

MINUTES

Ontario Small Urban Municipalities

Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday August 17th, 2025 at 2:00pm

Westin Hotel Ottawa, Alberta Room

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Jamie McGarvey- Mayor, Town of Parry Sound-Chair

Bob Kwapis- Councillor, Town of Newmarket

Ron Elliott- Councillor, Town of Minto

Lynn Dollin- Mayor, Town of Innisfill

Deb Doherty- Councillor, Town of Collingwood

Gail Ardiel- Councillor, Town of the Blue Mountains

Michelle Smibert- Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Thames Centre

Sharmila Setaram- Councillor, City of Welland

Larry David McCabe- Councillor City of Stratford

Cheraldean Duhaney- Councillor, BWG

Nicole Beatty- Deputy Mayor, Town of Colbourg

Amanpreet Singh Sidhu- Deputy CAO and City Solicitor, Town of Orillia

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Larry J. McCabe

ALSO PRESENT:

Maria Rodriguez- AMO Policy Staff

Karen Nesbitt- AMO Policy Staff

Brian Lambie- Redbrick Communications

Michael Borrelli- Nuclear Waste Management Organization (part of the meeting)

Minister Flack- Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (part of the meeting)

MINUTES:

Moved by: Deb Doherty

Seconded by: Amanpreet Singh Sidhu

That the minutes of April 30, 2025 be approved.

“CARRIED”

BUSINESS;

1. Michael Borrelli is present and provides an update on the activities of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. Michael informs the Committee that a site for nuclear waste deposit of materials has been chosen in the Ignace area. This site is close to the municipality of Dryden. He further provides the Committee with technical details with regards to nuclear waste. An application for a license will be made by NWMO to the Canadian Nuclear Association prior to the end of this year. He does not expect that nuclear waste will be transported on into the 2040's. The NWMO will continue to support municipalities and continue to update them in the future. Following further discussion, Chair McGarvey thanks Michael for his presentation and advises that OSUM looks forward to updates as the process continues and further thanks his organization for their support of OSUM.

2. FONOM Resolution No. 2025-04. A resolution to Expand Extended Producer Responsibility to the ICI Sector.

With regards to the FONOM Resolution on Producer Responsibility to the ICI Sector it is noted that this may not be necessary since it may be dealt with during presentations at the Conference however,

Moved by: Michelle Smibert

Seconded by: Nicole Beatty

That the Ontario Small Urban Municipalities Executive Committee support the FONOM Resolution No. 2025-04 being a resolution to Expand Extended Producer Responsibility to the ICI Sector and

That FONOM and the Minister of the Environment be advised of OSUM's support of FONOM's Resolution.

"CARRIED"

3. Statement of Operations and Statement of Financial Position for the month ending July 31st, 2025.

Following review of the financial information it is noted that the Committee appears to be heading for a surplus versus the small deficit budgeted. The Committee review and discuss the financial statements following which the statements are received as follows:

Moved by: Bob Kwapis

Seconded by: Cheraldean Duhaney

That the Statement of Operation and Statement of Financial Position for the month ending July 31, 2025 be received.

4. Future Hosting of the OSUM Conference- Owen Sound, Orangeville. Discussion on the process and selection.

In addition to the interest of Owen Sound and Orangeville, member Larry D. McCabe advise that there may be interest in Stratford in hosting a OSUM Conference. Member McCabe will follow up with the City of Stratford Council.

With regards to a decision on Hosting it is suggested that a decision be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee. In the interim that AMO Staff forward out the hosting policies to the perspective Hosts. It is further noted that there has been written communication received from Owen Sound but not from Orangeville or Stratford.

Moved by: Ron Elliott

Seconded by: Deb Doherty

That AMO Staff forward out to prospective OSUM Conference Hosts being the City of Owen Sound (confirmation received), City of Orangeville and the City of Stratford the Roles and Responsibilities for OSUM Annual Trade Show and Conference Host Community and

That the OSUM Executive Committee will endeavor to make a decision at their next meeting as to future Host of an OSUM Conference and

That AMO Staff consider a process for selecting Hosts in the future, such as the WatchFile.

5. Copy of OSUM Policy Statement for Annual Show and Conference Host Community, Past Guidelines for Hosting a OSUM Conference. Administrative Officer McCabe advises that he has reviewed the OSUM Policy Statement and although there are minor changes that could be made that the Policy Statement appears to be fine without any proposed changes being suggested. AMO Staff and Administrative Officer McCabe will continue to review the policies as previously directed. The Committee also review the Roles and Responsibility for OSUM Annual Trade Show and Conference Host Community as prepared by AMO Staff and previous Conference Guidelines. Following review:

Moved by: Bob Kwapis

Seconded by: Cheraldean Duhaney

That the Policy Statement continue to be reviewed by AMO Staff and Administrative Officer McCabe however that any changes to the policy appear to be minor and therefore no changes are suggested, at this time and

That Roles and Responsibilities for OSUM Annual Trade Show and Conference Host Community and previous Conference Guidelines be confirmed and received.

“CARRIED”

6. _At this time Member Cheraldean Duhaey request that the Committee consider a proposal to increase Legal Aid payments to eligible recipients. She suggests that there should be an increase to the Legal Aid income threshold to match today’s economy and to provide extra support for women fleeing abuse and that any increase be tied to inflation so that payments remain fair.

Moved by: Cheraldean Duhaney

Seconded by: Sharmila Setaram

That AMO Policy Staff review and consider a proposal to increase Legal Aid payments to eligible recipients and

That there should be an increase to the Legal Aid income threshold to match today’s economy and to provide extra support for women fleeing abuse and that any increase to be tied to inflation so that payments remain fair and

That following consideration by AMO Policy Staff that the OSUM Executive by updated.

