

# Government Relations Workshop

March 7, 2019

1 to 3 p.m.

# Purpose

- Provide an overview of the Government Relations business model at the City of Burlington
- Discussion on Government Relations priorities and approach with specific focus on:
  - » Strategic Communications
  - » Community Engagement – When and How?
  - » Proactive GR approach to dealing with unforeseen and disruptive changes

# Agenda

Introduction – Tim Commisso, Interim City Manager

Presentation – Kwab Ako-Adjei, Senior Manager

Government Relations and Strategic Communications  
and Helen Walihura, Government Relations Specialist

1. Overview of Government Relations and Strategic Communications
2. Government Relations Partners
3. Funding
4. Government Relations Strategy
5. Government Relations  
Priorities/Challenges/Opportunities

# The role of government relations and strategic communications at the City of Burlington

- Promote/advance the City's strategic priorities regionally, provincially and federally.

How we do this:

- Building relationships
- Ensuring Burlington Council and staff are seen as trusted advisors
- Raising awareness of City programs/initiatives that align with provincial and federal priorities
- Monitor and track issues and legislation

# How to frame the GR discussion

*We want this from them.*

# Questions?

# Partners

# GR Partners

- Halton Region
  - Work together to co-ordinate messaging and responses to Province and Federal governments on issues i.e. Halton Area Planning Partnership, Regional CAOs, Halton Area Treasurers
  - Co-ordinates attendance at AMO and FCM for councillors
  - Co-ordinates delegations at AMO on regional issues



# GR Partners

- Association of Municipalities of Ontario – AMO, a non-partisan, non-profit association that represents the 444 municipalities in Ontario
  - Committees i.e. LUMCO – Large Urban Mayor's Caucus
  - Training, Annual Conference
  - Administer Federal Gas Tax Fund, Provincial Main Street Revitalization Fund
  - Advocacy

# GR Partners

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities – FCM, the national voice for Canada's local governments
  - Big City Mayors
  - Training, Annual Conference
  - Administer the Green Municipal Fund
  - Advocacy

# GR Partners

- Other associations – AMCTO
- Other neighbouring municipalities
- Industry associations/others

# Questions?

# Funding

# Funding Programs

- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Funding (PTIF, CWWF)
- Smart Cities Challenge
- 2019 Celebrate Canada – Canada Day event funding
- Seniors and Accessibility SALC funding or Seniors Active Living Centres Grant
- Ontario Sport and Community Recreation Funding Grant

# Investing in Canada - \$180 + Billion infrastructure plan over 12 years



## Total Federal Funding

\$28.7 Billion

\$26.9 Billion

\$25.3 Billion

\$2 Billion

## Ontario Allotment

Feds \$8.3 Billion

\$2.8 Billion

\$407 Million

\$250 Million

Provinces \$6.8 Billion

\$2.3 Billion

\$335 Million

\$206 Million

Burlington  
Phase 1 - \$3.4 m  
Federal – up to 50%  
Provincial – 25%  
Municipal – 25%

### Phase 2 allocation

Federal - \$18 m  
Province - \$15 m

Burlington  
Phase 1 - \$2.3 m  
Federal – 50%  
Provincial – 25%  
Municipal – 25%

