

For Immediate Release
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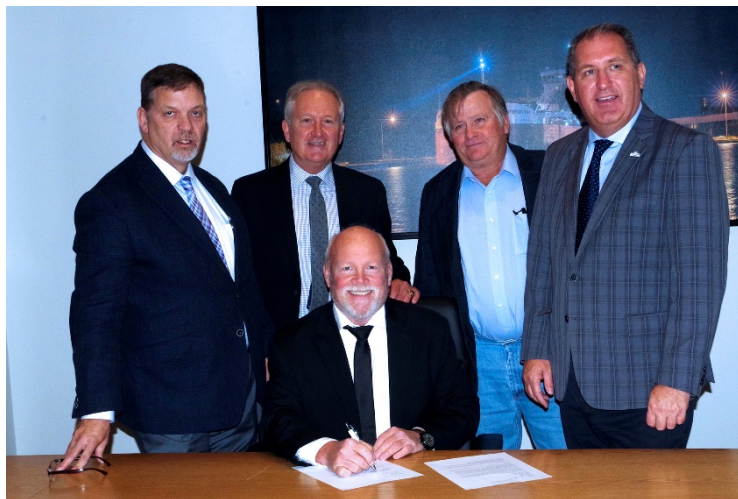
**WELLAND, THOROLD, PELHAM, PORT COLBORNE AND WAINFLEET SIGN MOU
FOR JOINT PURCHASING AND SHARED SERVICES**

The Mayors of the cities of Welland, Thorold, Pelham, Port Colborne and Wainfleet all have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work together on joint purchasing and procurement and shared services initiatives.

Municipalities, as public sector corporations, purchase a lot of goods and services every year such as vehicles, equipment, road salt, paper towels, photocopy paper, toner cartridges and computers.

Following is a Joint Statement from Mayors Frank Campion, Terry Ugulini, Marvin Junkin, Bill Steele and Kevin Gibson.

Municipalities purchase many of the same items every year so it makes sense for our municipalities to work collaboratively in order to take advantage of bulk pricing opportunities. We will explore joint Requests for Proposals (RFP's) for a variety of contracts such as road reconstruction, sidewalk repairs, office supplies etc. In doing so the municipalities covered under this MOU will realize cost savings to the benefit of our tax payers.



Picture from left: Wainfleet Mayor Kevin Gibson, Thorold Mayor Terry Ugulini, Welland Mayor Frank Campion (seated), Pelham Mayor Marvin Junkin, and Port Colborne Mayor Bill Steele. Photo: Thorold News

Shared Services is another cost saving initiative covered by this MOU. Service capacity and demand varies from municipality to municipality. Lower demand for services in some municipalities may not justify fulltime staff to provide the service while other may have staff capacity and expertise to share. Sharing services is both efficient and cost saving.

Welland, Thorold, Pelham, Port Colborne and Wainfleet are all members of the Niagara Public Purchasing Committee (NPPC) which is comprised of government, education, and health organizations from across the Niagara Region. The objective of this co-operative purchasing program is to derive the maximum value from each dollar spent, through co-operation and Professional Purchasing Procedures. Co-operative purchasing is a technique whereby a number of authorities agree, jointly, to invite quotations or tenders on selected commodities and services. The MOU will be presented to participating municipal Councils for final ratification.

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City of Welland
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Mayor Terry Ugolini
City of Thorold
905-227-6613 x. 231

Mayor Marvin Junkin
Town of Pelham
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Mayor Bill Steele
City of Port Colborne
905-835-2901 x. 301

Mayor Kevin Gibson
Township of Wainfleet
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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

CORPORATION OF CITY OF WELLAND

CITY OF THOROLD

TOWN OF PELHAM

CITY OF PORT COLBORNE

TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET

RE. Procurement of Goods and Services.

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Each year, municipalities purchase goods and services such as vehicles, equipment, road salt, copy paper, toner cartridges and computers. As municipal budgets continue to be overextended to fund core programs and services, innovative ways need to be determined to reduce costs and to find savings.

Through this MOU, efforts will be made to jointly procure goods and services where it is mutually beneficial to signing municipalities. The intent is that by combining our requirements we will have enough critical mass to obtain better pricing.

In order to achieve or facilitate this, joint requests for proposals, tendered documents, etc. will be issued when opportunities to do so are appropriate.

Senior staff from the five municipalities will meet and decide on which goods or services to be procured jointly.

Re. Shared Services

Service capacity and demand for services vary from municipality to municipality. Some municipalities do not have sufficient demand to justify staffing to provide a service while other municipalities may have staff capacity and expertise to share.

Through this MOU efforts will be made to identify where opportunities exist to share services. Service capacity and demand amongst municipalities will be analyzed.

MOU is contingent on ratification by our Councils.