Maintain collaboration with the GBOHT Master Plan through 2029 and continue to engage with the Ministry of Health to secure service supports are aligned with the Town's long-term growth projections.

2. Delegation Meeting - The Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement with the Minister, the Honourable Stephen Crawford.

ISSUE: The sole ServiceOntario terminal in Port Elgin is insufficient to meet current demand, resulting in extended line-ups, longer wait times, and increased pressure on staff.

REQUEST: That the Ministry approve a second ServiceOntario terminal in Port Elgin to meet rising demand, reduce wait times, and maintain reliable service for residents and businesses.

RESPONSE: The Minister acknowledged the issue and committed to working with the Town and the Chamber to find a suitable solution.

NEXT STEPS: Send a formal thank you letter (included as an attachment) from the Town and Chamber and keep advocating for the Ministry to address service capacity issues in Port Elgin.

3. Delegation Meeting - The Ministry of Energy and Mines with Parliamentary Assistant the Honourable Rudy Cuzzetto.

ISSUE: The need for sustained municipal capacity funding to Saugeen Shores as a Bruce Power host community to support growth, advance Bruce C infrastructure, and ensure coordinated participation in the Federal Impact Assessment.

REQUEST: That the Ministry support Saugeen Shores' request for both short- and long-term municipal capacity funding as a Bruce Power host community to advance new energy infrastructure for the Bruce C Project. We appreciate the Province's commitment to this support and seek an accelerated and sustained funding approach to meet urgent growth needs and initiate provincial coordination in the Federal Impact Assessment process to ensure municipalities have the resources and support required to proactively address the anticipated impacts on health, social, and economic conditions.

RESPONSE: The Parliamentary Assistant assured us that the Ministry supports the nuclear expansion in the area and understands the Town’s requirement for secured funding to support long-term impacts.

NEXT STEPS: Continue to engage with the Ministry as the Bruce “C” project advances.

The briefs are provided for information.

Linkages

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Pillar 3: Building Valued Relationships
- Business Plan Alignment: CAO Division Highlight

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