Burlington  
Phase 1 – 0  
  
No details have been released on how the funds will be allocated for this stream

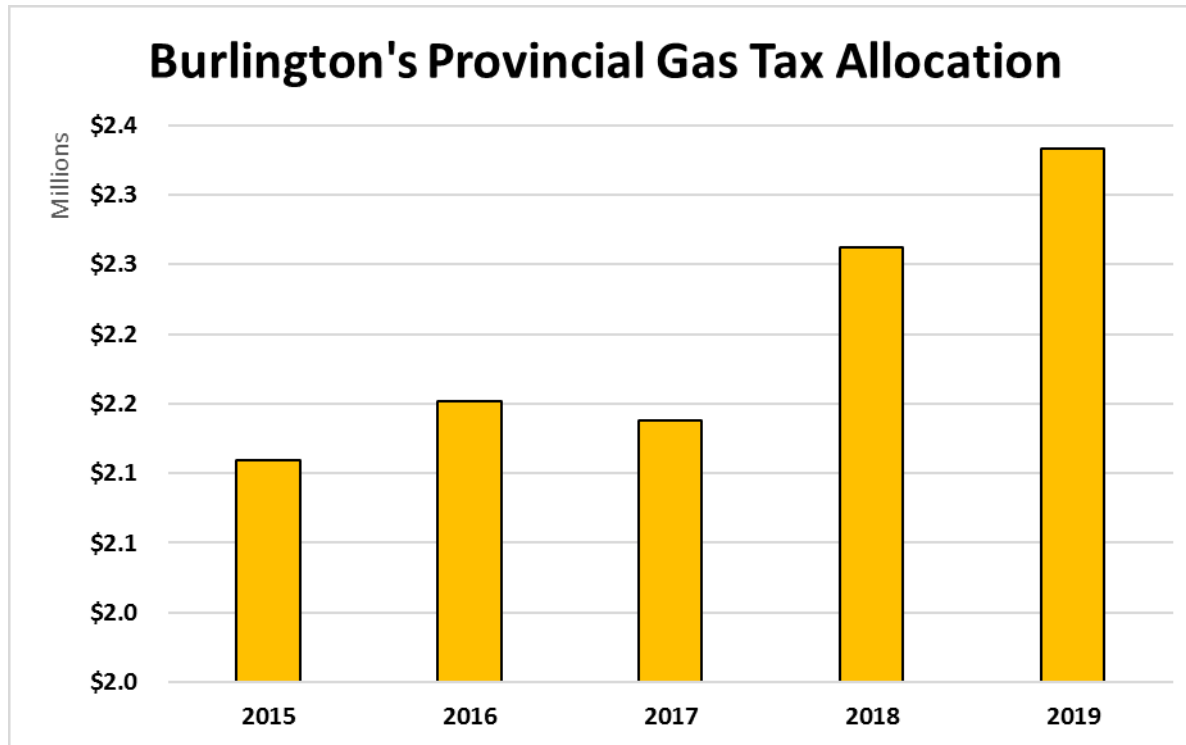
Burlington is not eligible for this stream of funding

# Funding

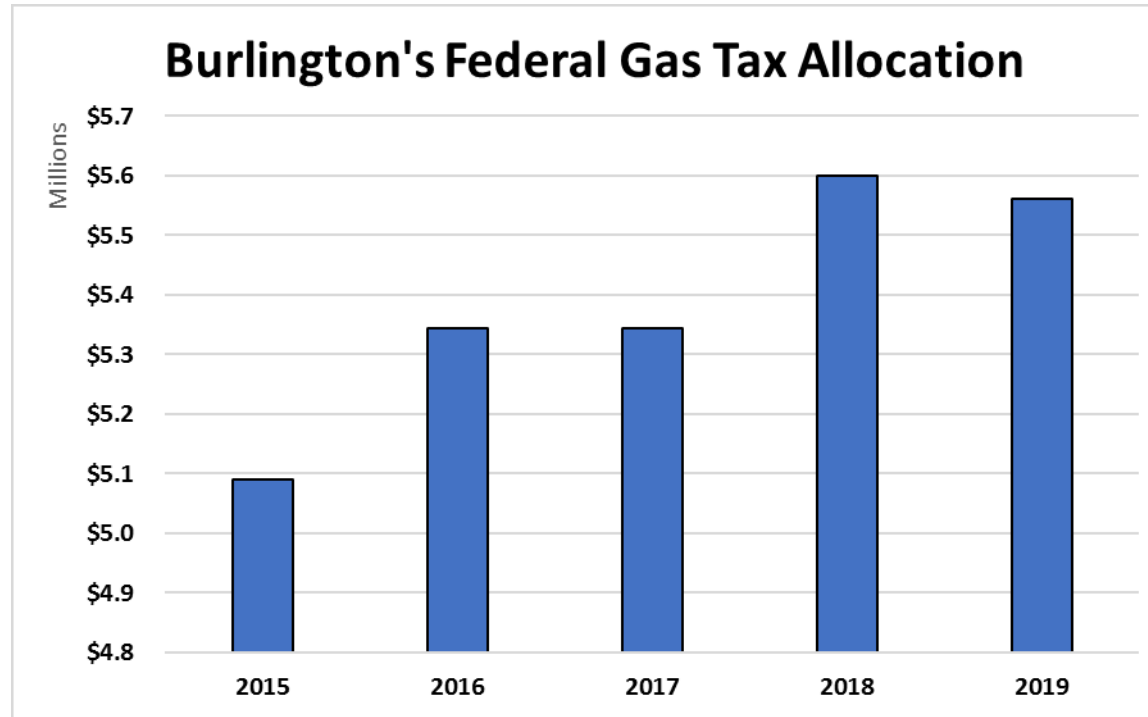
- Workplace Electric Vehicle Charging Incentive Program
- Ontario Commuter Cycling Program
- Main Street Revitalization Program
- Provincial and Federal Gas Tax Funding