“CARRIED”

At this time Minister Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing in present. Chair McGarvey welcomes the Minister and provides him with a written document detailing some of the concerns of the OSUM Executive Committee on many issues that affect Small Urban Municipalities (Copy attached to the minutes). These include, but not limited to, A smarter fiscal framework, Growth pressure and infrastructure investment, Small tax base, water and wastewater infrastructure, Homelessness, and OPP Billing Review.

A detailed exchange occurs between Members and the Minister on these issues and others. Following discussion, Chair McGarvey thanks the Minister for his presence at the meeting and asks the Minister to consider the concerns of OSUM on the issues discussed today.

ADJOURN:

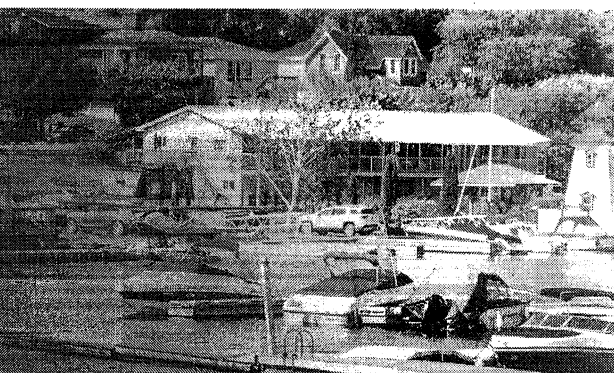
Moved by: Larry D. McCabe

Seconded by: Lynn Dollin

That the OSUM Executive Committee hereby adjourns at 3:30 pm to meet again On October 24th and 25th in Parry Sound.



**supports vibrant counties,
small cities and towns that
connect urban and rural Ontario**



WHO IS OSUM?

Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM) informs the work of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to advocate for critical small urban priorities.

Small urban municipalities are vital links that connect people, goods and services across Ontario.

As hub communities, the success of small urban Ontario makes all of Ontario better. These municipalities help reduce pressure on big cities. They ensure access to public services across Ontario and are critical to fostering economic growth in their surrounding areas.

OSUM includes upper-, lower-, and single-tier municipalities.

About **one-third** of Ontario's population lives in small towns and cities with populations between **5,000** and **100,000**.

Source: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl/en/tv/action?pid=9810000203&geocode=A000235>

HIGH EXPECTATIONS, SMALL TAX BASE

Residents expect small urban municipalities to deliver big-city services, while maintaining an attractive, small-town quality of life and conserving natural heritage. Provincial policies add another layer of pressure and expectations.

Big city challenges like public transit, homelessness, social service delivery and rising housing prices are different in a small urban context, and these communities require far different solutions.

POLICY PRIORITIES

A smarter fiscal framework

- OSUM communities simply do not have the population scale or property tax base to address pressures from housing, healthcare, rising costs and public safety.
- OSUM joins AMO in calling on the provincial government to commit to a joint Social and Economic Prosperity Review that examines provincial and municipal revenues, costs and financial risks, and infrastructure needs.
- Investment in municipal infrastructure, including long-term care and social housing, is the best way to strengthen our economy amid the current trade war.

Growth pressure and infrastructure investment

- Despite rising construction costs, many municipalities are actively increasing infrastructure construction in 2025 to meet ambitious provincial housing targets, manage climate change and maintain critical infrastructure.
- To effectively deliver on vital capital plans, municipalities require long-term, predictable, and substantial funding.

Water and wastewater infrastructure

- Growth in small urban municipalities often depends on expanding and also maintaining aging water and wastewater infrastructure. These costs far outstrip the capacity of user rates and property taxpayers.
- Small urban municipalities are being proactive to find new way to finance and operate water and wastewater infrastructure.
- AMO's business services arm, Local Authority Services (LAS), is exploring ways to finance water and wastewater systems. Small urban municipalities are at the forefront of such efforts and several OSUM members are among those working with LAS to explore using joint municipal services corporations to help address cost pressures.

Homelessness

- Ontario municipalities are on the front lines of the homelessness crisis and the growing human and financial costs associated with it. Small urban municipalities do not have the tools or financial resources to meet the complex health and social challenges that communities across Ontario are now facing.
- OSUM joins AMO in calling on governments to expand their investments in deeply affordable community, supportive and transitional housing. It is urging the province to take decisive steps to address the root causes of homelessness, such as increasing income support and enhancing mental health and addiction services.
- Furthermore, investing in community housing is the right thing to do socially and economically. It supports future productivity growth and job creation, essential at this time.

OPP Billing Review

- Municipalities face significant cost pressures from growing police costs. They appreciate that the province provided \$77 million last fall to offset unusually large OPP billing increases.
- OSUM also appreciates the ongoing OPP Billing Review to prevent such unexpected massive cost increases in the future.
- On behalf of OSUM and all municipalities, AMO's input on the billing review is focused on:
 - » Addressing the inequitable cost burden faced by service hub municipalities
 - » Improving transparency and bill timing
 - » Provincial funding to offset costs associated with police away from work on WSIB-approved leaves of absences.
 - » Removing a 2008 cap on provincial funding for uploaded prisoner transport and court security costs
- However, it's important to note that the fiscal challenges municipalities are facing extend beyond the OPP billing model to municipal police forces and a fundamentally broken provincial-municipal fiscal framework. OSUM welcomes continued work with the province to ensure both community safety and fiscal sustainability.

SAVE THE DATE: 2026 OSUM CONFERENCE **April 29 to May 1 in Parry Sound**

Our annual conference is a bespoke event focused on connecting small urban communities to learn, advocate and network.

