



SUBJECT: Mayor's virtual conferences for 2021

TO: Corporate Services, Strategy, Risk & Accountability Cttee.

FROM: Office of the Mayor

Report Number: MO-01-21

Wards Affected: Not Applicable

File Numbers: 155-03-8

Date to Committee: January 11, 2021

Date to Council: January 19, 2021

Recommendation:

Receive and file Mayor's office report MO-01-21 as information on the Mayor's planned conference attendance and potential travel in 2021 on behalf of the City of Burlington.

PURPOSE:

Vision to Focus Alignment:

Delete this line and the areas that do not apply.

- Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture

Background and Discussion:

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions and precautions, the Mayor has no physical travel yet planned for 2021. Given the evolving nature of the pandemic, we will look to be flexible if the situation improves and provides an opportunity to attend any key conferences or events in person outside of Burlington.

At present, the following are conferences the Mayor intends to attend virtually (or otherwise if circumstances permit):

January 25-26, 2021: Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference

Each year ROMA hosts a conference where municipal leaders have the opportunity to connect with colleagues and the province and learn from experts on important and timely rural issues. This year's focus areas include broadband access, flooding, waste, OPP matters, municipal impact of cannabis growing, and community paramedicine. The 2021 event will take place virtually, and the registration fee of \$400 will be paid for via the Mayor's budget.

June 3-6, 2021: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Conference

Each year the Federation of Canadian Municipalities hosts a conference where municipal elected officials and staff are invited to attend from across the country. FCM provides an opportunity to shape and vote on advocacy items for the federal government which has, in the past, succeeded in federal commitments to significant municipal infrastructure funding and support for municipal initiatives. There are also professional development sessions and "study tours" where information and learnings are gained and brought back to share with colleagues and the community. The Ontario Big City Mayors (OBCM) meet as a group and with other groups during this event as well and the Mayor attends those meetings as an OBCM member.

This year's event was planned to take place in Montreal but may need to be fully virtual due to the pandemic. Registration, estimated at approximately \$900, (with potential travel and hotel costs TBD if applicable) will be paid for via the Halton Region budget as per precedent.

The cost of one staff member attending with the Mayor to provide support for the Mayor's activities as well as for their own professional development will be approximately \$900 for registration, paid for via the City's Government Relations – Conference Registration budget.

August 15-18: Association of Ontario Municipalities Conference (AMO)

The purpose of this conference is to bring together municipal governments from across Ontario to work together on issues of shared importance and to provide an opportunity to meet with provincial ministers and advocate on behalf of Burlington and Halton Region. The Mayor is now a member of the [AMO Board of Directors](#), sitting on the Large Urban Caucus and will be attending Board meetings as part of AMO as well.

This year's event will take place again virtually, with the Mayor's registration fee (approximately \$600) being paid for via the Halton Region budget as per precedent.

One staff member will virtually attend with the Mayor to support the Mayor's activities as well as for their own professional development and awareness, and the cost of their

registration will be approximately \$600, paid for from City's Government Relations – Conference Registration budget.

Financial Matters:

Estimated costs and allocations for the Mayor and team at this time are as follows:

Event	Estimated Cost	Allocation Budget
ROMA – Mayor expenses	\$400	Mayor's Budget
FCM – Mayor expenses	\$900	Halton Region Budget
FCM – Staffer registration	\$900	City Govt. Rel. Budget
AMO – Mayor expenses	\$600	Halton Region Budget
AMO – Staffer registration	\$600	City Govt. Rel. Budget

Total Financial Impact

Impact to the City's budget (government relations and Mayor's office combined) is \$1900 (remainder paid for via Halton Region budget).

Source of Funding

As per table above.

Other Resource Impacts

Not applicable.

Climate Implications

N/A

Engagement Matters:

N/A

Conclusion:

Report MO-01-21 is to provide transparency to the community on the Mayor's travel plans in 2021 while representing the City of Burlington at relevant conferences and events.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.