# Provincial Gas Tax



# Federal Gas Tax



# Our “*Project List*”

- Transit Facility Expansion (\$21.65M)
- Presto Device Refresh (\$1.4M)
- Transit 5-year Business Plan (\$0.25M)
- Alternate Service Delivery Pilot (\$0.275M)
- Electric buses (\$7 M)
- Transit stop amenities (\$1.0M)
- WiFi on buses (\$0.5M)

## ***“Project List” – cont’d***

- Growth strategy vehicles – conventional and para transit (\$9.39M)
- Replacement vehicles (\$3.76M)
- New Street Cycle Track (\$5.6M)
- City View Park New Pavilion (\$6.4M)
- Elgin Promenade (\$0.614M)
- Skyway Arena Walking Track (\$1.0M)
- Urban Forest Canopy (\$1.0 M)

# Questions?

# GR Strategy/Approach

# Our Normal GR Approach

- “Team Approach” – dedicated GR resources and staff subject matter experts support Mayor and Council
- Strategic Communications focus, Mayor as spokesperson
- Ongoing issues tracking and media monitoring
- Advocacy recommendations provided and decisions made by Council after research and consultation
- Ongoing relationship development with MPPs, MPs, ministry staff, “heads-up” on issues/policy changes (Burlington Day at Queen’s Park?)
- Formal briefings with Federal and Provincial Ministers, MPs/MPPs
- Timely turnaround, community engagement as required
- GR intelligence - informal, formal external GRI as required

# GR in Disruptive Environment

- Decisions are made at the most senior political levels
- Bias for bold and broad actions
- Trial balloons and public opinion
- Swift decision making, limited time for commenting
- Decisions often driven by political ideology/“populism”



# RECENT GR EXAMPLES

# Cannabis Legislation

- Issues tracking/media monitoring/research
- Internal staff team
- HRPS working group, By-Law Working Group
- Community awareness and engagement through online survey and Mayor's Town Hall
- CIP Memo Oct 5, 2018 – Bill 36, Changes to Cannabis Statute Law Amendment Act
- CM-20-18 Dec 10, 2018 changes to legislation and from OCS to private retail model, funding changes, AGCO regulations and licensing body
- CIP Memo Dec 14, 2018 Update on Engagement and 25 licenses province wide for private retail
- Final Report CM-3-19 Jan 14, 2019 with Council decision

## **Bill 66 – An Act to Restore Ontario’s competitiveness by amending and repealing certain acts**

- Legislation designed to eliminate red tape and “burdensome regulations” so businesses can grow, create and protect jobs
- 32 actions across 12 ministries, comments were required by Jan. 20, 2019
- Staff from almost every department was circulated and invited to attend a meeting to prepare a response
- Regional staff report and resolution approved Jan. 16, 2019
- COB staff comments to Council Jan. 17, 2019 via CIP

# Bill 66 cont'd

- Jan. 17 -Media release
- Jan. 17 -Letter to Minister Steve Clark with COB comments attached
- Jan. 20 – Submission of City of Burlington comments
- Jan. 27 – Burlington City Council approval of Halton Region Resolution

# Questions?

# Priorities/Challenges/Opportunities

# Provincial Government Priorities

- Put more money in people's pockets
- Clean up the “hydro mess”, lower hydro bills
- Make Ontario open for business by reducing barriers and creating and protecting jobs
- Restore accountability and trust to end the culture of waste and mismanagement in government
- Regional government review – smaller, more efficient government

# Provincial Government Priorities – cont'd

- Cut hospital wait times and end hallway medicine
- Reduce spending - doing more, or the same amount, for less public money or doing less for less



# AMO – Key Advocacy Areas

- Provincial-municipal fiscal relationship
- Development Charges (affordable housing)
- Policing
- Provincial Gas Tax
- Municipal reporting

# AMO – Key Advocacy Areas cont'd

- “Low hanging fruit” no cost policy changes to support municipalities i.e. tree canopy policy, streamline Municipal Class Environment Assessments, municipal right of first refusal for surplus school property

# Federal Government Priorities

- Growth for the middle class
- Open and transparent government
- A clean environment and strong economy
- Diversity is Canada's strength
- Security and Opportunity

# FCM – Key Advocacy Areas

- Permanent public transit fund
- National broadband study
- Dedicated funding for rural roads and bridges
- Disaster mitigation and adaptation
- Fiscal tools i.e. increasing the gas tax

# Emerging Priorities



## Bill 66

An Act to restore Ontario's competitiveness by amending or repealing certain Acts

