

For Immediate Release

Thursday, February 28, 2019



WELLAND OFFICIALS ENCOURAGED BY MEETINGS WITH PROVINCIAL DECISION MAKERS AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Welland, ON - City of Welland officials are very pleased with the outcomes from meetings held in Toronto this week with provincial Ministers and Parliamentary Assistants, Ministry staff, and key stakeholders.

Elected officials and city staff attended the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) Conference and meetings to discuss current projects and initiatives. The city's delegation to the conference and various meetings included: Mayor Frank Champion, Councillor Adam Moote, CAO Gary Long, GM of Infrastructure and Development/City Engineer Erik Nickel, Deputy Fire Chief Adam Eckhart, Acting Manager of Public Works Vince Beaudoin, Water Quality Coordinator Ray Chamberlain, and Manager of Recreation and Culture Richard Dalton.

The following meetings were held:

- Kinga Surma, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation
- Hon. Todd Smith, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation & Trade
- Hon. Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
- Stephen Lecce, Parliamentary Assistant to Minister of Infrastructure
- Hon. Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Francophone Affairs
- Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Community Safety & Correctional Services
- Regional Director, Ministry of Transportation
- Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Premier
- Deputy Director Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
- Policy Advisors, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- President and Executive Director, Dragon Boat Canada
- Parliamentary Assistant, Minister of Tourism, Culture & Sport

Some of the topics discussed this week included the Forks Road bridge, Francophone tourism, immigration, affordable housing, health care and long term care beds, Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund, funding for fire halls, federal-provincial infrastructure funding programs, asset management plans, Welland International Flatwater Centre and the city's recreational waterway, sports tourism, Canada Summer Games 2021, urban boundary expansion, and industrial investment.

Mayor Frank Champion and CAO Gary Long are also attending the Smart Communities Roadshow being held tomorrow and will hear presentations and panel discussions regarding how other cities are using and integrating new technologies to be more efficient, deliver better services, increase resilience, and improve the quality of life for their residents. Learning about new ideas, collaborative partnerships, and emerging trends will support the city's smart city and open data initiatives and the culture of innovation promoted throughout the organization.



“It’s been a productive week with face-to-face conversations with senior provincial officials regarding the issues and projects most important to the City of Welland,” said Welland Mayor Frank Campion. “The province is very interested in hearing Welland’s story and we’re proud to highlight our strong growth, development, and economic activity. The province has announced that they are reviewing many programs with the objective of creating jobs, reducing red tape and duplication, streamlining approval processes to improve development timelines, and enhancing competitiveness. We have a lot to say on these topics based on our experiences and successes, and we’re making recommendations and providing examples to provincial officials.”

“Our government relations and advocacy strategy is all about building relationships, staying informed, providing input, supporting Council’s priorities and advancing city projects,” said Gary Long, CAO. “It was very beneficial having some of our managers attend this week’s meetings to provide their expertise and to establish lines of communication with Ministerial and Departmental staff who we can follow up with.”

Photo, Left to Right: Gary Long, Adam Moote, Mayor Frank Campion, Minister of Francophone Affairs Caroline Mulroney, Adam Eckhart, Vince Beaudoin, Erik Nickel

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