

CITY OFFICIALS ENCOURAGED BY MEETINGS WITH PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS

Welland's delegation to this week's Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference have returned home feeling encouraged by the responses they received and the connections they made during meetings with new provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Assistants, staff, and key stakeholder groups.

Mayor Frank Campion, Councillors John Chiocchio, John Mastroianni, Leo Van Vliet and CAO Gary Long represented the city at this year's conference, held in Ottawa from Aug. 19 to Aug. 22.

Members of the city's delegation attended the following meetings:

- Donna Skelly and Michael Parsa, Parliamentary Assistants to the Honourable Jim Wilson, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade (photo attached)
- Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Sport (photo attached)
- Carla Nell, Vice President of Municipal and Stakeholder Relations, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC)
- Andy Paterson, Manager, Canada Post
- Ian Foucher, and Salman Arif, Office of the Minister of Finance (Federal)
- Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Transportation (Niagara Region delegation)
- Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing (Niagara Region delegation)
- Honourable Laurie Scott, Minister of Labour (Niagara Region delegation)

"Our objectives heading into the conference were to establish working relationships and connections with the new government, outline our priorities, and discuss potential partnerships; this was accomplished," said Welland Mayor Frank Campion. "Some of the issues we discussed included programs to promote French tourism and culture in Welland, growth of the city's sports tourism sector, new opportunities for the Welland International Flatwater Centre (WIFC) and the city's waterfront, programs and incentives to attract industrial investment, and re-introducing the Mid-peninsula highway. We also met with federal Finance officials to discuss programs to support Welland's steel producers impacted by US steel tariffs."

"Our government relations and advocacy program is ongoing and we look forward to establishing strategic partnerships with the provincial government to support Council's priorities and the future growth and development of the city," said CAO Gary Long. "We're already scheduling follow-up meetings for later in September to continue the dialogue on key files and we're setting up meetings with Ministers and staff who weren't available to meet with us this week."



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