The Hon. T. Smith  
Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

### Government Bill

1st Reading December 6, 2018  
2nd Reading  
3rd Reading  
Royal Assent



Preserving and Protecting  
our Environment for  
Future Generations

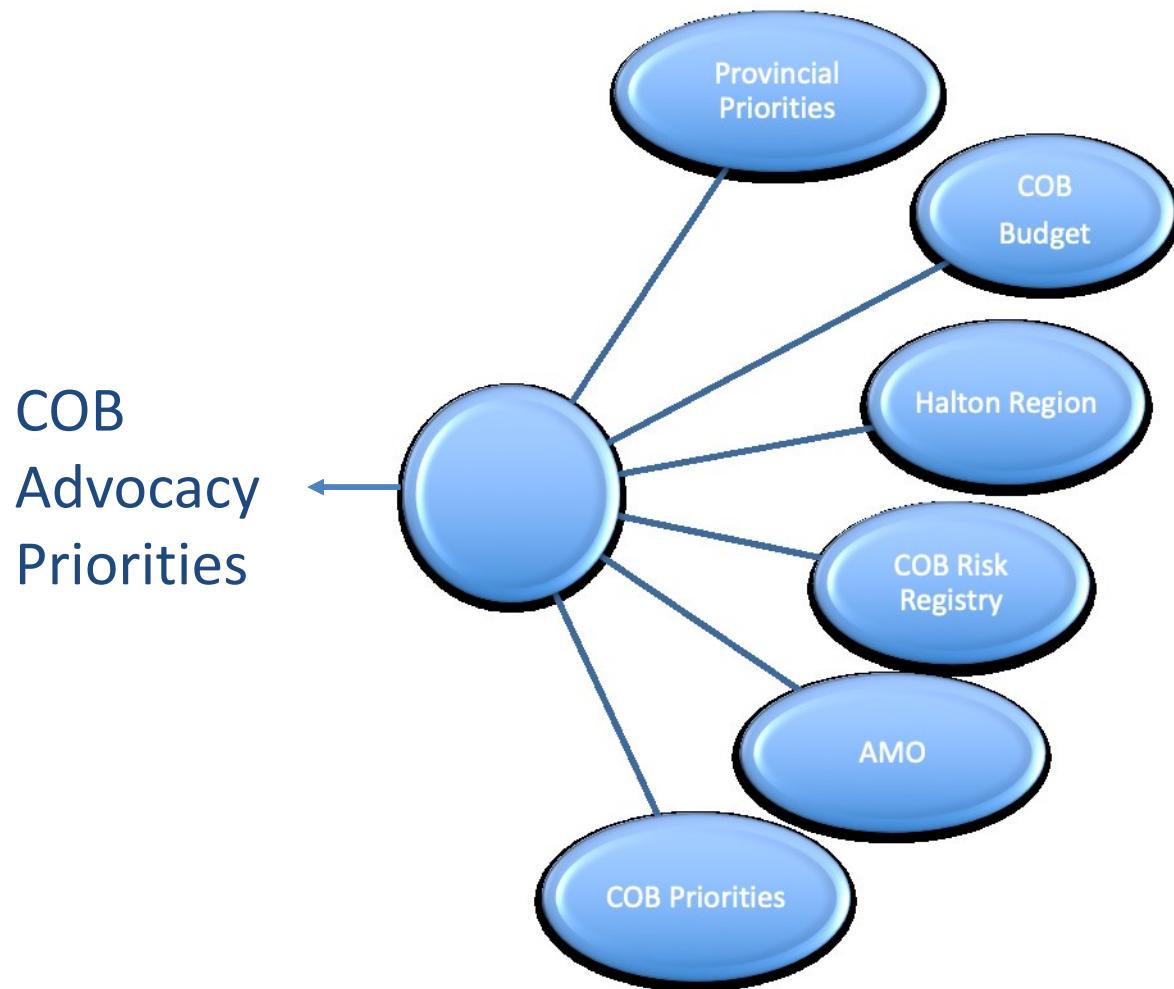
A Made-in-Ontario  
Environment Plan



Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks



- 2019 Federal Election – Oct. 21, 2019
- Review of the Provincial Growth Plan
- Regional Governance Review
- Infrastructure Spending/Funding
- Provincial Budget
- Aggregate Industry Reform



# 2018 City of Burlington Advocacy Priorities

Building a 21<sup>st</sup> Century City

Thriving and Liveable Community

- Infrastructure
- Housing Options/Affordability
- Mobility Choices
- Gas Tax Funding
- Environmental Responsibility
- Economic Prosperity
- Interest Arbitration

Building and Exceptional Quality of Life

# Workshop Wrap-up Questions

- Have we missed anything...What are you hearing?
- What GR issues and opportunities do we need to focus on more...on less?
- What does a successful government relations approach look like in our environment?
  - E.g. Should we look to procure external GR intelligence on retainer or on an issue by issue basis?



# Thank you

